

Remnant Life Church
August 23, 2026
The Holy Spirit
Pt 4
His Continued Presence
John 14:15-18

This morning we are looking at a third attribute of the Holy Spirit

- The first attribute is that the Holy Spirit is **immutable**
 - Meaning He is unchanging
 - He, like God the Father and God the Son are the same yesterday, today, and forever

The second attribute of the Holy Spirit is that He is **longsuffering**

- To be longsuffering means to be patient
- God's patience is demonstrated throughout the Bible and He is still patient with us today

The third attribute of the Holy Spirit is His **presence**

I John 4:4 - *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

That One is the Holy Spirit

- In YOU as a child of God
- Always – in every situation and circumstance

READ – John 14:15-18

The disciples are having a hard time of it right now

- So much so that Jesus needs to comfort and assure them
- He has told them before and is continuing to say that He is leaving them
 - This was not what they wanted to hear
 - And certainly not what they had signed up for
 - Remember, they were counting on Jesus to start the revolution
 - But their focus was on being set free from the oppression of the Romans
 - Jesus' revolution was to set them free from the oppression of sin
 - To pay the price for the consequence of sin
 - To change the focus of life from self to loving God and loving others
 - They never did grasp this until Jesus' resurrection
 - And it was, I believe, the very reason that Judas betrayed Him that John records in the 18th chapter
 - Not because He wanted the money but to kickstart something that he felt was taking too long to get started
 - And the reason I believe this is because of what Judas did when he realized that Jesus was not going to reveal His power

- He tried to return the money and His guilt was so overwhelming that he took his own life (**Matt 27:1-5**)
- But the other disciples were obviously hoping for the same thing
 - But none of that was going to matter if Jesus was going away
 - Because then He would have been just one in a long string of preachers that claimed to be the Messiah
 - But were either then killed or just faded back into obscurity
- Jesus was, in fact, leaving but the disciples were not being abandoned
 - (vv **16-17a**) *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate (Counselor) to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.*
 - (v **18**) - *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

Why did Jesus choose the word orphan to describe the disciples without Him?

- First, Jesus was and remains to this day the greatest teacher who ever lived
 - He knew the visual image they needed in order to fully understand Him
 - He knew that the orphan was the very symbol and embodiment of what it meant to be alone
- In that day, there were no social programs for the homeless, handicapped, widows or orphans
 - The only way they survived was out of the kindness and goodness of a person or people around them
 - That is why Jesus said that to care for and love them, to care for those in desperate need, was the same as loving and doing for Him
 - **Matthew 25**
- We see this fully played out and demonstrated in the book of Ruth
 - She was a Moabite widow
 - She was rescued from a life of want and struggle by her kinsman redeemer – Boaz
 - And we see his actions in this account as a forerunner or type of Christ
 - Just as he redeemed Ruth back to a life of substance and meaning
 - So too, Jesus redeemed each of us to a life of forgiveness and love
- To the disciples the orphan represented those young ones without guidance
 - Not only alone at that time but alone for the future without family
 - Fending as best they could for themselves
 - But Jesus said, do not be concerned, I am sending a helper to guide you
- The Holy Spirit would bring those things that the orphan does not have, yet craves
 - The constant presence of care and understanding
 - Guidance
 - Love

The one Jesus sent to constantly be with us, the Counselor, is there to help

- In the original Greek, the word counselor is *para-cleat-awhs*
 - It means *one called alongside to help*
 - And from that you can literally choose the synonym that speaks most deeply to your heart
 - Because He is your counselor, strengthener, comforter, helper, advisor, advocate, intercessor, ally and friend

- When you understand and believe the truth of who He is it gives even more weight to **I John 4:4**
 - ...*greater is the One who is in you than the One who is in the world*
- And to bring even further comfort look at the word Jesus uses when He says He is sending another counselor
 - The word another has two distinct usages IOL
 - The first meaning is what Jesus uses here – the word *ah-lon*
 - That translates as another of the same kind
 - Contrast that with the second usage of the word *het-eh-ross*
 - That translates as another of a different kind
- What does Jesus mean?
 - He is telling His disciples that He is sending the Holy Spirit to continue to do what Christ Himself did while He was on earth
 - Another of the same kind – what I did, He will do

And what Christians must hold to today with absolute certainty is the presence of the Holy Spirit

- And with this certainty should come another
 - The depth of our desire to have Him with us
 - What should look like?
 - **READ - Ps 51:10-12** - *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
 - This Psalm is David's prayer after he has been confronted by the Prophet Nathan regarding his sin with Bathsheba.
 - He is convicted of his sin and is pouring out his heart to God.
 - David was a man filled with many, great flaws
 - But one of his greatest strengths was his willingness to own his sin and immediately repent
 - He freely agrees that God's judgment is just, and then pleads for mercy.
 - And what He is pleading is with regard to God's Holy Spirit
 - David knows that if God takes away His Spirit, he loses everything.
 - He obviously remembers what happened to Saul.
 - When God removed his Spirit from Saul, an evil spirit was able to come and torment him. (**I Sam 16:14**)
 - And ultimately, Saul lost everything
 - God's favor, his crown, even his life (**I Sam 31**)
 - David writes that God's Spirit dwells with the pure in heart and the steadfast in spirit, so David asks God to give these to him.
 - Then David begs God in **v 11**:
 - *Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*
 - God's presence and God's Spirit are one in the same.
 - Because where the Holy Spirit is... God is!

- And we should desire and pursue His presence with the same intensity that David did
- This is not about David wanting to get away from God in his time of struggle, but about his realizing that God is everywhere, seeing everything, knowing all.
 - How? By His Spirit.
 - God's spirit is everywhere
 - And what David knew then and we know today is that God can provide the presence of His Spirit as well as remove it

The presence of the Holy Spirit is vital for the Christian life – both individually and collectively

- The church cannot exist without the Holy Spirit
 - RLC does not exist without the Holy Spirit
 - He guides us in all truth
 - Without the Holy Spirit we are left to our devices, our own decisions, our own desires, and our own goals.
- And we as individuals cannot function in this world without the Holy Spirit
 - What we are given by the Spirit are described in Paul's letter to the church in Galatia
 - **Gal 5:22-23** - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*
- These are not attributes and characteristics listed for a Christian to simply know
 - They are how we should live
 - Without excuse
 - Without fail
 - Can you live out and demonstrate these fruits by and of yourself
 - Of course not!
 - It takes the presence, the guidance, and the love of the Holy Spirit – your helper, your counselor, your guide
- How does that take place in your life?
 - By surrendering your heart, your will, your desires to Him
 - And when you do that...

Your comforter, your advocate, your counselor...

- Will always care for and take care of you
 - *For He will guide us in all truth (John 16:13)*
- He will never give up on you
 - Again, **John 14:16** – *I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever...*
- With Him we can find our strength
 - **Neh 8:10** – *The joy of the Lord is my strength*

Greater is the One who is in you, than the one who is in the world.