

J.J.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14: 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

INTRODUCTION :

One time, I went for a regular check-up with a doctor in the Philippines. She did the usual things Checked my eyes. Opened my mouth with and got my tongue out and checked if my tonsils were still there with a penlight and others. She then got her stethoscope and placed the stethoscope on my chest. After she placed, the stethoscope, she said to me, “Inspire.” I was shocked. Does she want me to talk and encourage her but then since I’ve done this before, I guess she meant, “Breathe in.” So I breathed in and held my breath. After holding my breath for a few seconds, she then said, “Expire.” I was confused again. What? Am I dying? Am I expiring? But then she said, “Inspire” again and then “Expire.” By God’s grace, nothing was wrong with me after that check-up.

But then I was curious why she said “inspire” and “expire”. She was using the latin for “breathe in” and “breathe out” which means “in” means “into” and spirare” which means breathe. That latin was used now into Old English.

That’s why the King James Version which uses Old English was translated like this.

2 Timothy 3: 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

But if you look into the original language, the word was “theo-pneustos”, that’s why in the more contemporary translation like ESV, it was written like this :

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Why am I saying this? Because when you see the word “Spirit” in the Bible, it’s usually translated as “pneuma” which means “breath”.

So today we’ll talk about the Promise of the Holy Spirit.

John 14: 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Pray

Quick background :

Remember, the disciples were with Jesus for 3 years. They left everything for Him. (Matthew 19:27) Because they believed that He is the Messiah, the one who will be the King and Ruler of Israel. Now imagine, in John 13 and John 14, in this Upper Room conversation, our Lord is now telling them that He has to leave them behind.

Illustration : Have you seen those videos of people being left behind by a cruise ship because they were late? I saw someone just running as fast as he could and was just really in despair and shouting wait and yet the ship has sailed. In frustration and tiredness, he just knelt and then afterwards, he stood up and you can see in his actions and in his face, “What should I do now?” “What will I do next?”

That might be the feeling of the disciples. What are we going to do now? What's next? We've given 3 years of our life in the comforting presence of Jesus Christ and now he's leaving?

That's the reason why our Lord gave the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, this is the FIRST TIME the disciples are hearing about this.
IT'S AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

In order to understand the Holy Spirit, we will talk about :

THE HOLY SPIRIT : WHO, WHAT (HIS ROLE), WHERE And if there's enough time, a Bonus.

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Notice, I said, “who” and not “what”? It's because the Holy Spirit is a person, not a thing, not an essence or not a force..... **but a person.**

Remember, when I say a “person” it doesn't mean a human being.

A person is someone who has a “mind, emotions and a will.” (Will, means the capability to do something not because he has to but he chooses to.)

So having said that, the Holy Spirit

a.) He is one of the three persons of the Trinitarian God – one God, three persons

John 14:16 And I (The Son) will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

Remember, the Trinity (Trinitas) is not three gods... It's one God in Being and three in person.

Illustration : (from Nabeel Qureshi), now we cannot fathom how one God and at the same time, three persons (Father, Son and the Holy Spirit).

Only God can be one God and three persons. As humans, we are one being and one person. But we can somehow get a grasp of this concept according to their roles (that's why Father, Son and the Holy Spirit).

For example : I am Jerry – What I am? I am a human being. My role is a pastor. Trump or Trudeau is the leader of a country, they are greater than me because of their role BUT we are the same human being.

Having said this now, the Bible is very clear that Holy Spirit is very God Himself.

The Holy Spirit is God Himself.

Biblical example : The story of Ananias and Sapphira where they sold a piece of property but kept back part of the money himself. Here's how Peter confronted Ananias.

Acts 5: 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

You see how the Word of God simply interchanges Holy Spirit and God. It's because the Holy Spirit is God.

a.) He is Spirit – meaning we cannot see Him.

John 14: 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

It doesn't mean we cannot see something, it's not there or it's not real...

ETYMOLOGY : “Spirit” – greek word “pneuma” which means “air or breath”. We cannot see air or breath but we know it's there.

Illustration : We are familiar with typhoons specially in the Philippines. Typhoon Kristine just hit. The wind speed was 160 kph. We cannot see the wind but we see its effect.

(Ask the people to breathe in and breathe out) You cannot see your pneuma, come in and out but what's the effect? YOU'RE ALIVE!!!!

That's why people who are not yet saved doesn't have the Holy Spirit- the Bible calls them “dead in transgression.”

Why is it **sometimes the Holy Spirit is called the Holy Ghost?** It's all about semantics. It's both the same meaning. **Pneuma means breath**

- **Ghost comes from the Old English Word “gast” which means breath**

Since the meaning of words are evolving, in our modern times, when someone says the word ghost, people immediately think that it's the spirit of dead person which we have already talked about earlier.

- **Spirit comes from the Latin word “spiritus” which means breath**

Note : Just don't say to a person with bad breath... “Hey, can you use mouthwash because you have a bad spirit.”

II. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

John 14: 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you

Advocate – one who supports or defends you

NIV – Counselor KJV – Comforter NASB – Helper NIV –The Message - Friend

Greek word “Parakletos” (n)

Verb “para kaleo”

Para - to walk closely by your side

Kaleo – to call or to urge

In short : ONE YOU CAN CALL TO WALK CLOSELY BY YOUR SIDE! TO HELP YOU! TO COMFORT YOU! TO GUIDE YOU!

In order to understand this, let's watch this video.

(Show video)

The event was the World Triathlon Series in Mexico in 2016.

Two brothers represented the U.K. They are the Brownlee brothers. Alistair is 33 years old and Jonny was 31 years old. At the last leg of the triathlon, Jonny, the younger one was leading the pack and was about to win. But a few meters away, he was suffering from heat stroke and was about to give up because he will collapse.

The older brother Alistair was behind him and an American was also behind Jonny. Alistair could have gone and win the race but he saw his brother struggling and about to collapse that he went beside Jonny, put his hand around his shoulder and made sure he was able to run with him until they cross the finish line.

That's what Parakletos mean... someone you can call to help you.

That's what He does, when we think we can't carry on with our problems, with our trials, with temptation, He is there to help us and carry us through.

But how does the Holy Spirit, - counsel us, comfort us, support us and help us?.

17 the Spirit of truth.

He counsels us, comfort us, supports us, helps us WITH THE TRUTH!!!

**That's why if we read further, our Lord Jesus Christ talks about the Holy Spirit, He said,
The Holy Spirit will use the Truth to convict us and to guide us**

That's why in Isaiah, it was written :

*Isaiah 11:2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

So the question is, WHERE CAN WE FIND AND HOW DO WE KNOW IT'S THE TRUTH? It's in God's Word – THE BIBLE!

*2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

The written Word of God (graphos) is Holy-Spirited. It means, it comes from the Holy Spirit.

Let me give you an example :

The first time I learned that my wife has cancer is when she came out of the operating room. We knew she had a cyst in her ovaries, the size of a fist but after the operation, the doctor who performed the operation went into the waiting room that the cyst was cancer. She was able to take it out but it spread to her intestines that they had to cut a size of it. They cannot take out the whole cancer since it was spread in her stomach like sand. I was devastated. We were only 6 months here in Canada. Like the disciples, I did not know what to do? I don't know the next steps? We had no one here. I was alone in the hospital. My kids were with a church member.

It was night time. And most of all, I was scared of losing my wife. All these emotions made me cry out and wail to the Lord inside the waiting room and I knelt down before Him crying, just shouting, "Looooord!!! Looooord!!!"

But here's how the Lord counseled me, comforted me and helped me...I knew this came from the Holy Spirit.

*Psalm 91: 14 "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

*¹⁵He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.*

*¹⁶With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."*

But I also knew, the comfort was for me but the promise was for my wife.... Now 17 years later, she's alive and even healthier than me by God's grace!

God even gave her the privilege to see the first teeth of our "apo."

Encouragement : This is the reason why IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO READ, TO KNOW, TO LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD!!! Because God's Word is the TRUTH and that's what the Holy Spirit uses when we call upon Him!!!

But how do we know that the Holy Spirit will hear us when we "kaleo" call upon Him?

III. WHERE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

John 14: 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

In short : The Holy Spirit is always going to be with us and in us.

That's why the Bible says :

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

Do you understand the power and the significance of this?

As a disciple of Christ, WE HAVE THE VERY GOD HIMSELF WITH US AND INSIDE OF US!

This means, YOU ARE THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. This place is not the house of the Lord. You are the house of the Lord!

Illustration : When I was in the Philippines, I was attending this church and the name of their youth ministry is J-Zone. It means Jesus Zone. The youth pastor was explaining that if you are disciple of Christ, GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN YOU.

We already know that Holy Spirit is in us.

That's why our Lord Jesus Christ said later on in John 14:23; (Remember, our Lord said, that He will be departing and yet He says in this verse)

John 14:23 "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

That's why when people ask what is the difference of a Christian with the world? Here it is. Let the Word of God speak :

Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

What does this mean? It means wherever you go...IT BECOMES A HOLY PLACE! IT BECOMES A WORSHIP PLACE. So don't just go to school or go to work to study... that desk of yours becomes a worship place.

AND YOU HAVE AVAILABLE WITH YOU ANYTIME THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

So how do we get the Holy Spirit in us.

Illustration : I read in the news that there were three young boys in Bolivia were hospitalized because a black widow spider bit them. Now the reason why it got in the news, is because they wanted the spider to bite them. They saw the black widow and it had red markings. They thought if they get bitten they will have the same powers like Spider Man. Fortunately, they all lived.

So how do we get the Holy Spirit in us and have access to His power

John 7: 37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

This means, you need to come near Jesus because you know you need Him. The reason why you are thirsty is because you know that you are near the fires of hell. And the only reason, you will be saved from this is to believe that Jesus paid for all of your sins on the cross and that He rose again from the dead and one of these days, He will come back again.

(Evangelistic Prayer)

Now for the Christians, knowing that the Holy Spirit is in us. The Bible says :

Ephesians 5:18 Be filled with the Spirit!

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

Remember this QUOTE : WHAT FILLS YOU CONTROLS YOU.

Example : If you are filled with anger, your anger controls you. If you are filled with lust, lust controls you. Some of us are filled with anger and hatred with a person who hurt us or offended us and up to this, that person is controlling them.

If you are filled with the Spirit, the Spirit controls you.

How do we know that the Spirit is controlling us? It will show what comes out of you when you are shaken.

Illustration : A glass filled with liquid being held by a person. When everything is fine, we can't see what's inside but when you are shaken by problems, by hurt, by pain...

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

SO HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT? SIMPLE. In the mirror passage in the letter of Paul to the Colossians, he wrote :

Colossians 3:16 Let your hearts be filled with the word of Christ.

This means, get into the Word of God. Read the Word of God, study the Word of God, listen to the Word of God and most importantly, Obey the Word of God and the Holy Spirit will have control of your life.

Let me end with this story on how a person filled with God's Word, His Spirit was used mightily in a person's life.

STORY : Have you heard about the Ministry of Presence?

There was this story being told by a black dude who wanted to commit suicide and kill himself. This man wears braids and his hairdresser was a follower of Christ. So while she was braiding his hair, the man asked him, "What are you doing after this?" She said, "She's going home and get into The Word." The man thought that was boring.

The time came when the man got so burdened with problems that he was planning to end his life. He got drunk with Hennessy and put a gun on his chin. At that moment, someone knocked on his door and he did not answer but his door was unlocked and the person knocking entered his house and saw him with a gun on his chin. The woman did not panic and just sat beside the man, got his other hand and sat there not saying anything. The man cried and did not end his life. He eventually became a Christian. The man said, that night, she gave me THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE.

And that's the reason why we are here on this earth. To give other the ministry of presence whether here in church, at work or in school or at home because Christ is in you and you just need to be full of His Word so that you can be controlled by the Holy Spirit and be a powerful presence in others even sometimes, without speaking. We talk about the Presence of God. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and you will be used by Him to know His presence because He is in you.

The promise of the Holy Spirit is not only to give you comfort during the times you need but to use you to comfort others during their time of need.

S.G.D.