

The Holy Spirit – His Role John 14:12-17

In John's Gospel we find the use of the word *paraclete* five times. John uses this word when he speaks of the Holy Spirit. It has been translated several different ways in the English language, but all the translations carry similar meanings which closely relate to its root meanings from the Greek. *Para* – “beside or alongside” and *Kalein* – “to call”. The KJV translates it as “comforter”. The NIV translates it as “advocate”. The text we’ll use this morning from the ESV translates it as “Helper”. I think we can all agree that each of those helps us understand that John viewed the Holy Spirit as that person of God called to come alongside us each day. Let’s begin this morning by returning to John’s Gospel and **Read John 14:12-17**.

So far in our series on The Holy Spirit, we have discovered that He is fully God and He is fulfilment of yet another promise from God to us. The fulfilment of that promise means that every true believer receives the gift of The Holy Spirit at their moment of conversion. As we saw last week, once the Holy Spirit enters the mind and heart of the true believer, God’s seal of ownership, which is The Holy Spirit, is placed upon that person, and that person then becomes a permanently adopted son or daughter. And now that we know the foundational basics concerning the Holy Spirit in reference to the life of a believer, we need to consider the impact of The Holy Spirit on our lives. In other words, what is the role of The Holy Spirit in my life?

During the first week of this sermon series, I mentioned the Holy Spirit’s involvement during creation. From Genesis 1:2, we learned that God’s Spirit was “*hovering over the face of the waters*” and I mentioned that I wasn’t sure what it was He was doing. My curiosity led me to investigate this a bit more, and I discovered that most scholars believe the full power of God’s Spirit was being used in that moment to contain and control that which was “*formless and void*”. In the midst of that initial moment of chaos, where the earth was being formed; the Holy Spirit was holding everything in place until God could create things like dry land, the moon, and gravity. So, for us, we need to see the Holy Spirit as the one who keeps things under control. His powerful presence helps us maintain and contain when we find ourselves surrounded by chaos. Do you see Him in this way? Have you ever thought of Him in this way? If not, I encourage you to trust the One who resides in your heart and let Him be the one to maintain order in your life.

We also know from our studies in the Scriptures that the work of the Holy Spirit was slightly different for the people of the Old Testament than it is for people after the ministry and work of Jesus. As I pointed out last week from Paul’s teachings in 1 Corinthians and Ephesians, when we place our genuine, unwavering faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in our hearts. And because of this permanent indwelling, the Holy Spirit becomes the “*guarantee of our inheritance*”. (Eph. 1:13-14) What will we inherit? The new heaven and the new earth! For people prior to Jesus, the Holy Spirit’s involvement was selective and temporary and “came upon” specific individuals, at specific moments, to accomplish specific tasks for God. Perhaps the best example of this would be David. Look at the entirety of His life. From the willing and brave young giant slayer, to the sin-filled, adulterous, murdering King. In the case of David, God chose to anoint Him with His Spirit on several occasions as an external sign to Israel about the inward work that was possible for those who chose Him. The Spirit of God as seen in 1 Samuel 16:12-13, “rushed upon” David and empowered him to perform his part

in God's plan for Israel. In the middle of David's rule, he chose to sin against God, and sin greatly. Because of this sin, David in Psalm 51 seeks the mercy and forgiveness of God and while doing so says to God: **Read Psalm 51:10-12.**

By the way, another aspect of this to consider is that the Spirit of God would "come upon" individuals regardless of their spiritual heart condition. Think of people like Samson, Saul, or some of the later judges of Israel. God poured His Spirit out on individuals and empowered them to accomplish His plan. Since the Spirit of God empowered these individuals and we know that God doesn't change, then we can believe with certainty that His Spirit, resides in us to empower us for the work of the Kingdom to accomplish the plans of God.

With the things we've learned so far about the Holy Spirit, it's easy to conclude that His involvement in the life of the believer is essential. The Spirit saves us, fills us, seals us, and works continually to sanctify us. God gives every believer His Spirit so that we can know Him better. Let's look at **1 Corinthians 2:6-15** together. Here we see more evidence that the Holy Spirit is God's Spirit and therefore knows His deepest thoughts. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of every believer and reveals the true thoughts of God. In doing so, we grow closer to Christ and realize the hope of our salvation and realize that our inheritance is only through Christ. *"No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6)

As we learn more about God, we also learn how to embrace His Spirit. The Holy Spirit in turn gives us access to God's power, His wisdom, and His revelation. Paul understood these things when he addressed the church at Ephesus. We looked at a few verses from Ephesians 1 last week. So, let's go back there and read a little more. **Read Ephesians 1:17-20.**