

Concord Community Church

December 1, 2024

The Holy Spirit as the Chief-Counsellor



Introduction: We are often faced with decisions, challenges, and moments of doubt that leave us yearning for wisdom and comfort. In these times, we are not alone. Jesus, in His infinite love, promised us an Advocate — the Holy Spirit. This promise was not just for the apostles but for all who believe in Him. Today, let us delve/search/dig deeply into understanding the Holy Spirit's role as our Counsellor, exploring how He helps, guides, supports, comforts, convicts, and transforms US/believers into the likeness of Christ.

Scripture Reading: John 14:16-17 (NIV) *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — 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."*

1. Who is the Holy Spirit? (The Divine Advocate)

The Holy Spirit is not an abstract force or an impersonal influence; He is the third Person of the Holy Trinity — fully God and deeply personal. His role has been significant since the beginning of creation:

- **Genesis 1:2:** *"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."* This shows His presence even at the creation of the world, moving with purpose and power.
- **Job 33:4:** *"The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."* This emphasizes that He is not just present but active in creating and sustaining life.

Key Attributes of the Holy Spirit:

- **Omniscient:** The Holy Spirit knows the depths of God and reveals them to us. **1 Corinthians 2:10-11:** *"These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God."*
- **Omnipresent:** We can never be far from His presence. **Psalms 139:7-10:** *"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there."*
- **Powerful:** The Spirit empowers us for service and witness. **Acts 1:8:** *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

2. The Holy Spirit's Role as Counsellor

The word *Parakletos*, often translated as "Counsellor," means someone who comes alongside to support, advocate, and guide. This role is multifaceted and life-transforming for believers:

- **Guiding Us into All Truth:** In **John 16:13**, Jesus said, *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."* The Holy Spirit doesn't just provide intellectual insight but imparts spiritual wisdom that aligns our lives with God's will.

Example in Action: Consider **Acts 8:29**, where the Spirit prompted Philip to approach the Ethiopian eunuch. The result was the eunuch's salvation and baptism, illustrating the Spirit's guidance in spreading the Gospel.

- **Comforter in Times of Sorrow:** The Holy Spirit offers divine comfort that transcends human understanding. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** affirms this: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles."* This comfort can be deeply felt in our most trying times, as the Spirit whispers peace and hope into our hearts.

Romans 8:26-27 further underscores this role: *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."* The Spirit bridges the gap between our human limitations and God's infinite power.

- **Conviction Leading to Transformation:** The Holy Spirit also convicts us of sin, guiding us to repentance and a closer relationship with God. **John 16:8** says, *"When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment."* This conviction is an essential part of our sanctification — not to condemn, but to draw us back to God's heart.

Acts 2:37 illustrates this power of conviction. When Peter preached at Pentecost, the crowd was "cut to the heart" and asked, *"What shall we do?"* The Spirit's work in this moment led to mass repentance and the growth of the early Church.

3. How to Embrace the Holy Spirit's Counsel

To experience the full counsel of the Holy Spirit, we must intentionally open our lives to His presence. Here's how:

- **Daily Communion with the Spirit:** Regular prayer and meditation create space for the Holy Spirit to speak. **Isaiah 30:21** reassures us: *"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"* Cultivate a habit of seeking His guidance at the start of each day, acknowledging that His wisdom surpasses our own.
- **Studying God's Word:** The Spirit uses Scripture to counsel and illuminate truth. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** tells us: *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal deeper meanings and applications for your life.
- **Active Obedience:** It's not enough to hear; we must act on the Spirit's promptings. **James 1:22** reminds us: *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* When you feel the Spirit nudging you towards a certain direction, take steps of faith, trusting that He will lead you.

4. Evidence of the Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives

The transformation brought about by the Holy Spirit is evident through the fruit He produces in us. **Galatians 5:22-23** describes these qualities: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."* These attributes are markers of a life influenced by the Spirit.

Real-Life Application: Reflect on the moments when you've felt an unexplainable peace during a storm or found clarity in a decision after prayer. These are not coincidences; they are manifestations of the Holy Spirit at work.

Testimony: Consider how many believers have shared stories of divine guidance, where they were prompted to reach out to someone, offer encouragement, or make a difficult choice that led to blessings. These testimonies remind us that the Holy Spirit's counsel is active and powerful.

Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit as our Counsellor is a gift we should treasure and nurture. He leads us into all truth, comforts us in trials, convicts us for growth, and empowers us to live out our faith boldly. As we continue to seek His presence, may we remember that He is with us always, as Jesus promised, to the very end of the age (**Matthew 28:20**).

Today, I challenge you to deepen your relationship with the Holy Spirit. Open your heart, invite His counsel, and allow Him to transform you from the inside out. Trust that He will guide, comfort, and empower you for the journey ahead.

Closing Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the Holy Spirit, our constant Counsellor and guide. Help us to walk in step with Him, to heed His voice, and to embrace His work in our lives. May we become reflections of Your love and wisdom to the world around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.