

→ **God With Us**

- A. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is like that of a faithful companion or guide and we interact with Him as both a friend and leader. The Greek word used in John for “helper” is *paraclete* which means “one called along side.” This word has multiple meanings and is also translated into comforter, counselor, and advocate.
- B. We must remember that the Holy Spirit is a person and not an “it”. He has an intellect (1Cor. 2:11), emotions (Rom. 15:30), and a will (1Cor. 12:11).
- C. Therefore, we interact with Him as a person through these practices (or disciplines):
  - a. Soaking: Recognizing and “soaking” in His presence. Am I regularly giving space to just sit with the Spirit?
  - b. Contemplation: Interpreting the events of our lives with the recognition of His constant presence and activity. How often do I reflect on my life and bathe it in truth?
  - c. Listening: Learning to hear and follow His voice. Am I paying attention to and obeying the gentle whispers of His voice?
  - d. Seeking: Seeking guidance, direction, and empowerment from Him. Do I come to the Spirit in prayer when making big decisions or when I feel stuck?
- D. Just as a parent may hold multiple roles with his or her kid (caretaker, teacher, friend), the Spirit holds multiple roles with us. In fact, there are at least 126 different names, descriptors, and roles of the Spirit given in Scripture.<sup>1</sup> A thriving life with the Spirit is one where we are discovering the fullness of who He is and engaging Him in all of these different roles.

→ **Questions to ponder (for next section):**

- A. Do I interact with the Spirit in this way?
- B. What are ways that I can grow in interacting with Him in this way?
- C. What is my most prominent view of the Spirit? What is my least prominent view? How does this inform the way I perceive God?

→ **Roles of the Spirit**

- A. Companion/Comforter: one who walks along side of us. A sympathizer who comforts someone when suffering, and reduces, calms, and pacifies the intensity of fears and anxieties

*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever... but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:16-18)*

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<sup>1</sup> Elmer Towns, *The Names of the Holy Spirit*.

[http://elmertowns.com/books/online/names\\_hs/The\\_Names\\_Of\\_The\\_HolySpirit%5BETo wns%5D.pdf](http://elmertowns.com/books/online/names_hs/The_Names_Of_The_HolySpirit%5BETo wns%5D.pdf)

- B. Helper: one who assists with the work or tasks of another. This was one of Jesus' most common names for the Holy Spirit. He used it to indicate that the Spirit would bear witness to Him and continue the work He started on earth.

*"The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." (John 14:26)*

- C. Counselor: one who helps distinguish between right and wrong and determine the best path.

*It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment... (John 16:7-8)*

- D. Guide: one who helps us decide where to go and how to get there.

*When they (Paul and Silas) came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. (Acts 16:7)*

- E. Teacher: one who reveals God's truth and opens up God's word to us, as well as prepare us for what is to come.

*"When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." (John 16:13)*

- F. Advocate/Intercessor: one who pleads and fights for our causes and needs.

*"We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" (Rom. 8:26)*

**→ Application and Growth-work**

- A. Choose one of the practices listed above that you want to grow in. Commit to doing that practice daily for the next week. Discuss with your group specifics on what you are going to do.
- B. During your devotional time this week, meditate on the scriptures that pertain to the role of the Holy Spirit that you least connect with.
- C. TEAM APPLICATION: With which role of the Spirit do you think your team/ministry interacts with the most? What is one practice that you as a team could commit to together to continue to grow in interacting with Him in this way?