

The Holy Spirit has a three-fold ministry as an Advocate for Truth in the world among Sinners, Saints & Satan. Last week I mentioned that the Gk word used by Jesus as recorded by John is “*paráklētos*.” It is a compound word formed from: *pará*, “close-beside” and *kalēō*, “make a call.” It means ***a legal advocate who makes the right judgment-call because He’s close enough to the situation.*** Paracletos is the regular term used in NT times for an attorney (trial lawyer), someone *giving evidence that stands up in court*. He gives evidence of sin, righteousness & judgment

As we develop our understanding of the Holy Spirit and His function in “***making holy those He perfected thru faith in Jesus Christ,***” I am determined to limit each sermon to one specific role or function of Spirit’s work in us. Jesus secured salvation for all who would believe; the Holy Spirit brings it into reality for each believer. This morning, we’ll concentrate on His role as Advocate – Convincer (Convictor) of Truth!

READ: John 16:1-15 (NIV)

1) refers to all that Jesus has been saying to them – **John 13-16**

- He’s washed their feet; taught them @ life in the K.
- Prophesied His betrayal, denial, death & resurrection
- Promised the Holy Spirit as an Adopter & Advocate

6) they were filled with grief b/c Jesus told them these things

- apparently not just His leaving, but their persecution too

7) Jesus’ “going” meant finishing the procurement of salvation

- His crucifixion, death, resurrection & ascension “for us”

8-11) Holy Spirit’s 3-fold work as Advocate – ***Evidence Giver***

- His evidence will convict the Sinners, Saints & Satan
 - He convicts the world of sin/sinfulness (*remember?*)
 - He convicts (convinces) believers of righteousness
 - He convicts (condemns) Satan & his legion of fallen

12-15) ***“He will tell you the truth about what is to come...”***

- TESTIMONY**: praying for Jeremy on Wed!
 - Please! Learn to ask the Spirit @ what we don’t know!**

The Advocate’s role is different for believers than Unbelievers:
He convicts (*negative connotation*) Unbelievers of the truth of their sinfulness because, apart from Christ, they are ***“guilty as***

charged”. But the Holy Spirit’s convicting ***changes*** when a person comes to salvation in Christ thru faith: at that point, the Holy Spirit’s convicting becomes ***convincing (positive) us about the truth of our Righteousness – Christ’s Righteousness that He earned & gifts us!*** The Holy Spirit is **not convicting us of our sin** because in Christ we have been declared **“Not Guilty” once-and-for-all!** Instead, the Holy Spirit convinces Christians of righteous ways of living out of His goodness, love & obedience. His work in us is to continue making holy we who He has already perfected. Believers are to concentrate on Christ’s righteousness and to fully embrace His truth, which has an ever widening circle of application in our lives, setting us free from an ever growing range of sins, lies & temptations.

****Quote***

The Holy Spirit is OUR *paracletos* = Advocate – our lawyer who defends us from accusations as in a court of law. ***Now – who is the accuser of the brethren? Satan – who was stripped of power & authority by Christ’s blameless sacrifice; but he still lies! We give him power over us when we believe His lies!*** That’s why the Father & Son gave us the Holy Spirit: to answer truthfully these accusations for us, in us! Jesus satisfied ALL the charges against us and paid ALL the penalties once for all!

****There are no unanswered accusations or unpaid penalties!***

So when Satan says, “***You’re still a sinner!***” ***Spirit tells us, “You are the holy child of God!”*** When you wonder, “***Does God really care @ me?***” ***Spirit answers, “Nothing about you goes unnoticed by Us – “I am” is in/with you!”*** When others infer that, “***You don’t deserve anything good!***” ***Spirit is right there telling you the Truth: “God cannot conceive of anything less than His very best for you!”*** The Spirit reminds us that we KNOW the truth & beauty of our Savior, Jesus, and Father’s great love for us that allowed the Trinity to suffer on our behalf! He convinces us of the truth of our salvation and sanctification!

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

- 1) Is the Holy Spirit your ***Advocate*** about truth, forgiveness, & Righteousness?
- 2) Do you ***expect*** the Holy Spirit to connect you with

Righteousness or sin?

3) Will you **ask** Him about what you don't know yet?

** “When we concentrate on our sin, it hobbles us! But when we concentrate on righteousness, we learn to fly high above sin’s temptation!”*

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Luke 11:11-13

Jesus compares the Heavenly Father to our earthly fathers when it comes to the giving care they need.

11) “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12) Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13) So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”

The contrast between what our children need for normal health & growth as opposed to that which will frighten & hurt them is clear: we provide children what they want/need – fish & eggs; we protect children from what will hurt them: fear, pain and poison of snakes & scorpions!

I think it remarkable that in this simple statement, Jesus identifies the Greatest Gift God can give: it is His Holy Spirit! Why? Because He is everything we need for life & health: He is the presence of God in us, the power of God with us, and the wisdom of God guiding us to enjoy the life of God. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate: the Convictor (Convincer) of Truth to us

Sermon in a Sentence: The Holy Spirit: Convincer of Truth

John 16:1-15 (NIV)

1) “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2) They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. 3) They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4) I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, 5) but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6) Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7) But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8) When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9) about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10) about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11) and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12) “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13) 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. 14) He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15) All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”