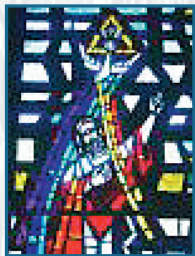


A New Friend

When Jesus was here, He meant everything to His disciples. They left everything at His invitation to follow Him for the chance of an exciting life and they were not disappointed! They saw wonders and miracles, such as never happened before. For instance, He took a boy's lunch and fed 5,000 men. Or He went to the tomb of a man named Lazarus and brought him back to life. These were exciting times!

You can imagine then, how they must have felt when He called them together and told them that it was important for Him to leave so that He could send someone else to them. They must have been surprised. This person was the Holy Spirit, who He said, "was with them and would be in them."



Now as you know, Jesus is no longer living here on the earth. He ascended into heaven after He was raised from

the dead. However His replacement is still here, that is, the Holy Spirit. He came as Jesus promised, to be with His disciples, and is still with us today. We are going to start to learn about the Holy Spirit in this lesson.



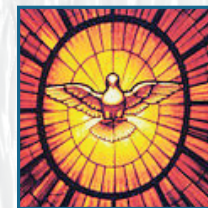
It is quite possible that you are not very familiar with the Holy Spirit. He quite frankly is not too often spoken about. People know God the Father and Jesus, but who is the Holy Spirit?! Well, read further and see what the Bible says about the Him! You are in for a pleasant surprise!

The Greek language gives us some excellent descriptions of the Holy Spirit. In John 14:16, Jesus called Him "another counselor." Both of these words in the Greek language have special significance. The word, "another" means "another of the same kind." In other words, in many ways, the Holy Spirit is just like Jesus. Jesus was kind and gentle. The Holy Spirit is kind and gentle. Jesus came to help us, the Holy Spirit came to help us.

The second word is the word "counselor." The Greek word is "parakleto" and means, "to be called alongside to help." It carries with it the the idea of counselor or a legal advocate. So the Holy Spirit is someone like Jesus, who is there to lead and guide us and help us through life!

God In Us!

Jesus also told the disciples, that the Spirit was "with" them but would be "in" them. Before we are saved, God is with us. We might not have any idea about that at all, but He is there to bless us, and to share His love with us, as much as we let Him. However, He is on the outside looking in. Once we turn to Him, He takes us as His own! He does this by sending the Holy Spirit to live in our lives. The Bible says that when this happens, we are born a second time, born of His Spirit. God literally sends His Spirit and births new life within us.



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What the Bible Says

Consider the following Scriptures about the Holy Spirit!

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you."
Ezekiel 36,26 (ASV)



"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:6 (ASV)

"But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God...who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
John 1:12-13 (ASV)

This is why people are so different when they come to God. The very life of God is birthed on the inside. His love is poured out on the inside of us. It is not just a matter of a system of belief or living by a set of rules and regulations. We come into contact with the living God through His Holy Spirit! We are truly born again.

The Holy Spirit remains with us throughout the rest of our lives. And what is His main job? His main job is to help us become like Jesus. This does not mean that we simply learn to mimic His actions so that we do what He did. What this means is that we change so that we see things the way He saw, we feel the way He felt, we love the way He loved, and then we live the way He lived. God does this in us through the working of the Holy Spirit. In theological terms, it is called sanctification. In practical terms, it is becoming like Christ.

Naturally, there is much more to know about the Holy Spirit than this! This is just an introduction. You will learn more later. But why don't you thank God right now for His wonderful gift, the Holy Spirit. He really loves us, doesn't He?!

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The Holy Spirit



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