



Who is God? Knowing Him by His Names Dominican Republic Mission Trip 2008 Daily Study

The Holy Spirit, the God who Comes to our Side

The example left for us by Christ should alone have been enough for us to follow in our Christian walk. In fact, God would have been justified in saying to us, "There you go. I've revealed myself to you directly, through prophets, you have a Bible now, and I've sent my Son to ransom you and leave you an example to follow. Now it's your turn."

But God is a God who carries out His purposes, and He knows quite well that we are not able to walk by ourselves. After Jesus ascended into heaven, He did not leave us alone. He sent "Himself" again in the form of the Holy Spirit to work in us to begin perfecting us into the image of His Son.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. The word for Spirit literally means "breath" or "wind." Let's look at another one of His names – Paraklete.

The Greek work Parakletos (para/klhtov) translates for us in English to "Advocate, Comforter, or Helper" and literally means "the called along side one." A Paraclete is one who is called to come along side someone and help them. It was also a legal term for an advocate or legal advisor but means much more than that. The only place where this name is used in the Bible is the book of John and he uses it for the Holy Spirit 4 times. John uses it again in his first epistle (1 John 2:1) to refer to Christ and His mediatorial work at the right hand of the Father on our behalf. Read John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7, where Jesus promises His disciples that He will send the "Helper" or "Comforter" to them after He goes back to the Father.

What can you observe about the Paraclete in the book of John?

- 1) God the Father and Christ will send Him. (14:16, 26) (16:7)
- 2) He will be ANOTHER Helper – the Greek there means one of the same type as Christ, as opposed to a different type (14:16). Christ was WITH the disciples, He taught the disciples, He guided them, He convicted them of sin, He comforted them, and He loved them. That's what our Comforter does for us.
- 3) He will never leave us (14:16).

Let's recap from our week of study. God has revealed Himself first as the one true Creator God. Then He stooped down to the patriarchs as the Almighty who would and could fulfill those promises and promised them salvation. Next, He revealed Himself to His chosen people as Yahweh – their personal covenant-keeping God. Lastly, He revealed Himself by His Son – in the flesh and down to earthly mankind, as vivid a picture as we could have of what God means for all Christians to become.

The question is "Are we like Christ?" How do we "get there?" What do we do? The Bible paints the right picture of us as lost sheep without our Shepherd. The answer is in this last revelation of the Paraclete. The third person of the Godhead now dwells with each of us permanently and personally to guide, teach, lead, comfort, protect, support and....we could go on and on. God personally comes along side us and continues to walk the walk with us, pointing the direction the entire way.

It is best to end this with praise to the Father (Read Revelation 4:2-11) and to the Son (Read Revelation 5:6-14).

