

Revitalize: Know your Holy Spirit as Helper/Comforter/Advocate

I am not a trained Bible scholar. I never went to a Christian school, a Bible College or Seminary. My degree is Technical Journalism. I've been writing all my life. I didn't train to be a reporter even. I studied more about how to write feature articles and technical manuals. So one of the things I am good at is looking information up and trying to make it less jargonish. And that is what I do when I study to write one of these devotional essays. But as a Christian I have an advantage. I have a Helper with me all the time, that keeps me headed in the right direction, if I'm listening. He is the Holy Spirit.

You would shake your head if you heard my internal dialog with God while I was writing the last paragraph.

Me: Wait, shouldn't I save this for a different article I'm thinking about?

God: Just keep going.

Me: Where is this going God?

God: Keep writing.

Me: Oh, yeah, this works!

You see, I need the help of the Holy Spirit for every word. I rely on Him as my Helper. That's what He wants me to do.

When Jesus was getting ready to leave the earth He was sharing all kinds of information and promises with the disciples. In John 14:6 King James Version Jesus tells the disciples, "And I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." In the New American Standard Bible change the word Comforter for Helper. In the New international Version, exchange it for Advocate. All three words come from the Greek word, Parakletos. The word Paraclete is a word with such complex meaning that Comforter, Helper and Advocate (Counselor in other versions) are all needed to explain it. But basically to us it should mean the same as having the physical Jesus with us.

It's a complicated thing. We all love the thought and image and human personality of Jesus. We're kind of like Thomas, we want to see and touch Him. But that incarnation of God was physically limited. He was fully human, so could only be in one place at a time. As the Holy Spirit, God can interact with all of us at once. I've read that Paraclete means, 'the one who comes beside you'. So as the Holy Spirit, He is able to do what Jesus couldn't do—be with all of his people all of the time. What a gift! Jesus left the earth so this other manifestation of God could interact with all of us. I know the Trinity of God is hard to wrap our limited minds around. But I have faith and trust in each part and each name of God.

I'm thankful that God's Spirit chose to be beside me (and you) as my Comforter, Helper and Counselor. How amazing that we all have His attention, all the time.

You know there is a Bette Midler song that always offended me. “God Is Watching Us” is the title. It’s a beautiful song, but the lyrics go on to say that ‘God is watching us...from a distance’. Well, I want you to know that there is no distance between me and God unless I push Him away, because the Holy Spirit is Parakletos—right here all the time.

Nancy