

# “The Forgotten God?” // John 14:16–26

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We are starting a series on the Holy Spirit.

Christians generally fall into one of two camps regarding the Holy Spirit:

- On one side, we’ve got the hyper-charismatic:
  - They are always talking about the gifts. Scary
  - If I dropped my Bible up here on the floor, they’d mutter under their breath, ‘I bind thee, oh thou demon of bible falling!’ Drowsy?
  - *Reverb*
  - These people assume that the Holy Spirit always coincides with preacher yelling or the crescendo of the music
- On the other side, “Doctrine only” Christians.
  - They believe in the HS, but He’s of a theory than anything else. He’s kind of like a plus sign in a math equation. He explains how a few things work, but that’s about it.
  - Now, some of these Christians can wax elephants about the doctrine of the Spirit, but they know nothing of communion with Him. They don’t relate to Him like a person, but like a force or a theory.
- **Just out of curiosity:**
  - How many of you believe that the gifts of the Spirit are in full operation in the church today (all of them)?

- How many of you believe that certain ones have ceased?
- How many of you are waiting to see what I say about them in this series before you’ll raise your hand and commit to either side?
- God, give us courage to believe what You say and be bold about it.
  - The irony: the Holy Spirit was given to the church to unite us; but discussions about the HS have divided us!
  - Listen: We are a diverse church... in terms of our backgrounds. And I’m grateful for that. We have a lot to learn from each other.
  - I want to challenge you to open your heart and learn all that God’s word has to say about this subject, and to experience all that God wants for you to experience!

**The title of this series is “Rushing Wind”** because that is how the Holy Spirit 1<sup>st</sup> came to the church in Acts 2. That’s a recurring picture of the Holy Spirit: think of it in terms of a **sailor** in days when the ships had no motors... they were dependent on the Spirit for everything. That’s how you are to be with the HS.

In this series we’re going to cover the following topics:

- Who the Holy Spirit is and what He does (this weekend)
- Then next week we’re going to look at how Jesus operated in the power of the Spirit—everything Jesus did did not flow out His Godness but the fact that He was filled with the Spirit. And here’s the thing, you have access to the same Spirit He did. You are not the virgin-born Son of God like Him, but you have access to the same Spirit.
- Then we’re going to look at what it means to be filled and what role prayer plays in all of this
  - **(BTW, been mentioning** prayer meeting... this Monday!)
- Then we’ll look at how He guides us in various decisions

- And then, finally, the gifts... speaking in tongues, prophecy, interpreting the magic 8-ball, etc (jk about that last one); and what role those should play in the church.

### Here's what I want for you, Summit Church:

- Years ago a Southern plantation owner left a \$50,000 inheritance (equivalent to about half a million dollars today) to a former slave who had served him faithfully all of his life. The estate's lawyer notified the old man and told him the money was deposited at the local bank in his name. Several weeks went by and the former slave never called to ask for any of his inheritance. After several years, the banker called him and told him he had the \$50K available to draw upon at any time. The slave said, "Sir, might you be able to spare me \$0.50 for a sack of cornmeal?"
- I think this illustrates the state many Christians live in today. Still thinking like an orphan, like a slave, with no grasp at all on what is available to us. The goodness; the fellowship; the power. It's all there; and ours for the taking. "It's as if we each have \$50K available in the gospel; yet most of us are hoping we can squeeze out only \$0.50 worth!"<sup>1</sup>

God has so much for some of you that you've never experienced. The abundant life Jesus promised is not the religiously busy life; it is walking in the fullness of the Spirit in the presence of Jesus!

Let's go first to the place Jesus introduces the concept of the Spirit-filled life to His disciples:

## John 14:16–26

[16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

<sup>1</sup> Jerry Bridges, *Holiness Day by Day*, 7.

You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (Mystery: dwells is present tense; will be in you is future tense).

[18] "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (what a great verse!)

*Then Jesus confuses them a little:*

[19] Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

[21] Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

[22] Judas (not Iscariot) – in other words, Judas, but not the dirtbag, there were 2 of them. (BTW, how terrible would it have been to have that name as a disciple! You go to a church to preach and they're like, "What's your name, brother?" Judas. It's like being a Southern Baptist pastor with the name "Harry Potter" or something) – said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" [23] Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

[25] "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. [26] But 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 have said to you.

This passage tells us **Who He is; What He does**

### I. Who He Is

- Vs. 16: "another Helper"
  - There are two different words in Greek for "another." allos/heteros. Allos = another of the same kind. Heteros = another of a different kind.

- Jesus uses *allos*: He is another, of the same kind, specifically God.
- It's a reference to the fact that the Spirit is God, like Jesus, which is, of course, a reference to the Holy Trinity.
- Now, the Trinity is a fairly difficult doctrine, I realize.
  - In college I obsessed about this doctrine; thought about it all the time. For months... and then one night I woke up in the middle of the night and I had it completely figured out! It all made perfect sense, and **I understood exactly how they could be 3 distinct persons but 1 God...** But wouldn't you know it, I forgot to write it down, and so now it's all muddy again.
  - Just kidding. I've never felt like I fully got it.
- The doctrine essentially is this:
  - There is **One God** who has existed eternally in 3 persons.
    - It is not 3 Gods, like a little God family: polytheism. That's what **Mormons** believe.
    - It's not 1 God in 3 modes. Who keeps changing costumes. God puts on the Father hat; then came down as the Son; then went back to the heaven. That's a heresy known as "**modalism**" or "Sabellianism.""
    - The Holy Spirit is not just a God-force. That's a heresy called "Socinianism." It's what a lot of liberal Protestants today believe.
    - One God, existing eternally as 3 persons.
  - Look at the various ways Jesus talks about the HS in this passage. They are almost contradictory:
    - Vs. 17, "I'm going away; then He (the HS) will come to dwell with you." Distinction.
    - But then he says, Vs. 18, talking about the coming of the Holy Spirit, "*I will come to you.*" *So, it's not Him that is coming, but it is Him.*
    - Or how about this one, vs. 23, "*If anyone loves me and keeps my word, Jesus says, the Father and I will come and make our home with him.*" In the Spirit, you also get the Father and Son.

- The Father, Son and the Spirit are distinct Persons, so you can talk about them separately; but they are all God, so that in having one you have the presence of all 3. Make your head hurt?
- **Edwin Abbot's analogy:** *2 dimensional dots and 3 dimensional creator*
- **Listen:** *we believe in the Trinity not because we understand it, but because it is revealed.*
  - Word **Trinity** not even in Bible
- Christianity is a revealed, not discovered or dreamed up religion. If Christianity were an invented religion, you certainly wouldn't invent stuff like this nobody can understand. Christians believe this because that's how God revealed Himself.
- We want **Explanation; God gives us revelation**
- My encouragement to you is not to get hung up trying to figure out what you can't understand; but to behold and experience God as He has revealed Himself.
  - The God who sits on the highest throne is God the Father. The God that we see with our eyes and is God the Son, the Word. The God we'll feel moving in our Spirit is God the Spirit.
  - 3 in 1; 1 in 3; the 1 in the middle died for me; the one on the end lives inside me.

## II. What He Does

### 1. He Inspires and Illuminates (vs. 26)

**Vs. 26:** "*He will teach you all things; bring all things to your remembrance that I've said to you.*" This is the promise of both

- This verse is a promise of 2 different things for 2 different groups:
- **For the Apostles: a promise of inspiration.** He promised to bring back to their memories, flawlessly, all that Jesus had taught... and to clarify it.

- One of the questions people have about the Bible is how can we trust what men wrote: Maybe they **corrupted it**; maybe they just didn't understand things.
- This promise shows you that Jesus promised supernaturally to guide their minds as they wrote.
- **The Bible, you see, is simultaneously the work of man, and the work of God.** That means that each book reflects the distinctive personality of its author. Peter sounds like Peter; Paul sounds like Paul. If I had been selected to write a Bible book, it would have been filled with dumb humor and Waffle House stories. But each book is also the word of God.
  - **Analogy: me holding Adon's hand.** His feet. I am **superimposing** direction.
- What you have in your hand is a reliable record of Jesus' work, because Jesus promised He would guide the Apostles to accurately record it. **Think about it: What good would it be for Christ to have come to earth and died if there was not a reliable record of it?**

*So to the disciples, it was a promise of inspiration.*

- **For us now, the church, it's a promise of illumination**
  - The Holy Spirit is not revealing new things to us. Don't come up to me and say, "Hey, this morning the Holy Spirit told me something Jesus said 2000 years ago that no one ever wrote down."
  - That's not happening. But He is helping us to understand what's already there: that's called "**illumination**"
  - You may think that you have never had any interaction with the HS, but you have.
    - 1 Cor 12:3. If you're really convinced in your heart that Jesus is Lord, that is the fruit of the HS.
    - 2 Cor 2, the natural man cannot perceive spiritual things. That means if you have been given spiritual insight, it is the work of the Spirit of God.
  - He brings Jesus' words to our remembrance... **in times of darkness:**

- **Romans 8:** *"the Spirit Himself bears witness with our Spirit that we are the children of God."*
- King David said in **Psalms 23**, "When I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, thou art with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me; you restore my soul. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me..."
  - You ever have that happen?
- He brings Jesus' words to remembrance in **times of temptation**
- He brings His words to mind when **we're sharing Christ**
  - In Luke 12, Jesus is warning his disciples that there is a time coming when they'll be dragged before courts, and he says, "Don't worry in that hour about what you'll say... the Holy Spirit will tell you what you should say."
  - How many times this happened to me! Sometimes I have felt compelled to share... but not known what exactly to say, or where the convo would go. But you go ahead and do it and God gives you the words as you go. I call it Michael Jordan philosophy of Christianity (They asked Jordan if he knew before he jumped what amazing move he'd do... jump and decide in the air.) That's what the HS does for you.
- *(Here's what I have learned: the HS can't bring to mind verses you haven't put in there; he can't fire bullets you've never loaded into the clip. How thankful I am for AWANA.)* cramming God's word into them so then they are **rattled** they spill out God's word; so that when **life cuts them** they bleed God's word; **stuffing my kids full of Bible verses, like a piñata, so that when life whacks them one day, they'll spill out God's words.** I can do this all day.

So, he illuminates our minds in the Scriptures, teaching us the promises of God, reminding us of them; helping us to feel them.

## **2. He "Manifests" God's Love to Believers (vs. 21)**

- Notice, vs. 21 Jesus says that through the Holy Spirit He will “manifest” or “make Himself known” to us.
- “Manifests” means “makes you feel.”
  - **Romans 5:1** “The Spirit sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts.”
- There are times when God’s love is so real to you that you can feel it. It comes alive.
  - **Analogy:** picking up Ryah.
- That is the presence of God! Definition (**Lloyd Jones: the presence of God is a felt sense of the attributes of God**). It’s when the Spirit of God makes them alive.
  - **Exodus 34:6-7**
- **Jonathan Edwards:** *“Sometimes only mentioning the name of Christ or an attribute of God will cause my heart to burn within me... suddenly God appears glorious to me. When I enjoy this sweetness it seems to carry me outside of myself. I cannot bring myself even to take my eye from this Glorious Object.”* Beyond doctrine, this is a sense of the majesty and beauty of God in His heart.
- When about when I can’t feel it? He’s there anyway—I’ll show you that in a minute.

### 3. He Is Our “Counselor” (vs. 16)

- The word translated as “helper” in vs. 16 is the word paraklete.
- We don’t have a great word in English to translate it:
  - *Some translations say “comforter,”* but that makes the HS sound like He’s a quilt or something.
  - *Some say “counselor,”* I don’t like that because I think of a marriage counselor or a camp counselor and I don’t think that’s the image Jesus is going for here (Camp Counselor: somebody bouncy; trying to have fun all the time; socks pulled up way too high; trying way too hard to be cool)
- Paraklete literally means someone who stands beside you to speak for you. Para means “alongside.” Kaleo means “speak.” He “speaks alongside of.”

- Remember the word “another.” He’s like Jesus was to the disciples. Jesus walked alongside of them, calling out to them the promises of God.
- **The Holy Spirit does that to us.** So, for example, when:
  - **Our hearts condemn us. 1 John 2; Romans 8:1; Isaiah 1:18** Your heart starts telling you that you are condemned before God. The Holy Spirit speaks a louder word. He says, “There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus,” and “Nothing can separate you from the love of God.” Though your sins were like scarlet, I have made them white as snow.” 1 John 2 says that when our heart condemns us, “God is greater than our heart.”
  - **Or, when circumstances. Heb 13:5** make us feel like God has abandoned us. The Spirit calls out, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” **“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; or through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”**
  - The Spirit **calls out** the love and assurance of God’s love to us. This is what Paul meant when he said, “The Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are the children of God.”
- Another dimension of him being our Counselor is what He says to God on our behalf. He stands alongside of us and calls out to God on our behalf. Think “Counselor,” like a lawyer.
  - Another. Jesus is the first advocate.
  - The Apostle John, who wrote these words we are studying today, says in 1 John 2 that Jesus is our Advocate before the Father. He is our lawyer, interceding for us. I used to think that meant He was up there going, “Come on, God, give J.D. one more chance!” It was not very comforting. Because I thought, surely, even God will run out of patience even with Jesus representing me. Or Jesus might say, “Nope. I’m not going to the Father again on that issue...” or the Father would

say, “Really? J.D. has messed that up again? This has been going on for 10 years...” **But Jesus is not up there asking for leniency for me. He’s asking for justice.**

- **Before the Throne of God above...**
- Jesus is saying to God: “Father, I have paid for all of J.D.’s sin. It would be unjust for you to be angry at J.D. for this sin, because I’ve already absorbed the full punishment. And I have given to J.D. my righteousness. So you are obligated to give to him the blessings and reward that were coming to me.”

- “Another Counselor,” like Jesus. The Holy Spirit now advocates for us, demanding that God give to us the blessing and favor that belonged to Jesus and Jesus gave to us as a gift.
- BTW, this is what Paul was talking about: **Romans 8:26** *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*
  - Many people say this verse is a reference to tongues, but it can’t be. First, Paul is talking here about something the Spirit does for all Christians, and in 1 Cor 12:30 he says clearly that not all Christians speak in tongues.
  - Second, the Greek phrase “too deep for words” means “cannot be uttered,” which would exclude utterances in tongues. He didn’t say, “It can’t be articulated in English or Greek,” but “cannot be uttered, period.”
  - What it means is that Spirit of God is constantly asking the Father for the blessings that Jesus has purchased for me.
  - **Dr. Sheehan:** “Jesus is praying for you. If I forget, Jesus will remember.”
- He is doing that right now!

- **He’s doing that even when you don’t feel it.** This verse tells you that even when you feel like God is far away (*and we all go through seasons like that*) the HS is present and praying for you.
- He’s demanding God’s blessings for you on the basis of Jesus blood. There’s an old hymn that says, “I hear the Savior say, ‘Thy strength indeed is small... Jesus paid it all! That’s a reference to the Spirit as our Counselor.”

#### 4. He Points to Jesus

- **John 15:26**, “When the Counselor comes—He will testify about Me.”
- **John 16:14**, “He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”
- That’s His role. Theologian **Dale Bruner** calls the Holy Spirit the “shy member of the Trinity.” The Holy Spirit does not point to Himself or glorify Himself. (Like a **floodlight**.)
- That’s how you know a lot of the places that claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit are not, because in those places the supposed Holy Spirit glorifies Himself. Where the real Holy Spirit is present, all the attention is on Jesus. Period. He never wants people looking at Him; He wants them looking at Jesus.
- The gifts of the Spirit are never to call attention to themselves; always to Jesus. C. J. Mahaney, a full-on charismatic, says, “**All gifts from God, including the gifts of the Spirit, are intended to direct our attention to Jesus and create fresh affection for Jesus.**” That’s how you know a lot of the people who claim to have great spiritual gifts don’t really have them, because they use them to direct attention to something else.
- ~~John Piper says this about the spiritual gifts: “*The supremacy of God’s beauty and all satisfying value is the final food for the savoring of our souls, not the gifts of the Spirit. Christ, the essence and image of God is more to be desired than all His gifts. He is the end of our souls savoring. Christ is not merely the means. The gifts of God are good and are to be*~~

*received with thanks and joy. I rejoice in the many gifts of God, but I will have failed in my aim if the overall impact of this book does not move us from seeking the gifts to savoring God himself.”<sup>2</sup>*

- Where the Spirit is, Jesus is glorified.
- **Preachers who are filled with the Spirit are the ones that are always talking about the cross.**
  - A Spirit filled preacher is one who doesn’t talk much about himself (his insights; his wisdom; things he’s done—hear guys where they are always the hero);
  - A Spirit filled preacher is not one that talks a lot about you; about what you should do for God. A lot of preachers are like that. Their sermons are filled with instructions about what you should *do* here and *do* there. DO-DO.
  - Spirit filled preachers don’t talk about what you should do. **Spirit filled preachers talk about what Jesus has done.**
  - A Spirit filled preacher doesn’t even talk a lot about the Spirit. **John 16:14, He will glorify Me.** A Spirit-filled preacher talks a lot about Jesus and the cross.
  - Charles Spurgeon: I sometimes wonder that you do not get tired of my preaching because I do nothing *but hammer away at this one nail*. That one nail is the glorious news that our glorious Savior paid it all in our place and in response he is worthy of our highest devotion and greatest service.
- I want to do that, and if you’ll pray for me, that’s what I’ll always do for you—not point you to me or what you should do, but to Jesus.

## 5. He Empowers for Ministry (16:6-8)

- We’re only going to touch on this, because this is more of what we’re going to deal with next week... but if you’ll jump ahead, I want to give you a taste...

- **John 16:6-8** “But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. [7] Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”
- Think about this statement Jesus is making to the disciples what it sounds like to them? How great would it be to have Jesus with you? You’re at a party, and you run out of Cheetos: BAM. Jesus multiplies them so you have 12 baskets left over. He could cure your headaches on the spot. Your dog gets run over, he could resurrect your dog back to life. If your cat gets run over, he could help you bury it.
- But here He says that you are better off with the Holy Spirit in you than you are with even me beside you!
- When the HS comes, [8] **And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”**
- Why? Because He will work in you and through you.
- Jesus said this: **John 14:12**, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”
  - Another absurd statement.
  - Who has done “greater works” than Jesus?
  - Summit: Are we experiencing that? Imagine if Jesus Himself were on staff at our church. What would our ministry be like? Are we experiencing something *greater* than even that? We are supposed to. It happens in answer to our prayers. The Holy Spirit is supposed to, in response to our prayers, sweeping through our families and our dorms and our neighborhoods.
  - But more on that in the weeks to come.

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<sup>2</sup> John Piper, *A Godward Life*.

Here's where I want us to land; the big takeaway for you this week: You need to realize He is a person.

- Most Christians still think of the Holy Spirit as like an electrical charge. If you get the conditions right, get your heart right, "it" comes into you. The feeling. The sensation.
- But He's not. He's a Person, a Person with emotions. A person you can grieve. A person you speak to. A person who loves and delights in you.
- When you reject God's word, you are rejecting a person.
  - Those of you not obeying Jesus' words... not because you're a worse person, or less moral. You are rejecting a person.
  - **John 14:23, "If anyone loves Me, He will keep my word."** The reason you don't keep His word is that you don't love Him. And you need to be honest yourself. It's not a moral issue, it's a "you love other things more than God issue." And that is why your heart is condemned and you need to be saved.
- When you are a Christian, He lives inside of you and that means that you are walking *with a Person*...
  - Who goes where you go and sees what you see.
  - **Are there things you are doing now that you wouldn't do if you were aware of the Spirit?**
    - I heard a terrible story several years ago about a child abuse case in which a mentally challenged child had been placed in a trailer behind a house with no care. They put food out for the child, but the child lived with trash and refuse and rotten food.
    - As Christians we like to decry moral corruption with our mouths, but then sit around and giggle at it on TV. How do we laugh at that which God calls an abomination?
      - **Sinful lust: "Lust is entertaining ourselves with the things from which Christ died to free us."<sup>3</sup>**
      - I'm not saying that spiritual Christians isolate themselves from the world. I grew up that way. Real Christians didn't watch any TV with

a damn or dang. The HS never tries to take us out of the world.

- **But there is a difference in enduring sin and entertaining yourself with it.**
- **Spiritual maturity is when you feel about sin the way God feels about it.** In the world you have to endure it, but that is totally different than willfully entertaining yourself with it.
- Of course, can never be "clean" enough for the HS; the blood of Jesus makes you that way. But, in response to what He did to save you and clean you, won't you love Him and want to prepare yourself for Him?
- Do you know Him as a Person? Are you experiencing His power? Have you let Him pour His love over you? Have you felt Him moving inside of you?
- Let's begin a new season of your life right now... where you walk in the Spirit!

## PRAYER

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<sup>3</sup> Josh Harris, *Not Even a Hint*.