

## introduction

This week, we begin a new sermon series on the Holy Spirit. Our vision as a church this ministry year is “To Know the Living God.” So, we began with a sermon series on “God our Maker.” We continued with “Who is this Jesus?” And we now turn to the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. This sermon series will explore who the Holy Spirit is, what the Holy Spirit does, and the incredible promise from Jesus that it is better for his followers to have the Holy Spirit living within them than it would be for them to have Jesus still physically present.



**What goes through your mind, or what do you feel, as you prepare to say goodbye to someone?**

**read**     **John 14:16-18, 25-27; 15:26; 16:7 (NIV)**

<sup>14:16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

<sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

<sup>15:26</sup> “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

<sup>16:7</sup> 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.

**Take a few moments to reflect on the Scripture. Share some insights, questions, or points that strike you. Then read what follows.**

## context

Today's passage is from the Farewell or Upper Room Discourse of Jesus, which covers chapters 13-17 of John's Gospel. The Discourse is what Jesus has to say to his disciples on his last night before his crucifixion. By comparing John with the other gospels, we know that Jesus says these words after three significant acts: he washes his disciples' feet, he allows Judas Iscariot to betray him, and he institutes the Lord's Supper. And while not all of this makes sense to the disciples, they have understood one thing clearly: Jesus intends to leave them. The disciples are understandably confused and worried and so Jesus responds with an assurance: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate" (John 14:15). That is what this text is about. Jesus sends his Holy Spirit to be with his people, so that his people can testify to Jesus.

## who Jesus will send

The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the "forgotten" or "unknown member" of the Trinity. That is why Jesus takes significant time on the night before his death in order to explain the Spirit to his disciples. Jesus says that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, who will remind the disciples of what Jesus did and taught, will live within them, and will bring life and Christ's own presence to them. The Spirit does all these things because the Spirit is the *Advocate*. This is a particular word with many complementary translations: advocate, helper, counselor, friend, teacher, and comforter. The word means someone who is alongside you, and for you, at the same time. That is who Jesus promises to send.

*"Jesus knew it was nearly time for him to leave the world and go back to God. 'I won't be with you long,' he said. 'You are going to be very sad. But God's Helper will come. And then you'll be filled up with a Forever Happiness that won't ever leave. So don't be afraid. You are my friends and I love you.'"*

*—The Jesus Storybook Bible*

## discuss

1. Who, or what, is the Holy Spirit? What answers to this question have you heard?
2. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is an advocate? What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is *another* advocate?
3. Consider all that the Holy Spirit does: lives with God's people, Spirit of truth, indwelling believers, sent by God, teacher of Jesus' wisdom, applier of Jesus' wisdom, and testifier to Jesus' truth. What role is most assuring for you? Which one do you know least about? Why?

## why Jesus sends the Spirit

The Holy Spirit comes primarily so that he can testify about Jesus. This includes both testifying true things about Jesus, and also bringing the true presence of Jesus into the life of his followers, and through his followers, into the world. How can Jesus give us the wonderful gift of his Holy Spirit? The answer is in John 16:7: because Jesus is "going away." The disciples are worried about Jesus' departure, but Jesus says it is for their good. Because Jesus went away, because he went to the cross, and because he finally went through death into resurrection and back to God the Father, Jesus could send the Holy Spirit. All of that was for our good, to save us from our sins, and make us new people who are sent to renew the world.

*"To know him is to love him, and to love him is to obey his commands. If we remembered this, we would be delivered from a great deal of confusion in spiritual life."*

—James Philip

## discuss

4. How can it be a good thing for the disciples that Jesus is going away? How can it be a good thing for us that Jesus has gone? Do we really believe that it is a good thing that Jesus is physically elsewhere?
5. What does it mean to “testify” to Jesus? How does the Spirit do that for the church? How do we do that for those around us?
6. How do we receive the peace and assurance that Jesus gives in verse 27?

## upcoming

- Thursday, April 16 | **Discover Gotham, 6:30 pm**  
*Attend to meet others, ask questions, and learn more about Redeemer’s 9-month faith and work discipleship cohort.*  
[faithandwork.com/events/discover-gotham-info-night-session/](https://faithandwork.com/events/discover-gotham-info-night-session/)
- Sunday, April 19 | **New at RWS, 1:15 pm**  
*New to our church? Attend this class to learn more about our church’s vision and mission and connect with staff.*  
[redeemerws.com/new](https://redeemerws.com/new)
- **Easter Sacrificial Offering**  
It’s not too late to give to this year’s Easter Sacrificial Offering! One of the ways we as a church pursue healing and shalom for our city is through a partnership with Hope for New York - a coalition of 80+ non-profits dedicated to a wide span of New Yorkers. This year, they hope to raise \$100K from Redeemer West Side as a way to extend resurrection hope to our neighbors across New York City.  
[hfnny.org/esowest](https://hfnny.org/esowest)