

THE FUNCTIONS OF

# The Holy Spirit

## WORD STUDY

Greek *parakletos* –

Greek word meaning “summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid

- a. one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate
- b. one who pleads another's cause with one, an intercessor
  - of Christ in his exaltation at God's right hand, pleading with God the Father for the pardon
  - of our sins
- c. in the widest sense, a helper, succourer, aider, assistant
  - of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel truth, and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom

---from Thayer's and Smith's Bible Dictionary

*The Amplified Bible* amplifies “Comforter” and amplifies the meaning of the original Greek as: Counselor • Helper • Intercessor • Advocate • Strengtheners • Standby.

In *Webster's Dictionary*, these words are defined as follows:

**COMFORTER** – one who gives comfort

COMFORT      consolation, encouragement

CONSOLE – To comfort; to cheer, especially by making up for loss or disappointment; to give someone contentment or moderate happiness by relieving from distress

ENCOURAGE – 1) To give courage to; to give confidence to; to inspire with courage, spirit, or strength of mind; to embolden; to animate, to incite.  
2) To help; to give support to; to be favorable to; to foster.

COMFORT – 1) To strengthen, invigorate, cheer or enliven (*obsolete – no longer in use, but the original meaning*) 2) To soothe in distress or sorrow; to ease the misery or grief of, to bring consolation or hope to.

**COUNSELOR** – one who gives counsel or advice

COUNSEL      from *consulere*, to consult

1. consultation; mutual interchange of opinions, ideas, etc.; discussion and deliberation.
2. wisdom, prudence; examination of consequences; deliberate opinion
3. a policy or plan of action
4. guarded thoughts or intentions
5. (*archaic*) purpose

**ADVICE** recommendation regarding a decision or course of conduct.

**HELPER** – one who helps

**HELP**

1. to give assistance or support to
2. to make more pleasant or bearable
3. to be of use to, benefit; to further the advancement of

**INTERCESSOR** – one who intercedes

**INTERCESSION** – prayer, petition, or entreaty in favor of another

**ADVOCATE** – one who pleads the case of another before a tribunal or judicial court

**STRENGTHENER** – one who makes stronger

**STRENGTH**

1. capacity for exertion or endurance
2. power to resist force
3. power to resist attack
4. logical or moral force

**STRONG**

1. having physical, moral, or intellectual power
2. having great resources
3. not easily subdued or taken
4. well-established

**STANDBY** – one to be relied on, especially in emergencies

## **SCRIPTURE**

**He is to flow forth continuously from our innermost being, slaking our thirst and that of others.**

“He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, from his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water.” But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed (trusted, had faith) in Him were afterward to receive. For the [Holy] Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (raised to honor). – John 7:38-39

**He has been given to us by the Father and only we – the Bride of Christ – will recognize/know Him.**

“If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever -- The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.” -- John 14:15-17

**He keeps Jesus’ legacy alive.**

“But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.” -- John 14:26

**He continues the Kingdom work until Jesus comes again – convicting people about sin and coming judgment; explaining and illuminating the Word, and advancing the Father’s will during this age.**

“However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you]. And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in Me [trust in, rely on, and adhere to Me]; About righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God), because I go to My Father, and you will see Me no longer; About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is judged and condemned and sentence already is passed upon him. I have still many things to say to you, but you are not able to bear them or to take them upon you or to grasp them now. But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future]. He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you. Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.” -- John 16:7-15

**His consolation and exhortation keeps us walking the path of Christ and bearing Christ’s fruit.**

“So the church throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was edified [growing in wisdom, virtue, and piety] and walking in the respect and reverential fear of the Lord and in the consolation and exhortation of the Holy Spirit, continued to increase and was multiplied. -- Acts 9:31

**He will counsel you as to what’s important or essential.**

“For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to lay upon you any greater burden than these indispensable requirements:” – Acts 15:28

**He will give to and empower in you the gifts He chooses you to bear as a member of Christ’s Body.**

“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking under the power and influence of the [Holy] Spirit of God can [ever] say, Jesus be cursed! And no one can [really] say, Jesus is [my] Lord, except by and under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. Now there are distinctive varieties and distributions of endowments (gifts, extraordinary powers distinguishing certain Christians, due to the power of divine grace operating in their souls by the Holy Spirit) and they vary, but the [Holy] Spirit remains the same. And there are distinctive varieties of service and ministration, but it is the same Lord [Who is served]. And there are distinctive varieties of operation [of working to accomplish things], but it is the same God Who inspires and energizes them all in all. But to each one is given the manifestation of the [Holy] Spirit [the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit] for good and profit. To one is given in and through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] a message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] a word of knowledge and understanding according to the same [Holy] Spirit; To another [wonder-working] faith by the same [Holy] Spirit, to another the extraordinary powers of healing by the one Spirit; To another the working of miracles, to another prophetic insight (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose); to another the ability to discern and distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, to another the ability to interpret [such] tongues. *All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses.* For just as the body is a unity and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so it is with Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). For by [means of the personal agency of] one [Holy] Spirit we were all, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, baptized [and by baptism united together] into one body, and all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit. -- 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

**His presence in your heart is proof of your salvation and a foretaste of things to come!**

“In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit. That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it--to the praise of His glory.” -- Ephesians 1:13-14

**He is a resource, always there to guide and lead you and enable you to live in freedom from sin.**

“But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do. But if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the Law.” -- Galatians 5:16-18

**When you are being led by Him, the results are obvious.**

“But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence).” -- Galatians 5:22-23

**He is interceding for us -- praying for us Himself -- at the throne of God, and is empowering and helping us in our own prayer life.**

“So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will.” -- Romans 8:26-27