

John 14 and Paraklete

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In John 14 Jesus is speaking to His disciples and telling them that He is soon to depart. He tells them that He is going to prepare a place for them in Heaven, and will one day return to take His own there. The disciples respond with fear; Jesus saying that He will leave them is a frightening moment. But Jesus comforts them by telling them that someone would come to be with them in His place: Paraklete.

The term “Paraklete” is translated differently in the NT. Some have “Helper”, others “Comforter”, “Counselor”, and in the usage of 1 John 2:1 “Advocate”. All are accurate, as the term refers to someone who walks alongside to help. Jesus says that the Paraklete is the Holy Spirit of Truth.

Who is the Holy Spirit? He is a Person (i.e. He has personality) and can be insulted, lied to, and grieved. He is God, as seen in places like Acts 5:3-4 and John 4:24. He is not unknown in the Old Testament, where He has revealed Himself as cloud, fire and wind.

Where is He? He came to the Apostles in Acts 2 on Pentecost, manifesting Himself in the traditional form of fire and wind. In turn the Apostles and Prophets wrote the inspired New Testament (2 Peter 1:19-21) and transferred that presence to Scripture, so to speak. Today He is manifested in the Word (John 6:63, Ephesians 5:19 w/Colossians 3:16).

How does He help us today? He helped the Apostles by bringing to their recollection and to knowledge the things of Christ. For us, He aids us in a similar way. According to 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 He aids in our understanding for salvation and for living. He dwells within us by faith, and is a seal of our salvation (Eph. 4:30). He Aids us in prayer as an advocate to Jesus per Romans 8:26.

Jesus told His disciples He was leaving. But He also promised that He would be with us always. This is accomplished through Paraklete, who is manifested in the Word of God, which abides forever. As we abide in the Word, the Word abides in us, and we are then in fellowship with God.