

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER

Allos is the word Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit: "Another [allos] Helper." That could be His way of saying, "I Am sending you One of exactly the same essence as Me." He wasn't sending just any helper, but One exactly like Himself with the same compassion, the same attributes of deity, and the same love for them. Jesus had been the disciples' helper for three years. He had helped them, comforted them, and walked alongside them. Now they would have another Helper--One exactly like Jesus--to minister to them as He had. The disciples must have been greatly encouraged and comforted to hear Jesus say that He would send another Helper to minister to them when He left. But Jesus' promise extended beyond that. His next words beautifully culminate the message of comfort: "That He may be with you forever" (John 14:16). Not only would the Holy Spirit come to dwell with them, but also He would never leave.

"I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS"



The apostle Paul said that Christ in us is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27), and Christ promised His Spirit would reside in us (John 14:17). And He will reside in us permanently. Jesus didn't tell the disciples He would come back and leave again. Nor did He say He would leave and be back in two thousand years. He said He would leave, then come back and be with us as long as we live, and throughout eternity. In Matthew 28:20 Christ says, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." He will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). The fulfillment of Christ's promise came on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4). The Spirit came and dwelt within the disciples, teaching them all about Christ, as John 14:26 says He would.

"HE HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT"



The Spirit points us to Jesus. Always. The Spirit does not draw attention to Himself, but He glorifies Jesus, and declares Him to us (John 16:14). Confessing that Jesus Christ, God incarnate, came and died and rose for us is a work of the Spirit of God in us (1 John 4:2). The Holy Spirit never minimizes Christ by taking center stage for Himself. Never. The Gospel is about the atoning work of Jesus Christ, enabled by the Father and

proclaimed through the Spirit. God the Father sent Jesus Christ to us and pointed to Him, saying that Jesus is His beloved Son in Whom He is well pleased (Luke 3:22). The Son affirmed that He did the works of the Father Who sent Him (John 5:36) – so the Son pointed us to the Father. The Son also pointed to the promise of the Father – the Holy Spirit, Who always points us to Jesus. These three are One – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit" (1 John 4:13).

GOD CREATED THE FAMILY



Genesis 2:21-24, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now

bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

THE TRINITY AND THE FAMILY



The Lord chose to compare a family with the Trinity. In so doing, He called the head of the family, the man, after His own name, Father. We pray, "Our Father, Which art in Heaven." Then He likened the son or children in the family to His own Son, the second named Person in the Trinity. Hence, we have in the family a person who

represents God the Father, and we have a person who represents God the Son. By process of elimination, we come to realize who represents the Holy Spirit in the family. There is only one person left, and that's the lady. That means that you--the woman, wife, mother--represent the Holy Spirit. If you would like to find your duties in life, just find in the Bible what the Holy Spirit is supposed to do. He comforts; so does Mother. He teaches; so does Mother. He instructs; so does Mother. He leads; so does Mother. Think of all the ministries the Holy Spirit has in the world. He's the unseen One; so is Mother. He is the One Who gives the others attention; so does Mother. If you want to know what your duties are in the family, all you have to do is find out the duties of the Holy Spirit in the Trinity, for you are the Holy Spirit of the home. She's the Holy Spirit in the home, the unseen power.

When we think of God's love for those who are reconciled to Him in Jesus, we not only think of a strong, protective and wise Father, but we can also bask in His tender, nurturing, comforting care seen most beautifully in a mother's love for her child. What a dynamic God we worship!

God Through Feminine Characteristics



There are things about God that men more directly put on display, and there are things about God that women more directly display. Here are just a few examples of ways in which the Bible reveals God through feminine characteristics and metaphors:

- ❖ God comforts His people like a mother comforts her child. (Isaiah 66:13)
- ❖ Like a woman would never forget her nursing child, God will not forget His children. (Isaiah 49:15)
- ❖ God is like a mother eagle hovering over her young. (Deuteronomy 32:11)
- ❖ God seeks the lost like a housekeeper, trying to find her lost coin. (Luke 15:8-10)
- ❖ God cares for His people like a midwife that cares for the child she just delivered. (Psalm 22:9-10, Psalm 71:6, Isaiah 66:9)
- ❖ God experiences the fury of a mother bear robbed of her cubs. (Hosea 13:8)
- ❖ Jesus longed for the people of Jerusalem, like a mother hen longs to gather her chicks under her wings. (Luke 13:34)

THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US AND GUIDES US LIKE A MOTHER



These verses are also giving us additional information that the Holy Spirit has a specific ministry with all of us – and that specific ministry is to guide us, lead us, and teach us in this life. "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 things that I said to you." (John 14:26) "However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth ..." (John 16:13)

When the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit will "Teach Us All Things" and "Guide Us Into All Truth," this tells us that the Holy Spirit has the ministry with each one of us as being our personal Guide and Teacher in this life.

The Holy Spirit has the job of guiding us and teaching us in this life, then this means He is going to try and communicate to all of us from time to time. And your job will then be to learn the different ways He will communicate to you.

The Different Ways That The Holy Spirit Will Lead And Communicate To Us

Jesus tells us in John 10:27, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." So how can we know whether we're hearing the voice of God? The Bible gives us seven basic keys or filters through which every possible leading should be judged. We are to carefully examine the thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

1. **Scripture:** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17). The Holy Spirit speaking to our heart: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'know the Lord,' for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them." (Hebrews 8:10-11).

2. **The Prophetic (Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Personal Prophecy):** "Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good." (I Thessalonians 5:19-21).

3. **Godly Counsel:** "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14).

4. **Confirmation:** "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed." (Matthew 18:16).

5. **The Peace Of God:** "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful." (Colossians 3:15).

6. **Circumstances/Timing:** "After these things he (Paul) left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers" (Acts 18:1-3)-- this relationship between Paul, Aquila and Priscilla -- which happened as a result of circumstances -- became one of the most important strategic partnerships in the book of Acts). Many times the Lord will confirm His direction to us through three, four or more of these keys -- especially when we are in the process of making an important, life-changing decision.

He Is Faithful To Lead Us



Many times the Lord will confirm His direction to us through three, four or more of these keys -- especially when we are in the process of making an important, life-changing decision. Big decisions take big prayer. In other words, as we humble ourselves before the Lord, seek His guidance in our lives, the Good Shepherd will be faithful to lead us, "...in paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (Psalm 23:3).