

The last three weeks, we have been teaching about the Holy Spirit for new life. But here's the best part: He is your friend.

1: He is the "One Called Alongside" A

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, but a personal presence, "encompassing the role of a friend, meaning one who is just like Himself. He is your friend.

Remember Paraclete this way - Think of Him as the One who is strapped to you. The Paraclete is the One who is with you.

"Para" = beside, "Clete" = called. The One who is called alongside.

John 14:16 (NLT) *And I will ask the Father to send you another helper, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him because he lives with you now and will be with you forever.*

John 14:26 (ESV) *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

John 14:18-20 (MSG) *I will not leave you here. I'm going to see my Father because I am alive and you're in me, and I'm in you.*

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39) "Go over and walk along beside the chariot." Philip spoke. And when Philip ran up to the chariot, he said, "I want to talk to you."

You don't have to beg Him to show up. He is always with you, guiding, and confirming that you are not alone.

2: He is the Practical Comforter Not Just a Comforter

The Holy Spirit's comfort is not a mere emotional boost, but supernatural strength, courage, and hope.

Romans 8:26 (NLT) *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. He makes up for what we lack, because we do not know how to pray as we ought. But He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because He intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*

2 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV) *Blessed be the God who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, in the same way we have been comforted by God.*

Acts 9:31 (MSG) *Things calmed down in Galilee—the church grew. They were prospering wonderfully.*

Paul's "Thorn" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) "My power works best in weakness." Comfort—Himself. That is practical, strength.

Application: When you don't have the strength to face a situation from a distance; He enters into it with you.

3: He is the Intimate Friend – Not a Distant One

Friendship with the Holy Spirit is built on intimacy, not ignored. This doesn't make him a weak presence, but a strong one with Holy Spirit. He can also be enjoyed.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NLT) *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Ephesians 4:30 (ESV) *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Note: You can only grieve a friend, not a force.)*

John 16:13 (NLT) *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard.*

Pastor Laurie Idahosa

the Friend

WHO



Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46) In His darkest hour, Jesus didn't face it alone. **Luke 22:43 (NLT)** says, "*Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him.*" This was a manifestation of the Spirit's comfort, arriving at the moment of His greatest need. If Jesus, the Son of God, relied on this divine friendship in His agony, how much more should we? The Spirit comes alongside in our Gethsemane moments; not to take away the cup, but to hold our hand as we walk through it.

The Holy Spirit is like a friend who stays on the phone with you until you fall asleep. He is not offended by your anger, confused by your tears, or scandalized by your secrets. Talk to Him as you drive, wash dishes, or lie awake at night. He came to stay, so start treating Him like He lives with you. Because He does.

5 Practical Ways to Live Like the Holy Spirit Is Your Friend Who Stays

1. Acknowledge Him first thing each morning.
 - Remember the book from the 1980's by Benny Hinn? "Good Morning Holy Spirit". Friendship starts with a "good morning." Before you check your phone, recognize He's already there.
 - *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?... (1 Cor. 6:19, ESV)*
 - Do this: Whisper, "Good morning, Holy Spirit. You are here. I surrender this day to You."
2. Invite Him into mundane moments (dishes, driving, emails).
 - He cares about the small stuff because He cares about you. Walk with Him in every step. *...Walk by the Spirit... (Gal. 5:16, ESV); ...Keep in step with the Spirit. (Gal. 5:25, ESV)*
 - Before a routine task say, "Holy Spirit, be with me in this. What's on Your heart for this work out, this meal, this conversation?"
3. Listen for His gentle whisper and act on it.
 - The Spirit rarely shouts. He speaks in a still, small voice. Friendship requires listening.
 - *...A still small voice... (1 Kings 19:11-13, NKJV); My sheep hear my voice (John 10:27, ESV)*
 - Pause 30 seconds and ask, "Holy Spirit, is there anything You want me to notice?"
4. Let Him pray through you when you have no words.
 - In heavy pain or exhaustion, you don't need perfect prayers. He intercedes for you.
 - *...The Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Rom. 8:26, ESV)*
 - Do this: Whisper, "Holy Spirit, I don't know what to say. Pray through me." Then sit in silence.
5. Bring Him your real emotions; even the messy ones.
 - He is not offended by anger, confused by tears, or scandalized by secrets. Be brutally honest.
 - *...Why have you forsaken me?... (Psalm 22:1, ESV); ...Nothing can separate us... (Rom. 8:38-39)*
 - Say out loud, "Holy Spirit, here's what I'm actually feeling..." Then wait for His comfort.

Stop treating the Holy Spirit like a cell phone; only used for emergencies. Start treating Him like a roommate and best friend. Enjoy His presence in the mundane, the joyful, and the heartbreaking moments of your life.

He is the Friend who stays. * Not a visitor. Not a temp. Not a force. * A Person. A Comforter. A Friend. * And He came to stay.

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