

# The Holy Spirit's Presence

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Just before Jesus left this earth, He said, in Matthew 28:18-20, “*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth—and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*” He did not mean that He would be with us in person, because He is sitting at the right hand of God, in Heaven. However, we have the Holy Spirit at our side, which is the same as having God or Jesus Christ with us.

We can get an idea of how valuable the Holy Spirit is when we realize that all the righteousness, peace, health, and protection we receive, also the knowledge of God and His Word, and our preparation for Eternal Life, comes directly through the Holy Spirit's teaching and training.

The Holy Spirit is a personal being, not just an influence or just some power. He is an individual, just like God and Jesus Christ. Wherever the Holy Spirit is, it is the same as if God and Jesus Christ were there.

There are three persons of the Trinity, or the Godhead, as it is called: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are alike; the three in One; it is one God in three persons, the Godhead. In John 14:8, when Jesus was encouraging His disciples, just before His arrest and crucifixion, Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus replied in verse 9, “*Have I been so long with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.*”

We would count it a wonderful privilege to have God with us in person all the time, and to get anything we want from Him. Well, we do have God with us just as real as if we could see Him standing there. It is impossible for us to get away from His presence. God is with us in the presence of the Holy Spirit and at our side and service every moment. When we fully take that to heart, we will then realize what Romans 8:31-32 means; “*If God be for us,*” (that means with us and at our service) *who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things.*”

In some passages of scripture, the translators of the Bible called the Holy Spirit “it,” but in the original it is written as “He,” which is the same as we would call Jesus Christ or some human being “he.”

Jesus said that it would be better for us to have the Holy Spirit here on earth with us than it would be to have Him in person. It may seem hard to believe for some people, but it is the truth. Jesus said in John 16:7, “*I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you (or it is to your advantage) that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*” That shows how valuable Jesus Christ considered the Holy Spirit.

In the following passage of Scripture, that Jesus spoke, we see all three distinct, individual, members of the Godhead. John 14:12-16, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. (There is one, God the Father) And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (There is the second, Jesus Christ the Son) If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, (there is the third, the Holy Spirit) that he may abide with you forever.*” Repeatedly in the Holy Bible we see the individual members of the Godhead presented. These are three individual members of the Godhead, which is God.

Jesus Christ is the manifestation of the Godhead, as 1 Timothy 3:16 tells us, *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

And then we have Colossians 2:8-9, “*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*”

When we go to the God of the Bible, we go only through Jesus Christ, Who is the beloved Son of God.

The Holy Spirit is the One who did the work of creation. In Genesis 1:1-2 it says, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God (or the Holy Spirit) moved upon the face of the waters.*”

That was the beginning of His creation, the earth and everything in it, including man. Then when Jesus was here on earth, it was the Holy Spirit who did the work of rebuking and casting out demons and healing all those who were oppressed of the devil.

This is brought out in Luke 4:18-19, where Jesus said, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*”

In the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, Jesus explained what a serious sin it was to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. A man possessed with a demon spirit, blind and dumb, was brought to Him, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, He rebuked and cast out that demon from that man, so that he both saw and spoke. The Scribes and Pharisees said that Jesus, in healing that man, was possessed by Beelzebub, the prince of devils. In other words, they attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to the power of Satan, which was a very serious sin against the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 12:25-32, *“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

*He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”*

In John 16:13 we are given the reason for the Holy Spirit to come to this earth. *“When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”*

He will enable us to see, understand and live according to the teachings of this Bible. God’s Word has a plan for every phase of our life, and each one is directly opposite to the plans of man, of which in reality, they are the plans of Satan. Therefore, the first thing the Holy Spirit does is to lead us away from every human plan and bring us in line with the will of God. Then we will grow and develop and will always find out something new about God and His Truth.

The Holy Spirit is not only with us all the time, but He wants to do everything He possibly can for our benefit. He is ready to take advantage of the least opening we give Him to teach, train and develop us far beyond our highest expectations. He knows the reality and grandeur of Eternal Life and Heaven, and He also knows the horrors of the Lake of Fire. Therefore, He has an intense desire to enlighten and

strengthen us to see and understand the whole will of God.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to teach and train us, we will see and understand these truths and will grow and develop into the very Image of Jesus Christ. Jesus told us what kind or class of people the Holy Spirit can teach and train in the parable of the Sower.

There were four classes of people who heard the Word of God. Among those four classes, we find only one that ever grew and developed. As the Bible predicts in many places, they were the smallest class of the four. The 4<sup>th</sup> class, or the seed that was sown on good ground, were those who heard the Word, with open and unprejudiced minds, held onto it and brought forth fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much.

That person, under the teaching and training of the Holy Spirit, had a better understanding of God’s Word, with greater faith and confidence in Him and they were kept in perfect alignment with His will, and followed every plan given in the New Testament. Which is very important, as James 2:10-11 tells us, *“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.”*

It is the same as if one would refuse to obey God’s Word concerning Baptism. Jesus said in John 3:5, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”*

That means to be baptized by triune immersion, as they did in the Early Church. It is not done by a mere washing of the bodies, but to obey a plain and direct command of God.

1 Peter 3:21, *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”*

In the book of Matthew, we find Jesus Himself following this command, as He said to, *“fulfill all righteousness.”*

Matthew 3:13-15, *“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.”*

Baptism is an outward sign or indication that we have put off the old evil nature and have put on the new man, Jesus Christ, just as a man and woman are united by marriage, we are united with Christ.

Another place which may seem difficult for many to follow would be God’s financial plan. Many feel that God’s financial plan is to give up every cent they have and never get it back. They will excuse themselves by saying they don’t understand it or don’t agree with it.

God’s plan is to sell, give, place your account in Heaven’s bank where the interest is 10,000%. Jesus told us in the tenth chapter of Mark that we shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, and in the world to come Eternal Life.

Satan would like to picture it as giving up everything, without a cent to our name and just one step closer to the poor house. But God will see to it that there is an abundance for us, plenty to give away, and unmeasured spiritual light and blessing, and in the end ETERNAL LIFE.

One who is led by the Holy Spirit and open-minded to accept whatever God has to say in His Word, will have every Truth of this Bible made plain to them and will accept it without a question and will find out that this is the safest and most profitable plan around.



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