

Here is today's scripture passage in language that may be easier to understand.

"I will send the Friend to you from the Father. He is the Spirit of truth, who comes out from the Father. When the Friend comes to help you, he will be a witness about me. You must also be witnesses about me. That's because you have been with me from the beginning.

"I have told you all this so that you will not turn away from the truth. You will be thrown out of the synagogue. In fact, the time is coming when someone may kill you. And they will think they are doing God a favor. They will do things like that because they do not know the Father or me. Why have I told you this? So that when their time comes, you will remember that I warned you about them. I didn't tell you this from the beginning because I was with you. But now I am going to the one who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Instead, you are filled with sadness because I have said these things. But what I'm about to tell you is true. It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Friend will not come to help you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove that the world's people are guilty. He will prove their guilt concerning sin and godliness and judgment. The world is guilty as far as sin is concerned. That's because people do not believe in me. The world is guilty as far as godliness is concerned. That's because I am going to the Father, where you can't see me anymore. The world is guilty as far as judgment is concerned. That's because the devil, the prince of this world, has already been judged.

"I have much more to say to you. It is more than you can handle right now. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own. He will speak only what he hears. And he will tell you what is still going to happen. He will bring me glory. That's because what he receives from me, he will show to you. Everything that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said what the Holy Spirit receives from me he will show to you.

John 15: 26- 16: 15

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you in the truth."



In Christian art, the Holy Spirit is often pictured as a dove. The Holy Spirit isn't really a bird—the dove is a *symbol*. When Jesus was baptized, a dove flew down and landed on his shoulder just as God the Father said, "This is my son." The story shows us a picture of the Trinity—Father, Son and Spirit.

Here are some questions to think about as you listen to the sermon.

1. There are lots of different names for the Holy Spirit, names like Counselor, Helper, and Friend. How do those names help us to understand what the Holy Spirit is?
2. The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of Truth. What truth does the Holy Spirit help us to remember about Jesus?
3. If you love Jesus and trust him for your salvation, then the Holy Spirit is already working in your heart to show you how to love and follow Jesus. Take a minute to say thank you to the Holy Spirit for being your helper and friend!

Understanding who the Holy Spirit is can sometimes be challenging. Here's an analogy to help you understand how the Spirit works in our hearts.

Have you ever seen a spotlight light up a stage? When a spotlight shines on something, all of our attention is focused on the thing that the spotlight illuminates. The Holy Spirit is kind of like a spotlight, directing all of our attention on Jesus. When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit helps us see how Jesus is speaking to us through God's word. The Holy Spirit also helps us to focus the attention of our hearts on Jesus so that we will think, act, and love in the ways that Jesus wants us to.

