

THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR PARAKLETOS

Text: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **PARAKLETOS** to help you and be with you forever (John 14: 16, NIV)

Reading: John 14:15-21

Hymn: **Lord we believe to us and ours – H & P 307**

Today we encounter an important promise that Jesus made; to ask the father to give his followers the Holy Spirit, if they proved their love for him through obedience. In the original Greek, Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the '**PARAKLETOS**', a word that is untranslatable and thus gets translated differently in every Bible translation. The Amplified Bible combines many of those words: 'And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever (John 14:16, AMP).

PARAKLETOS simply means someone called in or summoned or called to one's side. The meaning therefore depends only on the purpose for which the **PARAKLETOS** is summoned. Thus, if we invite the Holy Spirit to help us prove our case, he is a **WITNESS**. If we summons him to plead our case, he is an **ADVOCATE**. If we call him to settle a dispute, he is a **JUDGE**. The Holy Spirit as a **COUNSELLOR** when we seek him to give advice. When we call him to teach during doubt and confusion, he is a **TEACHER**. If we need help in difficult situations, the Holy Spirit comes as a **HELPER**. In times of discouragement, fear, and loss, he comes as **COMFORTER**.

The Holy Spirit as our **comforter**, fits the current troubled situation that the COVID-19 pandemic brings. The word 'Comforter' is from the Latin 'fortis' meaning 'brave'. Thus, the Holy Spirit, as our **PARAKLETOS**, is not just a sympathizer, but an enablement and bravery when we are dispirited. He empowers us to cope with life situations and overcome it. We need the Holy Spirit as a comforter to enable the bereaved to be comforted, strengthened, and empowered to overcome the pain of death. We need him as a **HEALER**, to heal all who have been infected. We need the Holy Spirit as a life giver to those who are facing death due to COVID-19. We need him as our teacher and revealer to teach and reveal to our medical researchers how best way we can defeat COVID-19. We need the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit to be by our side as we face the challenges of today and the future. The good news is that Jesus has not just promised, but he has also sent the **PARAKLETOS** to us (**Acts 2:1-21**). Let us receive him and allow him to take control of the situation. May **THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR PARAKLETOS** be with all God's people. Amen.