



My Friend the Holy Spirit

Adapted from “50 Days for Fire” series by Wayne Murray

The Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead that is not talked about much. He is given to believers to help guide and lead. However, the Holy Spirit is not some abstract force but a person. The following blog illustrates this concept powerfully.

This is a bit personal, but I ought to share it. It’s about my best friend. I remember the very day that I met Him on the train years and years ago. Oh, it was such a wonderful and emotional day ... just like I said before, this is personal, but I ought to share it with you. Even as I am writing this small paragraph, I am feeling a bit emotional because it’s about my best friend, the very one whom I treasure, value, and cherish most in my life.

That day I met my best friend, oh that glorious day that I met Him, I was on a train. I wasn’t expecting to meet anyone on that day, but our Lord had a special plan for me.

That day on the train I met Him, I had always heard about Him and had even read about Him in the Bible, but I had never met Him personally nor knew who He really was. Well, one day on my way from work early in the morning, I sat down on the train, drowsy, and tired. So, I got out a book called ‘Good Morning Holy Spirit’ to read to keep me occupied as the journey was quite long. As I got the book out and began reading it, the atmosphere around me changed. I started to cry. I mean, crying so deeply that I couldn’t control myself. The people who were sitting in front of me noticed me crying. I was so embarrassed that I tried to cover my face with my hand, but the more I did that more I cried. I was crying like a baby on the train. It was so glorious! Tears of joy were streaming down from my face like a river because the presence of my best friend filled that train that morning.

After this experience, I quietly welcomed Him into my heart. I told Him to have all of me, to fill me and reveal Himself to me because I so wanted to know Him intimately not His power, but His person. I was hungry and desperate for His relationship, but it didn’t end there. A wonderful

relationship developed between Him and me. He was that person I could depend on. He was that person I could trust. He was that person I could talk to. He was that person I could share all my secrets with. I began to talk to Him every day and ask Him for help, advice, and I was concerned about His feelings. He became someone I valued, treasured, and He became the most important person to me on this earth.

I realized the moment He came into my life He changed four things instantly in my spiritual life.

- He made the Bible so real to me, that I would cry while reading it (No longer falling asleep while reading it or yawning either). The Bible became a living book to me.
- My prayer life changed instantly. Nearly every night I would spend hours upon hours in fellowship with Him and worshiping Jesus. Sometimes while praying at night, His power would so fill my room that my body would begin to shake tremendously and I wouldn't be able to kneel or stand properly. Sometimes His power would fill my room so completely, that my body seemed like it was going to explode because of His power.
- No one needed to tell me or ask me if I had prayed or read my Bible. He birthed a deep hunger for the things of God inside of me.
- My burden for souls increased dramatically. I began to look for ways to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, called Him '...another Helper and Advocate (**John 14:16**) because He was going to the Father in Heaven (**John 16:7**). He knew that we could not do this Christian walk by ourselves. By Him knowing this, He promised to us another Helper who will take His place on earth and help us in our Christian walk. But sadly, this Helper (The Holy Spirit) is the person that many Christians have neglected and put to the side. We don't talk to Him; we don't give Him the respect that is due to Him or give Him the honor that He deserves. It saddens me because He is the only person who can reveal and make Jesus real to us; yet we have largely neglected Him.¹

¹ Brother Joe, "The Holy Spirit (My best friend)," *Love People Love God*, January 23, 2012, <https://lplg.wordpress.com/2012/01/23/the-holy-spirit-my-best-friend/> (accessed July 5, 2017).

COURAGE

C1: What are your thoughts as you read/heard the introduction?

C2: What comes to your mind when you think of the Holy Spirit?

C3: Jesus begins His discussion about the Holy Spirit in **John 14-16 (NLT)**. This entire conversation happens during the Last Supper. In **John 13 (NLT)**, Jesus washes the disciples' feet. In **John 14-16 (NLT)**, the discussion takes place after Judas leaves. Read the following verses and answer the questions.

John 14:16–18 (NLT) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

John 14:25–27 (NLT) I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So, don't be troubled or afraid."

- Write out at least one concept from each passage of scripture regarding the Holy Spirit.

C4: Read the following verse and answer the questions.

John 16:7 (NLT) But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

- What can you glean from this verse?

- How important is the Holy Spirit to Jesus? How so?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being not much and 4 being a lot, how important is the Holy Spirit to you? Why did you respond the way you did?
- What steps can you take to improve the importance of the role of the Holy Spirit in your life? In your family?

STRENGTH

S1: Read the following passage from at least four different Bible translations.

John 14:16–17 (NLT)

- What observation can you glean from these verses regarding the Holy Spirit?

S2: Read the following verses and answer the question (it would be good to read several translations).

John 14:16 (NLT)

John 16:7 (NLT)

John 15:26 (NLT)

John 16:13 (NLT)

John 16:8 (NLT)

John 14:26 (NLT)

- List some of the names from these verses which are attributed to the Holy Spirit.

S3: After completing S2, write out at least one area for each name attributed to the Holy Spirit in which you could use the help of the Holy Spirit.

ENDURANCE

E1: One of the attributes of the Holy Spirit is not of being “weird.” Christians have done some weird things, acted in a weird manner and have given credit to the Holy Spirit for their bizarre behavior. The truth is the Holy Spirit is supernatural, and He will take you out of your comfort zone and help you walk your daily life in the supernatural.

- From your perspective, write out your experiences and observations in the lives of other believers with the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

- What steps can you take to make sure the Holy Spirit in your life serves as your friend who leads you into the supernatural?

E2: The writers of the New Testament write about the benefits of a Spirit-filled life. Read the following passages.

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Galatians 6:1-10 (NLT)

1 Corinthians 12-14 (NLT)

- Write out at least four benefits of the Spirit-filled life from these passages.

- Which benefit(s) is(are) operating in your life the most right now? The least?

- What steps can you take to see the benefits of a Spirit-filled life increase?

E3: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

John 15:26 (NLT)

Luke 3:22 (NLT)

Matthew 28:19 (NLT)

- What do you believe Jesus is teaching his followers about the Holy Spirit in these verses?

- Do you get nervous talking about the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

E4: On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being the least and 4 being the best, how strong is your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

- What steps can you take to improve your relationship with the Holy Spirit?