

Holy Spirit: Wind & Fire | Advocate

Introduction:

Our English word, “Advocate,” means a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. However, the Greek word we receive from the Gospel of John to describe the Holy Spirit as an “Advocate” is *parakletos*, which means, “called to the side of.” In his final teachings to the disciples before he is arrested, Jesus assured them and all believers to come that God will send one who is “called to the side” of Jesus’ followers to comfort, instruct and work through them. We learn from Proverbs 8 that the Holy Spirit is wise and was constantly at the Creator’s side delighting in God’s creation. And when mankind finds the Holy Spirit, they find life (v.25) In Romans 5 the Holy Spirit is the one who leads mankind in knowledge and faith in God’s love that’s been poured out for us in Jesus Christ. What an incredible Advocate God has given us! The Holy Spirit doesn’t just support us (publicly), the Holy Spirit is the one who is with us, working through us and constantly guiding us to God’s love and truth which gives us life!

Read Your Bible

- Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-36
- Romans 5:1-5
- John 15:26-16:15

Apply God’s Word to Your Life:

1. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says that the Advocate will come after he has ascended to heaven. What reason does Jesus give for this?
2. What does Jesus tell the disciples the Advocate will do for them?
3. According to Romans 5:1-5, what role does the Holy Spirit fulfill with humanity?
4. In Proverbs 8, wisdom is personified and said to be with God from the very beginning. How are wisdom and the work of the Holy Spirit in Proverbs 8 similar to that of the “Advocate” in John 15. How are they different?
5. Based on our readings, what signs do we have that the Advocate is at work in us?
6. When was a time you or someone you know experienced the Holy Spirit as “Advocate?”

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Lord God, You taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them an Advocate. Grant that we, by Your Spirit, may be guided to right judgement in all things, comforted by the Advocate’s presence and forever rejoice in Your Spirit’s counsel, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.