

# March 2nd, 2024

**Title:** The Greatest Confidant

**Theme:** Person of the Holy Spirit...**3 Text:** John 14:15 - 17

**Purpose:** I want to PERSUADE my congregation that, as a person, the ever-present Holy Spirit is the BELIEVERS greatest CONFIDANT.

## Introduction:

This week's meditation is the third in a series entitled 'Person of the Holy Spirit:'

February 9, Abraham, Isaac, and the Servant

February 16, Offenses to the Holy Spirit

~ Last week we considered 'Offenses to the Holy Spirit':

~ 1) The Holy Spirit can be Quenched; ~ 2) The Holy Spirit can be Grieved; ~ 3) The Holy Spirit can be Blasphemed

~ Confidant: a person with whom one shares a secret of private matter, trusting them not to repeat it to others.

Illustration: Fred DeBolt called me at camp after I had a minor injury – Holy Spirit instructed him to telephone me and pray for me; he was given NO particulars!

## 1. The Holy Spirit is the Greatest Comforter:

~ 2 Corinthians 1:3 – 5, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, (4) who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (5) For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.*"

~ John 14:16 (KJV), "*And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;*"

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

~ John 14:16 (CSB), "*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.*"

~ Acts 7:51, "*You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.*"

The Holy Spirit, being a person, is able to have empathy in our situations. Empathy. Noun. em-pa-thy, empathy: a being aware of and sharing another person's feelings, experiences, and emotions. Also: the ability for this.

~ John 14:17, "*even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*"

## 2. The Holy Spirit is the Greatest Counselor:

~ Isaiah 11:1 – 2, "*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (2) And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*"

~ A great counselor must have empathy, knowledge and wisdom (that is the godly application of godly knowledge).

~ Psalm 51:6, "*Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.*"

Read entire Psalm for full context.

~ James 1:2 – 8, "*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, (3) for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (4) And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (5) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (6) but let him ask in faith, without doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is double-minded, unstable in all his ways.*"

~ 1 Corinthians 1:30, "*And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,*"

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 31 for the context.

~ 1 Corinthians 10:13, "*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*"

## 3. The Holy is the Greatest Intercessor:

~ Romans 8:26 – 30, "*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (27) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (28) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those whom he predestined he also called, those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*"

**Personal opinion:** this is a strong case for the personal gift of "tongues" as explained in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14.

~ 1 John 5:14 – 15, "*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (15) And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the request that we have asked of him.*"

~ Luke 11:1 - 13

## Conclusion:

Communion