

John 14:15-18, 25-27
The Holy Spirit- Part 1

What is a 'it'? Let me ask the question this way. What are we saying when we refer to anything as an 'it'? First, we are saying the 'it' is not personal. Which is to say the 'it' is not unique, particular or exclusive. It's an 'it' not a self-aware entity. It can be an object, idea or concept, a force or condition, but not living. Thus, 'it' has no true personality. It cannot think or choose. It does not and cannot relate to us in a personal way. It's an 'it'!

I have been guilty of referring to the Holy Spirit as an 'it' rather than He. Any other among us guilty of this? By referring to the Holy Spirit as an 'it' I have belittled God and reduce God's Holy Spirit to a force rather than a being. Specifically, the third person of the Trinity. A being. A self-aware entity that resides in us, disciples of Jesus. A being we are to willingly submit to. A powerful being we are called into relationship with. For referring to the Holy Spirit as an 'it' I am deeply sorry to God. I now work intentionally to make sure my language reflects who He is. The Holy Spirit is not impersonal. He is not an energy or a force. The Holy Spirit is God. The power of God and like God deserves our devotion and reverence. So, over the next four Sundays we will get very acquainted with God the Holy Spirit. The One who makes faith possible and faithfulness our reality. This morning I want to share three truths about the Holy Spirit from Jesus' words.

First, the Holy Spirit is the real presence of God with us and in us.

V16. “¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.” (ESV says “Helper”). This promise of Jesus assures us that through faith in him we are never alone. No matter how we may feel and through the hardest of circumstances Jesus assures us as his disciples he will always be with us. **V18** “No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.”

He fulfills this promise by his Holy Spirit. What a life altering truth. God is literally with me and not just with me, God lives in me by His Holy Spirit. God doesn't simply go ahead of me; God literally goes with me.

I actually take God with me everywhere I go. I take God into every circumstance I face. Every disappointment, every joy, every challenge, every illness, every suffering, every sin I commit God is actually with me. Yes, it is so! On one hand that makes me shout thank you Lord! On the other hand, it makes me cry out forgive me, Father!

1 Cor 6:19-20 “¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” **NKJV**

Romans 8:9 “⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)” **NLT**

Second, the Holy Spirit is our truth guide. V17 “¹⁷ 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.” What is truth? God's word, Jesus' gospel is truth. And **God the Holy Spirit will never**

lead us into any teaching that is contrary to God's word, Jesus' gospel. People ask all the time, "How do I know when God is speaking to me?". Very simple. Does what you hear honor God's word? Does it honor Jesus' gospel? If it does not it is not from the Holy Spirit. This truth that the Holy Spirit is directed by Jesus to lead us into is not subjective nor contextual. Listen to Jesus in **John 16:12-15**: ¹² "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'" **NLT**

Third and final thing, the Holy Spirit is our teacher. V25-26 ²⁵ I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. ²⁶ 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." Let me say this. Everything the Holy Spirit taught them is written in this book. There will be no more gospels or letters written by the Apostles or companions of the Apostles for the church. Neither will there be any more Pauls. There will be many documents written expounding on what's here, but nothing new is coming or is needed. Don't be deceived by some new teaching not of the Holy Spirit. Listen! In everything that the Holy Spirit teaches He will always be pointing us to Jesus because he is Jesus' representative. He will always be guiding us into that which glorifies God. And only that which honors God's word and leads to faith in God's Son, Jesus, honors Him. **1 Cor 2:10-14** ¹⁰ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep

secrets. ¹¹ No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. ¹² And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. ¹³ When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. ¹⁴ But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means." **NLT**

In closing, Jesus promises his disciples the gift of peace. This promise is to all who believe. Note that his peace is directly linked to the Holy Spirit's presence with us and in us. So, the question here is are you experiencing the peace of Christ in your life? Or are you frustrated, disappointed, anxious or afraid? If you are grappling with these things, could it be that the peace of Jesus escapes you because you don't listen to his Holy Spirit? And maybe you don't listen because you don't know his voice. And maybe you don't know his voice because you don't know, read or study God's word. Worst, could it be that the Holy Spirit is not with you and in you because you don't belong to Jesus? May the peace of Christ reign in us all. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**