

Series: **Come Holy Spirit!**(4) **Holy Spirit – Advocate and Guide**

Let us start in Prayer: *Creator God, who formed humanity from dust, breathe in us again. Revive us and sanctify us by the power of your Spirit. Set our heart on fire with the good news of your Gospel.*

The meaning of **advocate** appropriate to the Holy Spirit is someone who supports and speaks in our favour. I suggest the way to best understand what the Spirit does is to contrast the Spirit's actions and those of the spiritual enemy – Satan the accuser. How wonderful that we have the Holy Spirit to defend us and guide us, just as Jesus promised!

Read John 16:7^B-15 Satan is diametrically opposed to God, and uses lies and deception to infiltrate human minds to turn against God, and has been doing so since the dawn of time (Garden of Eden and onwards). We all have experienced this to a greater or lesser degree. *What lies can you remember being planted in your mind about God? What lies about yourself? Can you recall who helped and/or how you were able to correct this?* (reading Psalm 86: 11-13 + 15-16 and 1 John 4:16^B, 18, is an encouragement).



It is surely no surprise that Jesus would not leave his disciples (and us) alone to defend ourselves against the evil that is real for us in our human weaknesses, which he understands so very well. No true friend would do that. We need the Holy Spirit within us and around us 24/7. *Have you considered; can you picture Jesus praying for you? (read Hebrews 7:25 and Romans 8: 26-27). How does that make you feel? How will you allow his requests to be **advocated**?*

Our passage describes the Holy Spirit as the 'Spirit of truth', i.e. the opposite of Satan the Lier. If we choose to be followers of Jesus, the Spirit is our **guide** to follow the good path Jesus wants us to travel. He will nudge and prod us back to his way when we are tempted to stray. *How have you experienced this? What part, if any, does reading the Bible play?* More than this, he will defend us and guide over and around temptations placed on our path intended to trip us. *Can you recall experiences where you were being advised to do something which appears to be okay, yet you seem to know (somehow?) that you should not do it? Such decisions are not easy. Where did you turn for help and advice? Satan will not be happy until he isolates us and severs our connection with God. You/we are of infinite value to Jesus, so what are the weapons he puts at your disposal to defend yourselves? How strong are these?*

'What is truth' is a statement currently in common usage, often misused to challenge an established principle, or to undermine every opinion other than those held by the speaker. As believers in God, we know that there are some unquestionable truths, and these have been imparted to us through the **guidance** of the Holy Spirit. Our faith, our world view, our very existence has been actioned by the Holy Spirit. *Perhaps now is an appropriate time to pause, thank and praise God for all he has done and continues to do for us, **guiding** us through the Holy Spirit.*

Prayer: Holy Spirit renew my mind and banish my fear – fill me with courage and empower me to live a life worthy of your calling.