The Promise of God’s Presence

John 14:15-21

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.”
- John 14:16-17

Read:

Gordon Brownville's *Symbols of the Holy Spirit* tells about the great Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, the first to discover the magnetic meridian of the North Pole and to discover the South Pole. On one of his trips, Amundsen took a homing pigeon with him. When he had finally reached the top of the world, he opened the bird's cage and set it free. Imagine the delight of Amundsen's wife, back in Norway, when she looked up from the doorway of her home and saw the pigeon circling in the sky above. No doubt she exclaimed, "He's alive! My husband is still alive!"

So it was when Jesus ascended. He was gone, but the disciples clung to his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. What joy, then, when the dovelike Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost. The disciples had with them the continual reminder that Jesus was alive and victorious at the right of the Father. This continues to be the Spirit's message. Though Jesus is not physically with us, the Lord has sent His Holy Spirit to be with us as our Defense Counsel, our Father, and the Lover of our soul.

*Share a time you felt the urging or strong presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. What were you going through at the time and how did God’s presence guide you?*
Read John 14:15-17

In our great country we know when a person faces judgement in a court of law they are guaranteed the opportunity for defense counsel - a lawyer to defend against the accusations against them. What does the Bible say about who needs defense counsel? Give scripture references if possible.

Why is the Holy Spirit also called the “Spirit of truth?”

What does it mean to be someone’s Advocate or Helper? How does the Holy Spirit do this on our behalf before the Father? See Romans 8:26-27 for answers.

Who is the “Accuser?” See Zechariah 3 and see how the Lord responds to his accusations. How can we apply this passage in our own lives?

Read John 14:18-19

The Holy Spirit also works as our Father, but on a grander scale. Though our earthly fathers will one day leave us through death or other circumstances, Jesus promises we will always have Him as our Father. What negative thoughts have you projected on God as Father because of your experience with a father figure?
How is the Holy Spirit different from our biological fathers? What does Jesus imply when he uses the term “orphans,” saying that he will not leave us as one? Read Romans 8:14-17

Take a moment to ponder the truth of the Holy Spirit (God Himself) dwelling IN YOU as a believer of Jesus. What does that mean to you and how does it impact your life?

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5, Romans 15:16, and Romans 14:16-18 then list some different roles the Holy Spirit plays as our Father according to these passages. What do these words mean and how is the Holy Spirit fulfilling this responsibility in your life?

Read John 14: 20-21

God sees us just as we are. Hebrews 4:12-13 says “Nothing in creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Despite His deep knowledge of our heart, He is still willing to love us and live within us. Have you ever questioned how God could love you - ALL of you?

Read Romans 5:6-11. How did God demonstrate His love for us? How does v.10 describe our standing with the Lord?
Imagine loving an enemy of your own to the point of sacrificing yourself. *How does this put in perspective God’s great love?*

**Apply It!**

We’ve seen three ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives. He works as our Defense Counsel, our Father, and as our Lover. Through it all God will be there for those who trust and follow Him. We can make a difference if we’re willing to trust in the leadership God gives us.

Take a moment right now to *give God thanks for His presence in your life*. Commit to honoring His presence in your life by your *obedience to His leadership*. Claim the Power of the Spirit within you. As he brings the truth of your life to light, *choose to seek His kingdom first* in all you do.

*Allow Him to love you simply for who you are.* Agree with Him to *find your motivation and self worth in Him alone*. This will open your life to doing great things for His glory!

**Connect:**

Listen to the song “*Fall Afresh*” by Jeremy Riddle and allow the Holy Spirit to fall on you and fill you in a new way this week.

*Read the story of the adulterous woman in John 8 and imagine the Holy Spirit acting as Jesus did on your behalf when you fall short. Ask forgiveness and let the Holy Spirit defend you before the Father and rise in newness of life and obedience.*