

'THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES YOU

John 14:26 (Jesus is speaking) “the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

This devotion needs to start with a brief word study. “The Helper,” is a translation of the Greek word paraklétos (Paraclete.) It can be translated into the English words helper, advocate, intercessor.

Paraclete is the Greek word used by Jesus in John 14:16,26, etc., for the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, the Father sends the Helper to you to “teach you all that Jesus has said.” He, the Helper is “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.” (John 14:17)

In Luther’s explanation to the Third Article of the Apostle’s Creed he explains the role of the Holy Spirit in your life. “. . .I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. . .” The Small Catechism says the “whole work of the Holy Spirit,” in the wider sense, is “He brings us to faith and also enables us to lead a godly life.” Secondly, the Holy Spirit “directs and enables the believer to lead a godly life.”

This work of the Helper, Paraclete, Holy Spirit is critical work because first of all, before the Holy Spirit called you by the Gospel to faith in Jesus “you were dead in your transgressions and sins” (Ephesians 2:1) and “hostile to God” (Romans 8:7.) 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” “No one,” writes St. Paul, “can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:3)

Hence, Your heavenly Father sends His Spirit to “teach you all things” and “bring to your remembrance all Jesus has said.” (John 14:26) This teaching of the Holy Spirit includes the Gospel message of salvation, “I am the way, the truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6) This truth you believe because the Holy Spirit has taught, counseled, and led you through it to believe in Jesus as your personal Savior.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, light Divine, through Word and the Sacraments lead and direct me to Jesus each day of my life. Help me throughout my life to retain the true faith in Jesus you first worked in me by the power of the Gospel. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine'
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.

Let me see my Savior's face, Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me Which are only known to Thee.

Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me, From sin's bondage set me free.

Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settle peace, Let it grow and still increase.

Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.
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