

From the Pulpit of the Japanese Baptist Church of North Texas  
April 22, 2018

Another Helper  
John 14:16-17

14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

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.

I went to George W. Bush Presidential Center recently. I saw various exhibitions. The Twin Towers' distorted steel pillars stirred my heart the most and recalled my memory of the tragic day. When we read historical documents and see relics of the past, we can have the same feeling that the people lived in the past had, and experience for ourselves what they went through. Worship service is the place for experiencing what people of the past went through. There are no special exhibits in our worship hall, but the Bible and Ordinances can lead us to experience what the first disciples went through.

The disciples experienced dramatic events. They witnessed Jesus' cross and resurrection. And they received the Holy Spirit in just a little over one month. Now we are in this season to wait for the Holy Spirit through His cross and His resurrection just as the disciples did. I like us to wait for the Holy Spirit in the same mind as the disciples had. And I like us to experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit as the disciples did. For these reasons, let's learn about the Holy Spirit for a while until Pentecost.

## **1. The Holy Spirit Is a Person**

First, let's confirm that the Holy Spirit is a Person, not a concept, a symbol, a thing, or a force.

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of God or the Spirit of the Lord through the Old Testament and the New Testament. So, many people perceive that the Holy Spirit is more like a part of God rather than the distinctive whole Person. They perceive that the Holy Spirit is just the thought of God or the heart of God or the wisdom of God or the power of God. But the Bible does not say that the Holy Spirit is just a spirit of God or surrounding influence. It teaches the Holy Spirit as one Person.

In the first place, the word spirit itself expresses a Person. John 4:24 says, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." Here, "God is spirit" is to show that worshiping God as a Person requires our whole personal being, not our rule, custom, tradition or our formality. God is the Person with intelligence, will and emotion. And He loves us and wants our love. Therefore, we should love God by worshiping Him with all our intelligence, will and emotion.

We have personality because God has it. Each of us is a person with intelligence and will and emotion because God is a Person. God made humans in the image of God and made them a person with intelligence and will and emotion. What is different from God is that humans have a body. 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 says, "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Here, it is better to translate heart as soul in Japanese Bible.

Human beings consist of spirit, soul and body. Body supports soul and soul loses its function when it loses body. But spirit is independent from body. Spirit will remain after death in the way our life remains after we lose our hands, arms or legs due to injury or illness. Body is not the person, spirit is the person. Therefore, we can say that human is spirit with body. Therefore, let's value not only body but also spirit by receiving the word of God as the spiritual food and being devoted in the spiritual training.

The word, "the Holy Spirit," started being used in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit is a unique expression in the New Testament and it is not found in the Old Testament. It emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is a Person. If you follow the word Holy Spirit and read it, you will see that the Holy Spirit is a Person. The Holy Spirit teaches, guides, and speaks to people working in them. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth. And the Holy Spirit teaches people and guide them to the truth. 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." Jesus also said that you should not be afraid if you need to make a defense under persecution because of Luke 12:12, "... for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say. "Acts of the Apostles" often depicts the Holy Spirit as the subject and doing the great work such as "the Holy Spirit did this and that ..."

Ephesians 4:30 says, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." The Holy Spirit is grieved because the Holy Spirit is a Person with intelligence, will, and emotion, There is also the word joy of the Holy Spirit in the Bible.

That means we share the joy of the Holy Spirit being pleased (Romans 14: 17, Thessalonians 1: 6). The Bible teaches clearly that the Holy Spirit is a Person. So, when we write the Holy Spirit in English, it begins with capital letters and write “the Spirit,” not “spirit” beginning with lowercase letters.

## **2. The Holy Spirit Is a Person**

Let’s learn that the Holy Spirit is “God”

“Father,” “Son,” and “the Holy Spirit.” There are three Persons and they are equal. However, they are not separate Parsons, but one God. We call this “Trinity.”

There are many verses showing “Trinity” in the Bible, but I don’t have enough time to refer all of them. I’m going to show you one of them, which is Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” The baptism is given by the name of the “Father” and of the “Son” and of the “Holy Spirit” The word, “name” in this verse, is singular. It’s not “names” in plural. It tells us that “Father,” “Son,” and the “Holy Spirit” are three but one God. The baptism is given by the name of the God of Trinity in order that the baptized people should remember and appreciate that the “Father,” and the “Son,” and the “Holy Spirit” saved them.

“Father,” “Son,” and the “Holy Spirit” are equal to each other; however, the Bible gives them the order. “Father” is always in first, and “Son,” is in second, and “the Holy Spirit,” Who was sent by the “Father” and the “Son,” is in third. However, it does not mean the “Holy Spirit” is inferior to “Father” and “Son.” When Jesus Christ,

the Son, came to the world, “The Holy Spirit” was above “the Son.” “The Holy Spirit” brought Jesus to the world through Mary. During the Baptism, the Holy Spirit testified Jesus was the “Son” of God. “The Holy Spirit” led Jesus to a wilderness, and performed the miracles through Jesus during his public ministries. The Holy Spirit is equal to “the Father” and “the Son”

In today’s verse, Jesus is called the Holy Spirit “Another Helper,” and he treated the Holy Spirit equally to himself. He said “Another” but it does not mean “different” or “separated.” The Bible prohibits us to worship “other gods” strictly. To have a faith means throwing away “different gods” and coming back to true God. In John 14:16, it is translated to “Another,” however, the original word was “allos” which meant “same kind of” or “another,” while “heteros” meant “other kind” or “other.” In the New Japan Bible translation, it says “Another Helper” which is more accurate and making sense.

“Father,” “Son,” and the “Holy Spirit” are all the “same” God. We believe in the “personality” of Holy Spirit, not as a “concept” or “Icon.” Moreover, we praise Holy Spirit as God. The “Father” planned our salvation, and the “Son” fulfilled it. The Holy Spirit brings the salvation into us, and keeps the salvation work in us, and protects us in the salvation. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the Savior and Helper of us. Therefore, we appreciate and praise “the Holy Spirit” as God of salvation.

### **3. Seeking For the Holy Spirit**

So what does it mean to us, that Holy Spirit has personality and He is God? I have spoken about it before, but I do want you all to remember

three things after all.

First, we have to seek for the Spirit. In verse 17, it says, “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.” Here it describes the huge difference between Jesus’ disciples and the others could be defined either knowing the Spirit or not. If you don’t even believe in Jesus, you would neither know the Spirit nor even try to know, because you don’t need the Spirit unless you follow Jesus. Yet when you do follow Jesus, you would know you cannot achieve it by only yourself. Jesus leads us to God, but as long as the Spirit doesn’t dwell in you, you cannot really follow Jesus Himself; then you seek for “Another Helper” in order to come closer to God and Jesus.

Secondly, we have to seek for the Spirit by our “personal faith.” We pray for the guide and wisdom of the Holy Spirit when we encounter some troubles. We also suffer from something, and pray for the power from the Holy Spirit to overcome the situation. It is very important, but we cannot only focus on the guide, wisdom, or power. We should remember the Spirit is personal and not energy itself. You cannot gain the power of the Holy Spirit as if you fill the gas at the station. Remember, the Spirit is personal. There is no automatic guidance to turn on/off the Spirit. If you don’t make sure your relationship with the Spirit is properly working, you would never be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit grieves at the sins of people, so we should investigate ourselves we are blameless or not, and repent if you have something hiding out. Also, we sometimes try to make the Spirit follow us, but it

is wrong. Since the Spirit is Person, Who has will, we should follow the will of Holy Spirit by our own mind and will.

One says, “People are saved when they believe in Jesus personally.” It is correct. The word, “Personal,” means more than “individual,” and “personal faith” does not mean to accept the general statement that Jesus is the Savior. You have to answer Jesus’ love, as He loved you by having sacrificed all of Him. This is the personal faith. In the Bible, there is the term, “God’s face.” This implies that God is a Parson and he has personality. “Seeking for God’s face” means we seek for Him as a Parson by all of our personalities. We seek the Holy Spirit as our Helper, not only the wisdom or power.

Thirdly, “calling for the Spirit” is to admire the Holy Spirit as our God. The Spirit dwells in us and works in our inside. Therefore, people sometimes get confused between the work of Holy Spirit and our own emotional movements. Enthusiasm is not always the work of Holy Spirit. Likewise that Jesus became human being but we still remember He is God and our Lord; same as the Holy Spirit is the closest to work in us, but the Spirit is Holy One and we have to follow, never make the Spirit follow us.

At the end of the worship we sing, “To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God whom we adore, be glory, as it was, and is, and shall be evermore.” The Holy Spirit should be glorified with the Father and the Son. And we receive the blessing, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” All the fellowships and blessings come from the Holy Spirit. Whenever we come back to the worship, and whenever we pray, we should pray for the deepened personal fellowship with Holy

Spirit.

**(Prayer)**

God, the Father, we thank You that You gave us the Holy Spirit. More and more we would love to know the Spirit, the best of all Your gifts. Please teach us the Spirit with the knowledge of the Bible and the exact experiences in reality. May our inside and outside be purified by the Holy One, and draw us to You by Him. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.