

The Paraclete Advantage – The Holy Spirit advantage given by the Father.

Act 2:1-4 “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided [tongues of fire as distributed] tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

This was a fulfillment of what John the Baptist said the Messiah would baptize with when He came:

Matt. 3:11, 12 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

This was the beginning of the church started with 120 and now numbers close to 1.8 to 2 billion people.

It was the Holy Spirit who made this possible and is still at work building the church – body of Christ for God’s kingdom today.

John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

The setting: Jesus is about to tell His disciples that He is going to be crucified and leave them and return to the Father in heaven. They want to see the Father and Jesus tells them if they have seen Him, they have seen the Father. John 14:8-9.

- They are concerned because they have left everything they had to follow Him, their businesses, some their families to follow Him.

But He tells them – John 14:8-9, 16:7 “I am not going to leave you comfortless, I am going to send you another Comforter and this Comforter is going to stay with you.”

- Greek word – “**Comforter** = orphanos = “orphan = bereaved, parentless – comfortless – fatherless.”

Jesus was saying to them: “I will not leave you as an orphan, I am going to send you a Comforter.”

The broader meaning of orphanos was a student who was abandoned by his teacher, so more than a child left without a father or mother.

In our language connotation it would mean a teacher who leaves his students without any help, assistance, or mentoring or instruction.

These disciples were young, converted at any early age in life and following Jesus for approximately 3 ½ years.

This would be like a pastor or leader you love who has won you to the Lord and discipled you and has a special place in your heart and now he is going to leave you to go to another place.

Their reference point for Jesus was found in Mark 6:

- Wait a minute, you’re going to leave us, when we needed bread You multiplied it and fed us.
- When we were caught in those horrific storms at sea, You calmed the waters with Your words.
- You not only walked on the water, you made it obey You.
- What are we going to do if You leave us?

Jesus promised is to give them another **Comforter** after He is gone!

“**Comforter**” Greek **Paracletos** = “**To call alongside of someone to assist them.**”

- From a legal perspective this is someone who assists another person in a court case.
- It’s a person who takes up the evidence in a court case to defend a person who is being accused.
- This is a Roman law perspective and we get Advocate from this idea.

Jesus is called our **Advocate**: 1John 2:1 “My little children these things write I to you, that you sin not, and if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father...”

The words **Comforter** and **Advocate** are Greek words meaning basically the same Paracletos =

- These two terms show us that:
- **We have a personal assistant on earth – Comforter**
- **We have a personal assistant in Heaven – Advocate**

Our personal assistant in heaven to help us on our spiritual matters is Jesus Christ, who is the High Priest of the profession of our faith who is seated at the right hand of God ever living to make intercession for us.

Heb. 3:1; 7:25... “...Consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him,”

“Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

Rom. 8:34 “...Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

Jesus role now is in heaven interceding on our behalf.

Now, since the Day of Pentecost; Acts 2:1-4;

The Holy Spirit has been present on earth to assist the believer here.

Rom. 8: 26 “The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning’s too deep for words.”

So on earth, we have an intercessor – one who stands in the gap on our behalf to pray for us. But He doesn’t just pray for us, **He can’t pray without us!**

- You can’t just go off and do some activity and say to the Holy Spirit; “I’m taking some time and going off – will You do my praying for me!”
- He has to pray with you – the Spirit helps our infirmities/weakness.
- “**Helps**” means “**to take hold of together with!**”

- The Holy Spirit, on earth, in the believer – has to pray through the believer using our words to make intercession in heaven.
- The Holy Spirit is praying in me and through me to the Father – and Jesus in heaven is making intercession for me.

So we have a Helper in Heaven and a Helper on earth:

- One is making intercession in heaven – Jesus in heaven, what does He want you to know and how does He speak from heaven?
- Jesus speaks from heaven back to the Helper on earth who is the Holy Spirit.
- Rom. 8:26-27 the will of God is known on earth through the Holy Spirit who prays through us revealing the thoughts of the Father and Son – Jesus.
- We will have inclinations, gut feelings, urges and promptings – this is Christ speaking to the Holy Spirit in you to guide you and direct you in doing God’s will as He relays this to your mind.

1Cor. 14: The Holy Spirit prays in what the Bible calls “unknown tongues” which is the prayer language of the Holy Spirit.

Then the Holy Spirit can give you interpretation in a language you can understand – your native tongue/language.

Your words are heard in heaven and the answers are sent back to you through the Holy Spirit giving your revelation of what your answer is.

So, what is the Comforter or Paracletos advantage?

1. **He goes with you everywhere you go.** You are never alone.
 - You may go into another spiritual atmosphere where evil or danger are; but you are not alone. He is there not only to protect you, but to operate through you to bring His presence and will into that atmosphere and change it. Be a thermostat and not a thermometer.

Matt 28:20 “...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- You are always being watched.
1Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous...”

- You have a friend that sticks closer than a brother.
Prov. 18:24 “There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.”

- That’s both Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit can see the battle before the warfare begins.

- 2Kings 6 – the Syrian army is secretly planning to attack Israel.
- Everywhere the Syrian king sends his army, the Israelites already know his plans. They have been alerted in advance. It happens several times.
- The Syrian king thinks someone in his army is a traitor and telling Israel of their military strategy.
- But his men know it’s the Prophet Elisha who prays and hears from the Spirit of God.

We can hear from God in advance and plan a counter strategy against the enemy before he knows we know what he is up to.

3. The Holy Spirit knows how to pray you out of trouble-

Rom. 8:26-28 “The Spirit helps us in our **infirmities**. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning’s too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

- **Infirmities = Weakness** The Holy Spirit knows how to pray you out of trouble.
- When you find yourself in a situation of trouble and you don’t know how to get out of it – or a sudden attack upon by the enemy; REMEMBER THIS – GO TO PRAY AND DO WHAT ROMANS 8 SAYS TO DO – “PRAY IN THE SPIRIT, AND YOU WILL PRAY THE MIND OF GOD.”

- Jude 20 “...building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”