



Fall 2025 Chapel Series

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH US

Discussion Guide

(PT. 8) THE PARACLETE SPIRIT

KEY SCRIPTURES: John 14:15-17, 25-31; Romans 8:26-30; Ephesians 3:14-21

SPEAKER: Dr. Steven M. Bryan, PhD, Professor of New Testament, TEDS

I. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

II. RECALLING THE MESSAGE

- **Message Summary:** This message explores the Holy Spirit as the Paraclete—the Greek term meaning Advocate, Helper, Counselor, and Comforter. We will see in Christ's promise (John 14:15-17, 25-31) that the Spirit is the indispensable presence who teaches and reminds us of truth, filling the void left by Christ's physical absence. Furthermore, the Paraclete acts as our interceding Advocate in our weakness, aligning our prayers with God's perfect will (Romans 8:26-30). Ultimately, the Spirit is the source of the immense power that strengthens us internally, enabling us to comprehend and be filled with the immeasurable love of Christ (Ephesians 3:14-21).
- The message focused on the term *Paraclete*, meaning Advocate, Helper, or Counselor. What image or function of the Paraclete resonated most with your current needs?
- How does the Paraclete's promise of **permanent** presence (John 14:16) change how you think about trials or times of confusion, compared to relying on temporary human helpers?

III. DIVING DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE

- **The Spirit as our Counselor and Teacher (John 14:15–17, 25–31)**
 - Jesus says the Paraclete will "teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (v. 26). How does this function practically help a believer navigate a difficult decision or moral dilemma?
 - The world "cannot receive" the Spirit because it neither sees nor knows Him (v. 17). How does the presence of the indwelling Paraclete provide an opposing witness to the world's values or philosophies?

- What is the connection between loving Christ and receiving the Spirit, according to verses 15 and 16?
- **The Spirit as our Interceding Advocate (Romans 8:26–30)**
 - Paul says the Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes "with groanings too deep for words" (v. 26). When have you felt unable to articulate your pain or need in prayer, and how does the knowledge that the Spirit is praying for you offer comfort?
 - Since the Spirit intercedes for us "according to the will of God," how does the Spirit's work assure us that God is working "for good... for those who are called" (v. 28), even when our personal prayers aren't immediately answered as we requested?
- **The Spirit as our Inner Strengthenener (Ephesians 3:14–21)**
 - Paul prays that God would grant us to be "strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being" (v. 16). What does this **inner** spiritual strength look like in contrast to mere physical or emotional resilience?
 - The ultimate goal of this strengthening is to comprehend the "breadth, length, height, and depth" of Christ's love (v. 18–19). Why is the Paraclete necessary for a believer to grasp the immensity of God's love?

IV. PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- In which area of your life do you most need the Spirit to act as your *Advocate* (defending, guiding, or interceding) this week?
- Commit to taking a moment this week to intentionally pause and listen for the "teaching" or "reminding" voice of the Paraclete during a stressful or confusing moment. What is one specific situation where you will try this?
- How can you pray for a deeper sense of the Paraclete's *inner strengthening* for someone else in your group this week?

V. GROUP PRAYER

- Pray together, thanking God for the gift of the Paraclete. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your inner beings, teach you Christ's truth, and intercede for your unarticulated needs.
- Concluding remarks and encouragement.