

**CPC School Of Discipleship**  
**Fall 2020**  
**Communion With God, part 4**

Meditation:

*“...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” ~ Romans 5:5*

*“The whole of the Christian life then, with its deep roots in the love of the Father and its foundation in the grace of Christ, is characterized by what Paul calls the **koinōnia** of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14; cf. Phil. 2:1). ~ Sinclair Ferguson<sup>1</sup>*

- **Question : If the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Spirit, and if the whole of our christian life is characterized by the fellowship with the Spirit...why do we neglect giving the Holy Spirit the honor due him?**

## **I. The Foundation of our Communion with the Holy Spirit**

**Foundation:** *“The foundation of all our communion with the Holy Spirit lies in his being sent by Jesus Christ to be our Comforter or helper.” (pg. 168)*

**Owen’s grounding text:** He goes to John 16:1-7.<sup>2</sup> There Jesus warns the disciples of the persecutions they will face. Then Owen says the point of these warnings was...

*“...not to frighten them in their time of grief and sorrow, but that they might remember that he had warned them and so be encouraged in their trials by his deity and omniscience...if they knew that he was going to take possession of his glory and to carry out the work of their salvation, their hearts would not be so filled with sorrow and fears.*

But they were going to be afraid. So here’s Owens great big point...

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<sup>1</sup> Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*. pg. 175

<sup>2</sup> “These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

**Big Point:** *“So the Lord Christ would have us know this great truth, that the presence of the Holy Spirit with believers as Comforter and helper, sent by him as promised, is **better and more profitable** to believers than his bodily presence can ever be, now that he has made the one sacrifice for sin which he came into the world to offer.” (pg. 169)*  
*[emphasis mine]*

- **Question: Two fold—(1) Would you rather have Jesus physically here with you or not? (2) Why would Jesus say that his going away and giving us the Spirit is better than him physically being present with us?**

### **Communion with the Holy Spirit**

Owen gives two reasons why we are able to commune with the H.S:

1. **We have communion with the Holy Spirit in his willingness to be the Comforter and helper.** *“This is the way into fellowship with the Holy Spirit to which we are called. His gracious and blessed will, his infinite and wonderful willingness to come down to us, all the works he enables us to do and all the privileges he brings to us, of which we are made partakers, is what our souls by faith receive from him” (pg. 170)*
  2. **We have communion with the Holy Spirit in the way he comes to us from the Father.** *“The Holy Spirit is freely given to us by the Father. We do not have to buy him. ‘The Father,’ says Jesus, ‘shall give you another helper’ (Jn. 14:16). Jesus also said, ‘How much more will your Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.’ That which is a gift is free... We receive the Spirit by grace alone and not by making ourselves worthy to receive him...he is freely given and he works freely, looking for no payment from us.”*
- **Two questions: (1) Why does Owen emphasize the Spirit's work in fellowship? (2) What about when don't sense his presence...have we lost fellowship with the H.S?**

Owen says, *“The Comforter may always abide with us, though not always comfort us. He comforts according to his sovereign will...The Comforter often brings comfort to us when we do not receive it. The oasis is near, though we do not always see it. We often refuse to be comforted....The Comforter actually never leaves the believing soul with no comfort at all. A man may be in the dark, under a cloud, refusing comfort and actually finding none and feeling none. But the Spirit is the source of all comfort and in due time his comfort will be felt.” (pg. 174, 175)*

## II. The General Workings of the Holy Spirit in Communing with Us

~ Owen gives 7. We will look at 4 of the 7. You can find all 7 in chapter 19.

1. **To bring to mind the words and promises of Christ.** *“John 14:26<sup>3</sup>...This promise of bringing to remembrance all the things that Jesus had spoken is also for the comfort of believers.”* (pg. 177). Here’s how says Owen: *“he told them of the love of the Father, of the glory he was providing for them, which was full of unspeakable joy. ‘But,’ Christ says, ‘I know how unable you are to make use of these things for your own comfort. The Spirit, therefore, will bring them back to your minds in their full strength, so that you will find that comfort in them which I intended.’* (pg. 178)

**Owens Big Takeaway:** *“Christ told the disciples that the effect of the Holy Spirit’s work in bringing things to their remembrance would be peace (John 14:27<sup>4</sup>). They would be freed from worried, anxious minds and fearful hearts. It is stupid to rely on our natural abilities to remember the promises of Christ. But when the Comforter undertakes the work, then all is well.”* (pg. 178)

2. **To Glorify Christ.** *“As Comforter, he reveals to the souls of sinners the good things of the covenant of grace, which the Father has provided and the Son has purchased. He shows to us mercy, grace, forgiveness, righteousness and acceptance with God.”* (pg. 180)

**Owens Big Takeaway:** *“These things the Holy Spirit effectively conveys to the souls of believers, and makes them known to them for their own good; that they were originally from the Father, **prepared** from eternity in his love and good will; that they were **purchased** for them by Christ and laid up in the covenant of grace for their use. In this way, Christ is magnified and glorified in their hearts and they then fly realize what a glorious Saviour and Redeemer he is. It is by the work of the Holy Spirit that a believer glorifies and honors Christ...”* (pg. 181)

3. **To ‘Pour the love of God into our hearts’ (Rom. 5:5).** *“God pours the Holy Spirit abundantly on us and he pours out the love of God into our hearts. That is, the Holy Spirit so persuades us that God loves us that our souls are filled with joy and comfort. This is his work and he does it effectively.”* (Pg. 182)

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<sup>3</sup> “But 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 said to you.”

<sup>4</sup> “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

**Owens Big Takeaway:** *“This is the special work of the Holy Spirit and by this special work we have communion with the Father in his love, which is poured into our hearts. So not only do we rejoice in and glorify the Holy Spirit who does this work, but in the Father also, whose love it is. It is the same in respect of the Son, in taking the things of Christ and showing them to us. What we have of heaven in this world lies in this work of the Holy Spirit.” (pg. 182)*

**4. To bear witness with our Spirits that we are the Children of God (Rom. 8:16)**

*“Sometimes the soul wonders whether it is a child of God or not, because so much of the old nature still remains. So the soul brings out all the evidences to prove its claim to be a true child of God. To support this claim, the Holy Spirit comes and bears witness that the claim is true.” (pg. 182)*

**Owens Big Takeaway:** *“In this, he gives us holy fellowship with himself. The soul knows his voice when he speaks. There is something too great in that voice to be only the voice of some created power...And when the Holy Spirit with one word stills the storms in the soul, bringing calm and assurance, then the soul knows by experience that divine power is present and so rejoices in that presence.” (pg. 183)*

- **Illustration:** Maya Angelou hearing her mother’s voice

## **The Trinity Song**

*Words; prayer of Ioannikios 9th century. Music by Tripp Prince*

My hope is the Father  
My refuge is the Son  
My shelter is the Holy Spirit

Chorus:

Oh Holy Trinity  
Oh Holy Trinity  
Oh Holy Trinity, Glory to you!