

REMAIN:

Trusting Jesus When Life Is Hard

Following Jesus is sometimes presented as the easy road, a path of safety and happiness. Read the New Testament, and you'll see a much different story: following Jesus is a narrow road that is often marked by pain and persecution. On the night before Jesus was crucified, Jesus gathered with his disciples for the Passover meal so he could prepare them for what was to come. In the face of suffering and death, Jesus said, *Do not let your hearts be troubled* (John 14:1), and in the following four chapters he taught his disciples how to trust and abide in Him when life hurts the most. Every Sunday in March we will be encouraged by Jesus' words as he teaches us how to remain in him.

March 15, 2026 - PART TWO - Another Advocate: An Introduction to the Holy Spirit

Have you ever felt spiritually stuck? What circumstances led you to feel that way?

Our focus today is John 14, in which Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit. **On a scale from 1 to 5 (with 1 being “completely unfamiliar” and 5 being “totally familiar”), how would you rate your level of personal familiarity with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

- God the Father	1	2	3	4	5
- God the Son (Jesus)	1	2	3	4	5
- God the Holy Spirit	1	2	3	4	5

Why do you think many Christians are less familiar with the Spirit than with the Father and the Son?

Why is it such a problem for Christians to be unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit?

John 14:15-21 - “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

What is the *Trinity* and why do Christians believe in it?

What did Jesus mean when he said to his disciples, “You already know [the Spirit], for he lives *with* you (present tense) and *will be in you* (future tense)...”?

**Because we have the Holy Spirit, God is no longer
just _____ us; God is _____ us!**

John 14:22-27 - Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

What difference does the Holy Spirit make when He lives within us?

Jesus promised to give his followers “peace,” which we can experience in two ways: peace *with* God, and the peace *of* God. **What’s the difference between these two types of *peace*, and how do we access them?**

What are the two most common errors some Christians commit regarding the Holy Spirit, and how are they basically two sides of the same coin?

John 14:28-31 - “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.”

Who is “the prince of this world” and why did Jesus warn his disciples that he was coming?

According to Jesus, what will be the result of the Enemy’s work in this world? Have you personally seen or heard about people coming to faith in Christ after witnessing the Enemy’s evil?

Has your heart ever been troubled or afraid? Based on Jesus’ teaching in this passage, how might a more intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit help you overcome discouragement and fear?

How do you plan to cultivate more familiarity with your Advocate, the Holy Spirit?



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER: Women’s Retreat with Wendy Speake

Our spring women’s retreat is next Saturday, March 21 from 10am to 2:30pm! This retreat is open to women of all ages and life stages. Learn more and register: thestory.church/events



Serve Night for RoseMary’s Place

This month we’re providing and serving a meal to formerly homeless individuals who call RoseMary’s Place “home”. Visit our website to learn more about donating towards the food or signing up to serve on Monday, March 30: thestory.church/events



Save the Dates: Holy Week & Easter

Visit our website thestory.church/easter to save the dates for all of our special Holy Week services and events, and to learn more about serving this Easter!