

Greetings to you! This morning we give thanks to God for our mothers during this worship as we mark it as Mother's Day. The theme for this morning's meditation is, "Jesus promises that the Spirit of truth and love will come to dwell in the Church." In John's Gospel we see that Jesus tells them that He will send them the Advocate, the Spirit of truth who will testify on his behalf. Jesus knew that He was going to be killed and that he would rise again on the third day. He also knew that after his ascension to the Father He would send the Holy Spirit to be with His disciples to teach and testify about Christ. We know from Scriptures that on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon all the believers and the disciples as a mighty rushing wind and as tongues of fire and they began to speak in many different languages. From that day onwards till today God continues to pour out his Holy Spirit upon the people of God. God and Christ have kept their promises and the Holy Spirit is available to all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Jesus in this discourse (Jn. 14) says that "whoever has My command 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." The key point that Jesus makes here is that obedience to God's command comes out of our deep gratitude for what He has done for us on the cross. Our obedience is not to be one which is slavish or legalistic but rather an obedience which comes out of gratitude. The promise of Jesus is that if we love him then the Father will also love us and remain with us (Jn. 14:23). In fact the phrase 'we will come to them and make our home with them' shows that Jesus is assuring us of His presence along with the Father and the Holy Spirit with the individual who loves Him by keeping His commands. On the flip side Jesus says that, 'Anyone who does not love him will not obey His teaching.' Most of us claim that we love God but the challenge for us whether we are willing to be obedient to him out of gratitude.

Jesus then says that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in His name will teach them all things and remind them of everything that He had taught them. The Greek word used for Advocate is the word *paraclete* meaning 'legal assistant, advocate'. The Holy Spirit is the Advocate who appears on another's behalf, as mediator, intercessor and helper. He is like an Advocate who pleads a case on behalf of his clients. Many a time cases are won in court because of the brilliant pleading of the Advocates. The Holy Spirit pleads our case before God for us. He is also known as the Helper or the Comforter who help us in times of need. So we see that the Holy Spirit is a Spirit of love.

The second major characteristic about the Holy Spirit is that He is a Spirit of truth. This expression 'the Spirit of truth' is used three times (Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) always in reference to the Holy Spirit. First and foremost the Spirit of truth guides us into all truth reminding us about all that Jesus had said and done (Jn. 16:13). The Spirit was meant to be the one who communicated truth to the hearers. The most important truth that needs to be communicated is Jesus Christ - Who himself is the truth of God. It is only by knowing Jesus that we can understand who God is. We know that God is a loving Father, a compassionate and caring God, One Who heals, One Who cares for the poor and the oppressed and One Who can forgive sins through what Jesus did.

Secondly, the Spirit of truth will not be accepted by the world because they neither see him nor know Him. Knowledge and experience of the Holy Spirit will not be available for those who do not believe in Christ. Finally, the Spirit of truth lives and resides within every believer. May we this morning allow ourselves to be led and directed by the Spirit of truth and love.

Shalom  
Paul Swarup  
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