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| **The Overlooked Third Person**  *Promise: Jesus promises the believer the gift of the Holy Spirit* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Eze 37:1-14; Ps 139:1-12; Ac 2:1-21; Jn 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 (The Day of Pentecost), 5/19/24)  *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.* – Jn 16:13a  **Lead In –** I trust you are familiar with the saying, “Two’s company, three’s a crowd?” That may hold true when two lovers wish to be left alone, as in “Well, I’ll leave you two lovebirds alone.” But this sentiment does not even remotely hold true in the relationship between the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. They enjoy a permanent bond, unity, and joyful fellowship. But it may be more to the point that “Two’s company, three’s a crowd,” when it comes to our devotion to all Three Persons. And it is usually the Holy Spirit that is the odd one out in our devotion.   1. **The Great Mystery of the Three In One**    1. We can more easily relate to a father and a son…    2. Wind, breath, and ghost are harder to relate to as…    3. One of our elders reminds me, ‘He’ not ‘it’ … 2. **Judaism and Islam Question Our Monotheism**    1. A revealed mystery we cannot explain…    2. The Three are inseparable in their work…    3. At creation the Father speaks with breath… 3. **So How Might We Best Think of the Holy Spirit?**    1. All kinds of spirits, but only one is Holy!    2. The life-giver calls, enlightens, and sanctifies…    3. **He** can be prayed to, just like with the other two…   **Final Word –** One of the titles for God the Holy Spirit in the Greek is *paraklētos.* In English this often translated as “Comforter”, “Helper”, or “Counselor”. But a literal translation would be “called to one’s side”. On the first Pentecost after Jesus’ Resurrection a rather dramatic and miraculous outpouring of the promised Gift of the Holy Spirit took place so that ever thereafter all baptized believers could know that with Christ’s ascension into heaven we have not been left as spiritual orphans. No, instead God’s abiding presence has come along side us, in fact even indwells us. And it is His job to keep us firm in the faith until Christ comes again. Don’t overlook the Third Person of the Trinity. He is the life-giver!  *rûaḥ* in the Hebrew and *pneuma* in the Greek mean “wind”, “breath”, and “spirit”.  **Dt 6:4** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”  “We believe and teach that there is one divine, undivided essence. Yet, there are three distinct persons, of the same essence, and co-eternal: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (AP I. 1.)  **Jn 1:2-3** [The Word] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.  **2Co 5:19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.  **He 11:3** By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear. | **John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 ESV**  *The Work of the Spirit*  26But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; 27and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning.  4b“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. 7Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; 11concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.  12“I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.  **Ge 1:3** And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.  **1Co 2:11** For what person knows a man’s thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him?  **He 12:23** …and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,  **Lk 7:21** In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.  “…but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith” (SC Art. 3).  **O Heavenly King**, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life - come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One. |