

In the Name of Our Creator. The Son Our Saviour and Redeemer. And the Triune Spirit who is with Us Always.

Do you remember in Johns Gospel 14:1-14 last Sunday reading, put your hands up. I do not see any hands up? Jesus was telling the Apostles who wanted show me! Thomas and Philip, to understand doubt, and change doubt to belief and faith in the Triune Spirit. This part of Johns Gospel first introduces the Spirit as the Advocate in his Gospel. It is important to note that a sustained discussion of the Spirit first occurs at this time in the Gospel and not earlier in the narrative. While there have been references to the Advocate up until this point, this specific understanding and portrait of the Advocate are reserved for the farewell discourse. You ask why is that? Just to remind you the farewell discourse in chapters 13-17, is Jesus words of goodbye to the Apostles, aware of his imminent arrest, but more so, sets forth the larger theological trajectory of his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. At this point in the Gospel we need to ask what is it the Apostles need to understand about the need of Gods Spirit, maybe you and I need to ask the same question? We all need to know the function and purpose of the Spirit in our lives? Answering the question will get to the heart of meaningful understanding of what difference the Spirit actually makes in our lives. In hindsight, the work of the Spirit makes sense of how Jesus can say what he did in the opening verse of Johns Gospel 14:12 should seem virtually impossible unless the Spirit was and is present, in fact, 14:12 foreshadows how Jesus first describes the Spirit of God as "Another Advocate" if Gods Spirit is another Advocate then that means there has been an Advocate already, Jesus. As a result you and I are invited to understand the way Gods Spirit plays in our lives. I believe to read Johns Gospel, and letters 1, 2, 3, makes it easy for us to understand why our God sent Jesus in human form, so that we can understand what the ascension of Jesus. Means in our lives today, You and I BELIVE That Jesus is from the Father. Up until this point and notice what Jesus has done. To have seen Jesus at work is to anticipate the work of Gods Spirit working In Jesus. That the presentation of the Spirit is first recorded in the Gospels, in Jesus words and actions in which you and I celebrate when we call upon the Triune Spirit in the Sacraments. Baptism, Eucharist,

there are reasons why we rarely hear sermons on the Advocate, the Triune Spirit unless it is Pentecost or there is direct mention of the Triune Spirit in the Gospel reading, if we are honest, a lot of us have I believe a rather dysfunctional understanding of the Advocate, Gods Spirit, we do not know what to do with or think about the third person of Gods Spirit. Perhaps this is the time and year to change our thinking?. I know it is easy for me, because it is in my d n a ,the Creator Spirit. There are several important clues to what the Spirit does that gain a fuller meaning when the larger context of Johns Gospel is brought into play. [First], this is the Spirit of Truth. Jesus revealed himself as {The Way, The Truth, And The Life. The Truth to which Jesus testifies to us, {Everyone who belongs to the Truth listens my Voice} The truth is Jesus in human form, later in the Farewell Discourse, Jesus promises, the Apostils and you and I,[When the Spirit of Truth comes, the Advocate, Spirit will Guide you into all Truth. [Second], the apostles know the Spirit, and to "know' in Johns Gospel is to be in Relationship. The Spirit is in us and will be with us till the end of time, in accepting the Spirit you and I are in a true relationship with the one true God, the coming of the Advocate, Jesus promise of the Spirit, means that the Apostles will have a relationship with Father and Son always. There are reasons why we rarely hear sermons on the Advocate unless it is Pentecost Sunday or there is direct mention of the third person in the Triune in the text itself. If you and I were honest with each other, a lot of us have rather dysfunctional understanding of the Triune Spirit. We do not know what to do with or think about the third member of the Triune. Perhaps this is the year to change our understanding and relationship with our God and Jesus. There are several important clues to what the Triune Spirit does that gain a fuller meaning when the larger context of John Gospel is brought into play. [First], this is the Spirit of truth. That this text is located in the Sundays after Easter promises that the presence and power of Jesus will extend beyond the empty tomb, beyond Easter, into eternity, to the ends of Creation. All to often we preach that the resurrection is the culmination rather that the inauguration of the Advocate, Triune Spirit] Jesus tells us time and time again[The Spirit will be with us always] if you and I can not accept what Jesus has said to us, then how can we build that relationship with the Our God, Jesus. Spirit? [Second], the Apostles know the Advocate, [Spirit] and to "know" in the Gospel of John is to be in relationship. The Spirit abides with you and will be in you, abiding also being one of the same as relationship in the Gospel of John. As followers of Jesus the Advocate [Spirit] is in us, we need to shake it up, to make our relationship strong?.

[Third] the coming of the Advocate Spirit, the promise of the Spirit means that the Apostles and you and I, as Jesus promised it will be with us until the end of creation. My brothers and sisters we need to get with it, ready for Pentecost, open our minds, our relationship, with the Triune Spirit, Gods Advocate, we need to remember the meaning of Pentecost in our lives. As we grow in faith. Amen