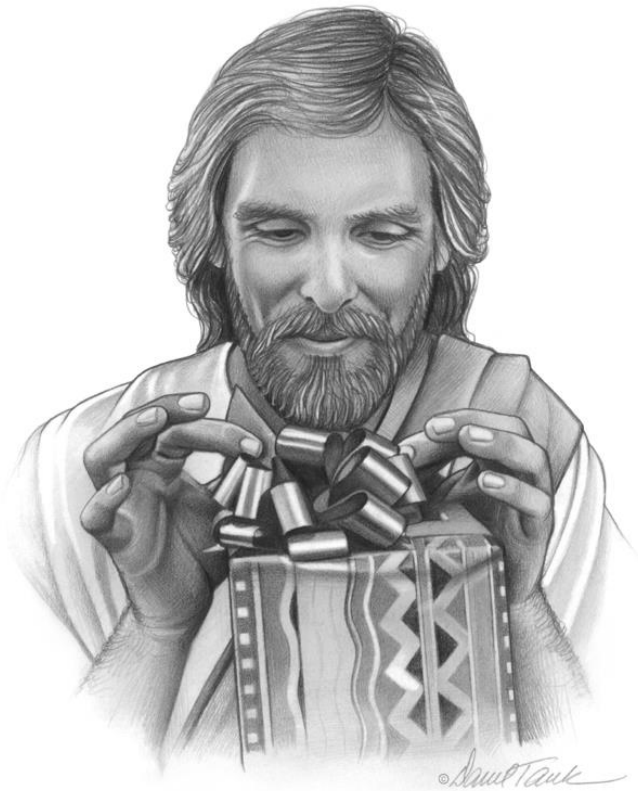


*The Best Gift
Ever!*



Linda Lee

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Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are taken from the King James Version.

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Unless otherwise noted, the emphasis provided in the quotations has been supplied by the author of this book.

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Letters from Readers

This author, who, imbued with the Holy Spirit, has given me the most wonderful Sabbath Day of my life thus far! A good percentage of these quotes I have known and understood, however, the Bible and SOP quotes she chose, the way she organized them, and her explanations in between brought this truth home to my heart in a way that I have never experienced before. It was for me a direct answer to a very recent prayer and more than I ever could have hoped for. I was truly blessed! I am truly blessed!

This little treasure will be such a blessing to many people. It brings Christ's presence very near and dear to one's heart. I can't explain it but Jesus and my Heavenly Father became my two best friends and I felt their presence. I was filled with joy, happiness, faith and hope in a way that has been missing. It changed me in a somewhat advanced way that I can't exactly explain, but I know one thing: this treasure needs to be published.

I really received a blessing, well, even more than just a blessing it was a super blessing--a life-changing blessing.—D.R.

Thank you for writing “The Best Gift Ever!” It is one of the best books on the Holy Spirit I have ever read. The reading of this book definitely took me to the next level in my walk with God. It answered questions, clarified issues, and helped me experience the joy of our ever-present Comforter. Wow! I wish everyone would read this book. Our church would be changed, and we would soon be going home. —J.G.

The Best Gift Ever!

The gift of the Holy Spirit is the most precious gift you could ever receive! Have you been enjoying this blessed gift as you should?

... Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, **I will send him unto you.** [John 14:26; 16:7.] Lt119 (1895)

The **promise** with which Jesus consoled his disciples just before his betrayal and crucifixion was that of the Holy Spirit; and in the doctrine of divine influence and agency, what **riches** were revealed to them; for this blessing would **bring in its train all other blessings.** ST April 3, 1893

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His followers after He ascended to heaven. He said it was actually for their benefit that He was leaving. And we are told in the Spirit of Prophecy that this is the *greatest* gift that the Father could send us. There is nothing more wonderful than this precious gift, sent to us with divine love.

The donation of the **Holy Spirit** was the **greatest gift God** could bestow upon finite man. 8 LtMs, Lt 35, 1893

Before offering Himself as the sacrificial victim, Christ sought for the **most essential and complete gift** to bestow upon His followers, a gift that would bring within their reach the boundless resources of grace. DA 668

When Jesus first promised His disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, they didn't understand what He was saying. It didn't make sense to them. Jesus called the Holy Spirit "another Comforter." But they didn't want someone else. They wanted Him! They wanted Jesus to stay with them in His physical form. They enjoyed walking and talking with Him and seeing Him with their eyes. But now Jesus was telling them that He was going away,

and He was going to send another Comforter. This didn't sound like a very good replacement for Jesus being with them in person.

The great Teacher longed to give the disciples all the encouragement and comfort possible; for they were to be sorely tried. But it was **difficult for them to comprehend** His words. They had yet to learn of that **spiritual life** that could give them the **spiritual power** they needed. SW Sept. 13, 1898

The disciples still **failed to understand** Christ's words in their **spiritual sense**, and again He explained His meaning. By the Spirit, He said, **He would manifest Himself** to them. DA 670

What they didn't understand was that He was telling them that He was going to be with them in another way, through an invisible spiritual manifestation. And this was going to be even better than His physical presence, because He could personally be with each one of them, all the time!

That Christ should **manifest Himself** to them, and yet be **invisible** to the world, was a mystery to the disciples. They could not understand the words of Christ in their **spiritual sense**. They were thinking of the outward, visible manifestation. They could not take in the fact that **they could have the presence of Christ with them**, and yet **He** [Christ] be **unseen** by the world. They did not understand the meaning of a **spiritual manifestation**. SW Sept. 13, 1898

By this gift of the Holy Spirit, He could give them His undivided attention, providing them with encouragement and overcoming power, without interruption. This spiritual manifestation of Himself was exceedingly superior to His physical presence!

JESUS IS NEARER THAN BEFORE

In giving His commission to His followers, Christ did not tell them they would be left alone. He assured them that He would be **near them**. He spoke of His **Omnipresence** in a special way. Go to all nations, He said. Go, to the farthest portion of the habitable globe, but know that **My presence**

will be there. Labor in faith and confidence, for the time will never come when I shall forsake you. The assurance of **His abiding presence** was the **richest legacy** Christ could give His disciples. Ms 138, Dec. 2, 1897

...By the Spirit the **Saviour would be accessible** to all. In this sense **He would be nearer to them** than if He had not ascended on high. DA 669

As you grasp that thought, and contemplate the *enormity* and *preciousness* of this gift, you can begin to sense the joy that Jesus was endeavoring to instill in His disciples.

In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the **joy** and **hope** that inspired His own heart. He **rejoiced** because of the **abundant help** He had provided for His church. DA 671

Christ has promised the **gift of the Holy Spirit** to His church, and the **promise belongs to us** as much as to the first disciples. DA 672

This gift was indeed something to rejoice over. It was truly the highest of all gifts He could bestow.

The **Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts** that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. DA 671

“I will pray the Father,” He said, “and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the **Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him:” John 14:16-18, margin

The Gift of Himself to all His disciples, through His invisible Omnipresence, is truly amazing. He said clearly, I will come to you. I am with you always. I will never leave you or forsake you! I’m going to **BE WITH YOU** continually, forever! He assured the disciples that they already knew this Comforter that He would send, because He Himself already dwelt with them.

“But **ye know Him**; for He **dwelleth with you**, and shall be **in you**. I will not leave you orphans: **I will come to you.**” John 14:16-18, margin

Jesus promised, *I will come to you!* Jesus dwelt with them physically when He was on earth, but after His ascension, He would *be in them spiritually*. This is how they would be empowered to receive the divine nature.

The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the **mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead**, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. RH, May 19, 1904

Who was this “third person” who would bring them divine power to resist and overcome sin? Why had Jesus told them, *I will come to you*, if it was really someone else and not Himself?

There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness.

That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness. SC 18

The **only defense** against evil is the **indwelling of Christ** in the heart through faith in His righteousness. DA 324

It is Himself, Christ Himself! That power which is called the “third person of the Godhead” is the presence of Christ in a spiritual, invisible manifestation.

To the poor and oppressed and downtrodden of earth, Christ says, ‘If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of truth, **(which is Christ formed within, the hope of glory,**) whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not: but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you

comfortless.” Ms 24, Feb. 22, 1898, parentheses in the original, found at egwwritings.org.

Notice what Ellen White wrote in the parentheses. This “another comforter” is *Christ formed within!* The Holy Spirit brings Jesus spiritually to us to dwell within us, so that we can be transformed into the image of Christ! The Spirit is the *spiritual manifestation* of Jesus.

It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. **Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power** to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. DA 671

The Spirit of Christ is what brings Christ's power to us. His own Spirit will dwell within us. Why is this better than Jesus being here in person?

Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their **advantage** that He should leave them, go to His Father, and send the Holy Spirit to be His successor on earth. PrT May 30, 1895

Henceforth through the Spirit, **Christ was to abide continually** in the hearts of the children. Their union with Him **was closer** than when He was personally with them.... All that Christ was to the disciples, He desires to be to His children today. SC 74-75

In the incarnation, Jesus took our human form and nature and became Immanuel, God with us. For around 33 years He was in our human form on this earth. But the human form is very limiting. A human cannot be in two places at the same time, much less in a million places at the same time. This limitation that Jesus had when He was on earth was going to be removed. His *divine Omnipresence* is what Jesus was promising them. *His own presence*, without the human limitation, was His gift to them. He was giving them Himself!

The following quote begins with the same words as the quote above which reads, “Cumbered with humanity.” When it says “Himself” it is referring to Christ Himself.

The Holy Spirit is **Himself**, divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. He would represent **Himself** as present **in all places by His Holy Spirit**, as the **Omnipresent**. ‘But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall [although unseen by you] teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (The bracketed phrase “although unseen by you” is in the original, added by Ellen White.) Lt 19, Feb. 19, 1895;

Jesus is the Omnipresent Spirit. The Holy Spirit is Christ Himself, Who has been divested, or relieved of the personality of humanity and is independent thereof. He, Jesus, represents Himself, or presents Himself as present in all places by His Holy Spirit. *This is the Omnipresence of Jesus!* Jesus Christ, in this spiritual manifestation, is not limited to one location. He has been relieved of that limitation. This personality is called the Spirit of Christ, or the Holy Spirit. It is the *spiritual presence of Jesus Himself!*

When God’s people take the position that they are the temple of the **Holy Ghost, Christ Himself** abiding within, they will so clearly reveal Him in spirit, words, and actions, that there will be an unmistakable distinction between them and Satan’s followers. 3SM 211

Let us strive harmoniously to live in God’s sunshine, that our influence may bless the world. Let us break Satan’s power over ourselves, that **Christ may abide in our hearts**. The loving **spirit of Jesus** is ever to control us. The law of kindness is ever to be on our lips. Forbearance and unselfishness mark the words and acts of those who are born again to live a new life in Christ. 17LtMs Lt 55, 1902

Christ abiding in our hearts, His loving Spirit controlling us! This is our amazing privilege. Jesus assured His followers that He would be with them, all the time, forever! He Himself, the One

who loved them, the One who died for them, the One who knew them like no other, because He had experienced every temptation and trial that they would ever suffer, and He had the solution for every problem they would ever face. He was telling them that He was going to be their constant companion for the rest of their lives. And that promise is for us today.

Never feel that Christ is far away. **He is always near**. His loving presence **surrounds** you. Seek Him as One who desires to be found of you. He desires you not only to touch His garments, but to walk with Him in **constant communion**.
MH 85

“Christ liveth in me.” Gal 2:20

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.” Eph 3:17

Jesus Christ, living in us! When the disciples realized what He was promising, they rejoiced! He was not leaving them alone and without comfort. He told them to wait for the gift, and they waited in eager anticipation, with much prayer and heart preparation. On the day of Pentecost, Jesus kept His promise. He did indeed come to them in a powerful way. They believed and received Him. They basked in the glow of the *conscious presence of Christ* as He had promised, in the *spiritual manifestation of His Omnipresence*. They fell more deeply in love with Jesus, and experienced an intimate connection with Him that was way better than when He was with them in human form.

On the day of Pentecost the promised Comforter descended, and the power from on high was given, and the souls of the believers thrilled with the **conscious presence** of their ascended Lord. GC88 351

When Christ ascended to heaven, the **sense of His presence** was still with His followers. It was a **personal presence**, full of love and light.” RH Feb. 2, 1911

Have we missed out on this experience? Do we sense the personal presence of Jesus with us? Do we realize how much we need the divine Comforter that Jesus promised?

COMFORTER AND ADVOCATE

In the Bible, *Comforter* is also translated *Advocate*. Who is our Comforter? Who is our Advocate?

Christ is to be known by the blessed name of **Comforter**. 'The Comforter,' said Christ to His disciples, 'which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you, Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.' Ms7, Jan. 26, 1902,

Let us consider this: Are there two Comforters? Are there two Advocates? Since we just read that Christ is to be known by the blessed name of Comforter, which also means Advocate, then what about the Holy Spirit? Which one is the Comforter, or are there two Comforters? Is receiving the Holy Spirit and the presence of Christ the same experience?

The work of the Holy Spirit is immeasurably great. It is from this source that power and efficiency come to the worker for God; and the *holy spirit is the Comforter, as the personal presence of Christ to the soul*. He who looks to Christ in simple, child-like faith, is made a partaker of the divine nature through the agency of the Holy Spirit. When led by the Spirit of God, the Christian may know that he is made complete in Him who is the head of all things. HM, Nov 1, 1893

At Pentecost, Christ's personal presence came to them, yet it was a spiritual manifestation, not in the physical form of humanity.

Christ said, "It is expedient for you that I go away." No one could then have any preference because of his location or personal contact with Christ. The Saviour would be **accessible** to all alike, spiritually, and in this sense **he** would be **nearer to us all** than if he had not ascended on high. Now all may be **equally favored** by beholding him and reflecting his character. The eye of faith sees him **ever**

present, in all his goodness, grace, forbearance, courtesy, and love, those spiritual and divine attributes. And as we behold, we are changed into his likeness. RH April 28, 1891

These quotations are telling us that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter is the spiritual manifestation of Christ, through His Spirit. *Christ is our Comforter!*

...Christ is everything to those who receive Him. **He is their Comforter**, their safety, their healthfulness. Ltr 153a 1897

When we accept the reality that Jesus Himself is our Comforter, it will clear away the mist of confusion.

The Saviour is our Comforter. This I have proved Him to be. 7 LtMs Ms 20 1892

Jesus, our Comforter, is a precious gift!

The nights are long and painful, but **Jesus is my comforter** and my hope. 7LtMs, Ms 20, 1892

Jesus, precious Saviour, will be your Friend, your **Comforter**, your Burden-bearer. 2LtMs, Lt 5, 1874

It is so clear that the Holy Spirit is the presence of Jesus.

And He [Christ] gave them the Holy Spirit, **His presence**, as a **Comforter**, to abide with them and teach them. 17LtMs, Lt 65, 1902

In the following quote, Ellen White put in brackets that the Comforter is Jesus, the author of truth. (*Brackets are in the original.*)

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth [not deception]; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not [**Jesus**, the author of truth], neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." [John 14:15-17.]

Thank you, Father, for giving us Jesus the Comforter!

...As by faith we look to Jesus, our faith pierces the shadow, and we adore God for His wondrous love in giving **Jesus the Comforter**. 19MR 297

Truly, Jesus is our Comforter.

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

As well as being called the Comforter, Jesus is also called the Spirit of Truth. John 14:17: "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jesus is the Truth, and He is the Spirit of Truth.

Oh, what privileges are ours to be colaborers with **Jesus Christ!** He comes to you as the **Spirit of truth**. 11LtMs Ms 144, 1896

Jesus said His disciples knew the Spirit of Truth, because He was right there with them.

Christ was the Spirit of truth. 12 LtMs Ms 44, 1897

The Spirit of Truth is the Spirit of Christ, the ever-present indwelling Christ, abiding in the soul.

The light and power of an **indwelling Saviour** must be ours, or we cannot draw others to Him. We must be imbued with the **Spirit of truth, the Spirit of Christ**. 6 LtMs Ms 31, 1890

The Spirit of truth is Christ's own Spirit.

We need individually to have **Christ abiding in the soul**. We need to open our minds and hearts to the **indwelling of the Spirit of truth**. 22 LtMs, Ms 28 1907

The Holy Spirit and Jesus are both called the Comforter and the Spirit of Truth.

The Holy Spirit is called both the **Comforter** and the **Spirit of truth**, because there is comfort and hope in the truth. GW 310 (1892)

Will we open the door and **let Jesus come in** with the riches of His grace? “The **Spirit of truth** ... shall be in you.” John 14:17. 6LtMs, Ms 53, 1890

The Spirit of Truth is the righteousness of Christ, His own life.

The **Spirit of truth**, the righteousness of Christ, produces beauty in the soul. . . . The Spirit, the **life from Jesus Christ**, flows from the soul. GH August 1, 1906

Again we ask, Are there two Comforters? Are there two Spirits of Truth? No, only One. All these refer to the same presence, the Spiritual manifestation of Christ, the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is even called the Holy Spirit:

We want the **Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ**. If we commune with God, we shall have strength and grace and efficiency. Lt 65 (1894)

THE GREAT GIFT OF HEAVEN

Oh friend, God actually wants to send His Spirit to us, the same Spirit that was in Christ when He was upon this earth. This Holy Spirit is how the Father gives us His Son, and guarantees us eternal life. When the Spirit of God’s Son is welcomed into our hearts, a transforming miracle takes place.

By his heavenly gifts the Lord has made ample provision for his people. An earthly parent cannot give his child a sanctified character. He cannot transfer his character to his child. God alone can transform us. Christ breathed on his disciples, and said, ‘Receive ye the Holy Ghost.’ This is the **great gift of heaven**. Christ imparted to them through the Spirit his own sanctification. He imbued them with his power, that they might win souls to the gospel. **Henceforth Christ would live through their faculties, and speak through their words**. They were privileged to know that hereafter he and they were to be one. They must cherish his principles and be controlled by his Spirit. They were no longer to follow their own way, to speak their own words. The words they spoke were to proceed from a sanctified heart, and fall from sanctified lips. No longer were they to

live their own selfish life; **Christ was to live in them** and speak through them. He would give to them the glory that he had with the Father, that he and they might be one in God. GCB, Oct. 1, 1899

This is an amazing gift, the “great gift of heaven”! When we receive Christ into our hearts, we have Christ’s indwelling presence.

...Receiving Christ, we are clothed with power. An **indwelling Saviour** makes His **power** our property.... **Christ's presence** in the heart is a **vitalizing power**, strengthening the entire being. 7T 71

And what will the Holy Spirit—Christ’s Omnipresence, which proceeds from Jesus, the only begotten Son, do for us?

The Holy Spirit, which **proceeds from the only begotten Son of God**, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ. RH April 5, 1906

This spiritual presence of the Son is the life of Christ. In Christ we have eternal life! This is God’s promise to us.

It is through the Spirit that **Christ dwells in us**; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the **life eternal**. DA 388

The influence of the Holy Spirit is the **life of Christ in the soul**. We do not see Christ and speak to Him, but His Holy Spirit is just as near us in one place as in another.... MS 41, 1897

The devil has been very busy trying to convince people that the Holy Spirit is someone other than Jesus dwelling within us in His Spiritual manifestation. He doesn’t want us to understand *how close Jesus can be to us*. He doesn’t want us to experience the fullness of the love of Jesus, and to sense His presence continually. He has been trying to deceive us into thinking God sent another being that we don’t know, and can’t relate to because it has never been a human, didn’t die for us, and wasn’t tempted like us.

The reason why the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die, is that the enemy has brought influences of a discouraging nature to bear upon trembling souls. **He has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter**, as one who reproves, who warns, who admonishes them, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it..." RH August 26, 1890

Yes, Jesus is our Comforter, and He is the one who reproves us and guides us, as Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do. Are they both, as two separate beings, doing the same job within us?

INTERCESSOR AND MEDIATOR

Here is another important question regarding the Holy Spirit and Jesus: Are they both also our mediators and our intercessors? Or is Jesus alone our Mediator and our Intercessor?

Jesus alone could give security to God; for He was equal to God. **He alone could be a mediator between God and man**; for He possessed divinity and humanity. RH April 3, 1894; 7BC 914

Only Jesus Christ is qualified to be our Mediator. That is what we read above.

"For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Timothy 2:5

There is only one Mediator. There is only one Advocate. "if any man sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" 1 John 2:1 There is only one Comforter. Jesus is all of these.

Heavenly intelligences are ready to unite with human agencies and men may come into immediate contact with **Jesus Christ, the divine Advocate**. EGW 1888, 934

Jesus is our Mediator, our Intercessor and our Advocate.

As man's **Intercessor** and **Advocate**, **Jesus** will lead all who are willing to be led, saying, "Follow Me upward, step by step, where the clear light of the Sun of Righteousness shines." TM 465

But doesn't the Holy Spirit also intercede for us?

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself **maketh intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Rom 8:26

Perhaps this seems confusing to you. Pay close attention, because this point is *really important*: Jesus called His Omnipresence, His spiritual manifestation, "another Comforter" because there is a *difference in activity* between what Christ's Omnipresence accomplishes in our hearts and the work Christ does in His physical presence in Heaven. But both activities originate from the same source.

And as **Christ intercedes** for us, the **Spirit** works upon our hearts, drawing forth prayer and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. YI April 16, 1903

Right now, in His divine-human nature, in a human form with His glorified body, Jesus is literally and physically standing before the Father as our High Priest, interceding for us. But in His spiritual manifestation, He is with each sincere Christian individually, interceding in another way as He convinces us of sin, righteousness and judgment to come.

Christ, our Mediator, and the **Holy Spirit** are constantly **interceding** in man's behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit's striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart. 1SM 344

Ahhh, so there is a difference between the work which Christ accomplishes as our Heavenly Mediator and the work that the indwelling Christ—the Holy Spirit, accomplishes as our Intercessor.

While **Jesus**, our **Intercessor**, pleads for us in heaven, the **Holy Spirit** works **in us**, to will and to do of His good pleasure. 7 LtMs, Lt 11, 1892

The Spirit is working in us, working upon our hearts, while Jesus, in His literal form, is interceding for us in Heaven.

All the longing after a better life is from **Christ**, and is an evidence that **He** is **drawing** you to **Himself**, and that you are responding to **His drawing power**. Becho May 15, 1892

We can see from the above quote that Jesus is doing the exact same work as the Holy Spirit, because the Spirit is the Omnipresent Spirit of Jesus.

From every one in whose heart **Christ** is an **abiding presence** will go forth a power that will influence others to accept the Saviour as their Redeemer. 18LtMs, Ms 67, 1903

Christ is an abiding presence through His Omnipresent Spirit. We've learned that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, the third person of the Godhead, *all these are labels for the spiritual manifestation of Jesus, abiding in our hearts.*

Christ's gracious presence in His word ever speaks to the soul, representing Him as the well of living water to refresh the thirsting. It is our privilege to have a **living, abiding Saviour**. **He** is the **source** of **spiritual power in us**, and **His influence** will flow forth in words and actions that will refresh all within the sphere of our influence, begetting in them desires and aspirations for strength and purity, for holiness and peace, for that joy which brings no sorrow with it. Such an experience will be the result of having **Christ as an indwelling Saviour**. ST, September 3, 1896

Because of all these clear scriptures and quotations which identify the Holy Spirit as Jesus Christ Himself, some people have wrongly concluded: "There is no Holy Spirit!" This is not accurate, as we will see by the following quotations.

The Holy Spirit "**personifies Christ**, yet is a **distinct personality**. We may have the Holy Spirit if we ask for it." (20MR 324)

This distinct personality that personifies Christ is the spiritual manifestation of Christ without the burden of His human personality. It is called the Holy Spirit. That is how Christ abides in us. It is Christ Himself who abides in us, and we in Him.

Abide in me, and **I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. John 15:4

Exactly how this happens, we cannot tell. Jesus used the example of the vine and the branches to illustrate the work of His Spirit.

Christ himself calls our attention to the growth of the vegetable world as an illustration of the agency of his Spirit in sustaining spiritual life. The sap of the vine, ascending from the root, is diffused to the branches, sustaining growth and producing blossoms and fruit. So the **life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Saviour**, pervades the soul, renews the motives and affections, and brings even the thoughts into obedience to the will of God, enabling the receiver to bear the precious fruit of holy deeds. RH August 31, 1911

It is Jesus, our Savior, who is in heaven, who is the source of the life-giving power of the Spirit. Christ's Spirit, the Omnipresent Jesus, is a distinct personality and has a distinct individuality.

The two expressions human and divine were, in Christ, closely and inseparably one, and yet they had a **distinct individuality**. ST May 10, 1899

In His human-divine nature, Jesus is physically in heaven in His human form. But he comes to us in His spiritual sense, in His divine nature, by His Spirit which is with us and in us.

Christ comes to **us in His divine nature**. 21LtMs, Ms 138, 1906

It is the same source, Jesus Christ Himself, but the work that is accomplished in the Most Holy Place is different than the work

that is accomplished in our hearts. Jesus, who developed a perfect character in His human form while on earth, now sends His life to us with His Omnipresent ability, which is His Holy Spirit. What a marvelous experience we may have!

Christ supplies the lifeblood of the heart, and **Christ** and the **Holy Spirit** give nerve power. CH 593

This is so wonderful! It is Christ's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, which brings His righteousness to us. As we receive His life, we receive the spiritual presence of Christ. This is truly Jesus Himself, in a spiritual manifestation, coming to us and abiding with us! Not in a human form, but it is Jesus nonetheless!

When we remove the rubbish from the door of the heart, the **Lord will come in** and **make His abode** with us, and we shall have daily a precious story to tell of the favor, love, and mercy of our Heavenly Father. RH April 16, 1889

The transforming spiritual power which comes from Jesus makes a vital connection between us and Him. If we cooperate, and cling to Him, we will be victorious over all sin. Praise the Lord!

None are so low, so corrupt and vile, that they cannot find in **Jesus**, who died for them, strength, purity, and righteousness, if they will put away their sins, cease their course of iniquity, and turn with full purpose of heart to the living God. He is waiting to strip them of their garments, stained and polluted by sin, and to put upon them the white, bright robes of righteousness; and He bids them live and not die. In Him they may flourish. Their branches will not wither nor be fruitless. If they abide in Him, they can **draw sap and nourishment from Him**, be imbued with **His Spirit**, walk even as He walked, overcome as He overcame, and be exalted to His own right hand. 2T 453

The sap, [spiritual power] which comes from the root of the vine [Jesus], brings His own life to us. That is how, through Christ's Spirit, He abides in our hearts. That's how we can live His life!

We need **Jesus abiding in the heart**, a constant living wellspring; then the streams flowing from the living fountain will be pure, sweet, and heavenly. Then the foretaste of heaven will be given to the humble in heart. CW 81

Jesus is with us and in us, in a very real way. We know this by faith, and we experience it through faith. He surrounds us with His love, He guides us, He convicts us. He intercedes for us through His Spirit. He intercedes with us as a personal, one-on-one interaction, speaking to our hearts, convicting us, drawing us, transforming us.

“It is the **indwelling of Christ in the soul**, the development of **His spirit** in the life. The Christian experience is a constant effort to conform the human will to the will of Christ, and to form the character according to the divine model.” {RH January 24, 1882, par. 3}

At the same time, He intercedes up in Heaven before the Father for us, as our High Priest, presenting His blood that was shed for us. Both of these jobs are accomplished by the same Jesus.

Our **Saviour** is in the **sanctuary** pleading in our behalf. He is our **interceding** High Priest, making an atoning sacrifice for us, pleading in our behalf the efficacy of his blood. SpTEd 223

Let us remember that our great **High Priest** is **pleading** before the **mercy seat** in behalf of His ransomed people. He ever liveth to make **intercession** for us. If any man sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, **Jesus Christ** the righteous. 16 LtMs, Ms 142, 1901

Christ, as our **Mediator**, at the right hand of the Father, ever keeps us in view, for it is as necessary that He should keep us by **His intercessions** as that He should redeem us with His blood. If He lets go His hold of us for one moment, Satan stands ready to destroy. MS 72, 1893

It's very important that we understand that Jesus, our High Priest, is literally in the Most Holy Place in the Heavenly

Sanctuary interceding before the Father. But we also have numerous quotations and scriptures that tell us clearly that Jesus is present with us now and always.

The power of an **ever-abiding Saviour** is greater now than ever before, because the emergencies are greater; and yet we are weak in spiritual life and experience. ST Oct 17, 1892

“He that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will **manifest Myself** to him.” Jesus read the future of His disciples. He saw one brought to the scaffold, one to the cross, one to exile among the lonely rocks of the sea, others to persecution and death. He encouraged them with the promise that in every trial **He would be with them.** That promise has lost none of its force. The Lord knows all about His faithful servants who for His sake are lying in prison or who are banished to lonely islands. He comforts them with **His own presence.** When for the truth's sake the believer stands at the bar of unrighteous tribunals, **Christ stands by his side.** DA 669

Nestle in the sheltering arms of Jesus, and do not wrestle yourself out of His arms. Lt 31, January 1, 1887

The Omnipresence of Jesus is beyond our comprehension. We are told that we can't understand the nature of the Holy Spirit. But we are told clearly that Jesus Himself is personally spiritually present with you and me.

...we know that **Jesus is right by our side** to sympathize with us, and He will help us. We can commune with our best Friend; **He is right by our side.** We need not go into the heavens to bring Him down, for **He is right by us** to help us. CTr 42

It's totally amazing! You can see why Jesus was so excited about the gift He was promising to His disciples!

It is only as the **Spirit of Christ dwells in the heart** by faith that we can grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ. Only through the grace daily drawn from Jesus can the heart be kept. There can be no safety in extolling self; we must hide

self in Jesus. **Christ abiding within**, is the **life of the soul**. RH
Feb 16, 1892

Yes, we have the absolute assurance that Jesus is spiritually abiding within our hearts as we surrender to Him. Yet, He is also physically in Heaven.

He is there, that He may stand before the Father as our **Intercessor** and **Mediator**. 18 LtMs, Ms 188, 1903

There are not two Intercessors or Mediators, just one. It is Jesus Himself, unencumbered with humanity, who is with us, and personally interceding for us in a different way than He is in His divine-human form in heaven. We need both aspects of Jesus, His heavenly mediatorial work and His personal spiritual presence. He doesn't need to work on one job in heaven and then hurry down here and speak to our hearts. He does both at the same time! And He doesn't need to divide His time between His followers—each one of us gets ALL of Him, ALL the time! That is the most wonderful news that we could ever hear!

When we submit to God's way, **the Lord Jesus guides our minds** and fills our lips with assurance. We may be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. **Receiving Christ**, we are clothed with power. No unrighteousness is seen in the life. We are able to speak words in season to those who know not the Saviour. **Christ's presence in the heart** is a **vitalizing power**, strengthening the whole being. YI January 22, 1903

The abiding presence of Jesus in our hearts accomplishes the exact same work that the Holy Spirit accomplishes, because they are same.

If we would experience the love of Christ we must be obedient children, keeping **company** with **Jesus**. We may walk in love, **having His abiding presence** to **guide, direct** and **control**. 10 LtMs, Ms 42, 1895

Having Christ abide in our hearts and being filled with the Holy Spirit is the *exact same experience*, stated in a different way.

When we are filled with the Spirit of Christ, we experience Christ's presence in our hearts.

Christ's presence is promised us. "Lo," He says, "**I am with you always**, even unto the end of the world." [Matthew 28:20. 20 LtMs, Ms 38, 1905

Notice the results of receiving the Holy Spirit, which is the indwelling presence of Christ.

When we consecrate ourselves to Christ, **He speaks to the heart**, filling it with His **Spirit**. 16 LtMs. Lt 153 1901

Receive the **Holy Spirit**, and your efforts will be successful. **Christ's presence** is what gives **power**. Let all strife and dissension cease. CA February 25, 1903

It is Christ's Omnipresence, His Spirit, that gives us spiritual power.

And the promise of **Christ's presence** in answer to prayer should **comfort** and **encourage** his church today as much as it comforted and encouraged the apostles whom Christ directly addressed. 3SP 247

Christ promised us His presence when He promised us the Holy Spirit. This is how we can have the mind of Christ and become partakers of the divine nature.

By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the **mind of Christ**. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the **divine nature**. He is accepted in the Beloved. DA 675

When Jesus sends us His Holy Spirit, we receive Christ's personal invisible presence, unencumbered with humanity, yet we need more than Christ's invisible presence. We need Him in Heaven as our Mediator! That is where His divine-human nature is essential.

Christ took human nature, making it possible for human beings to be partakers of the divine nature. He is a **divine-human Saviour**, the **Mediator** between God and man. 17 LtMs, Ms 158, 1902

In His **mediatorial** office, His **divinity and humanity** are combined, and upon this union hangs the hope of the world. ST May 9, 1900

The work that Jesus is doing for our salvation, by His physical divine-human nature, and by His spiritual Omnipresence of His Spirit, are both essential and vital. And the Father is in full involvement and cooperation with this saving work of our Heavenly High Priest and His Spirit.

We are to be taken into **complete union with the human nature of Christ**, into oneness with Christ, in spirit and in His work of redemption. Joining ourselves **to Christ**, we have **His Spirit**, we are branches of the living Vine stock, and in Christ we are to bear the fruit of Christlikeness, for the branches bear fruit like that of the parent vine. 9 LtMs, Lt 78 1894

It is by the indwelling presence of Christ, through His Spirit, that brings us into union with Jesus and the Father. We need Him in our hearts as well as in heaven standing before the Father.

Complete union with Christ and with one another is absolutely necessary to the perfection of believers. **Christ's presence** by faith in the hearts of believers is their **power**, their **life**. It brings union with God. "Thou in Me." **Union with God through Christ** makes the church perfect. 20 LtMs, Ms 182, 1905

We can see in this following quotation how the work of the Spirit of God and the indwelling presence of Christ in the heart are describing the same experience. It is clear that the operations of the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of God, equals the abiding presence of Jesus in our hearts, His Omnipresence.

It is the **Spirit of God** that quickens the lifeless faculties of the soul to appreciate heavenly things, and attracts the affections toward God and the truth. Without the **presence**

of Jesus in the heart, religious service is only dead, cold formalism. The longing desire for communion with God soon ceases when the **Spirit of God** is grieved from us; but when **Christ is within us** the hope of glory, we are constantly directed to think and act in reference to the glory of God. The question will arise, “Will this do honor to Jesus? Will this be approved by him?”—RH, April 17, 1888.

THE HEAVENLY TRIO

Since we have discovered that Jesus Christ, our Lord, has two distinct roles He is performing for our salvation, in different locations, now we can understand the statements in the Spirit of Prophecy that refer to the “heavenly trio.” Other terms are used, such as: the three highest powers of the universe, the three heavenly dignitaries, the three representative powers of the Godhead, and similar wording referring to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are **three living persons of the heavenly trio. In the name of these three powers,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost**, those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ. BTS Mar 1, 1906

We have identified the promised Comforter as the indwelling presence of Christ, a spiritual manifestation, His Omnipresence, in fulfillment of His promise to be “**IN US**.” So we see that there are definitely three mighty powers working unitedly for our salvation. They are all three working for us—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, which is Christ’s indwelling presence.

The **three powers of the Godhead, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**, are pledged to be their strength and their efficiency in their new life in Christ Jesus. AUCR Oct 7, 1907

In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the **three great powers of heaven** are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His promises to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness. 8 T 254

But notice that these three powers are all referred to as “they” and not as “He.”

In whose name are we baptized? In the **name of the Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Ghost—the three highest powers** in the heavenly courts. **They** pledge themselves in our behalf. We may claim the strength and the victory that **they** may give us, 22 LtMs. Ms 61, 1907

God’s people have one God (the Father), one Savior (Jesus), and one Spirit—the Spirit of Christ.

“...They have **one God** and **one Saviour**; and **one Spirit—the Spirit of Christ**—is to bring unity into their ranks.” 9T 189

The Spirit of Prophecy and the Bible consistently refer to these three powers in the plural sense: they, them, their, etc.

The three powers are not called “He” as a connected unity of three. This is significant. We know that “he” refers to one and “they” refers to more than one.

The **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**, the **three holy dignitaries** of heaven, have declared that **they** will strengthen men to overcome the powers of darkness. **All the facilities of heaven** are pledged to those who by their baptismal vows have entered into a covenant with God. 16 LtMs, Ms 92 1901

Again, there is a reference to the three powers as “them” and not as “he.”

We are baptized in the name of the **Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Ghost**, and these **three great, infinite powers** are unitedly pledged to work in our behalf if we will

cooperate with **them**. We are buried with Christ in baptism as an emblem of His death. Ms 144, 1901

“They” work unitedly and we are to cooperate with “them.”

THREE POWERS: ONE GOD, ONE LORD, ONE SPIRIT

It is important for us to know the work that each of these heavenly powers accomplishes for us. When we read “God” in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, it generally refers to the Father, the only true God. In praying to His Father, Jesus said:

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

Our Heavenly Father is the one true God. The following quote is referring to Abraham.

Faithful among the faithless, uncorrupted by the prevailing apostasy, he [Abraham] steadfastly adhered to the worship of the **one true God**. PP 125

The knowledge of the **one true God** was given to them [Israel].... Those who worshiped the **one true God** were strengthened in moral power.... ST August 12, 1889

Clearly we are instructed in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy regarding the vital importance of knowing the one true God, which is the Father, and Jesus Christ, whom the Father has sent.

While we are favorably situated, let us make use of every opportunity to know the **one true God**, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent.. YI December 21, 1893, par. 5

God, our Heavenly Father is the one true God. The pronouns for God are He, His, and Him. He is the Sovereign of the universe.

The **Sovereign** of the **universe** was not alone in His work of beneficence. PP 34

The Son of God is the Father’s co-worker, His associate. The pronouns in the following quote refer to the Father only.

He had an **associate**—a **co-worker** who could appreciate **His** purposes, and could share **His** joy in giving happiness to created beings. PP 34

The divine Spirit is the Omnipresence of the Father, and since the Son shares the attributes of the Father, He is Omnipresent as well.

O how little man can comprehend the perfection of **God**, His **Omnipresence** united with His almighty power. 12 LtMs, Ms127, 1897

Christ . . . spoke of **His Omnipresence** in a special way. . . 12 LtMs, Ms 138 1897

The Omnipresence of the Father and the Son, which is the Holy Spirit, is definitely one of the three heavenly powers. All three heavenly powers are working together to bring us into unity with the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ.

And the **three Powers**, the **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit** have pledged **themselves** that if we walk in the light as Christ is in the light, we shall have fellowship with one another and be cleansed from all sin in the blood of Jesus. 16LtMs, Lt 21, 1901

Again, who are these three powers? They include: **one God**, which is the Father, **one Saviour**, which is Jesus Christ the Son and **one Spirit**, which is the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God.

“But to us there is but **one God**, the **Father**, of whom are all things, and we in him; and **one Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom are all things, and we by him.” 1 Cor. 8:6

“There is one body, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **One Lord**, one faith, one baptism, **One God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Eph 4:4-6

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS

Just to make sure there is no misunderstanding, Inspiration is clear that the divinity of Christ is irrefutable.

Christ was **God essentially**, and in the **highest sense**. He was with **God from all eternity, God over all**, blessed forevermore. RH, April 5, 1906

Because Jesus is truly the only begotten Son of His Father, He inherited the life of His Father.

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself. John 5:26

The life Jesus possesses is original, unborrowed, underived because that is the life He received from His Father.

In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. DA 530

This beautiful truth *does not negate* the marvelous truth that Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Heavenly Father. His Father's life is immortal life, eternal life. As the pre-existent Son of God, possessing His Father's life, He also was self-existent, like His Father, because He was the express image of His Father. The life He received from His Father wasn't conditional. It was the same life the Father possessed.

It was the life of God in His Son. FW 22

Immortality originates with the Father, the One whom we cannot behold in our fallen humanity. (1 Timothy 6:16) This immortality is the exclusive property of God, the Father. But He gave immortality to His Son.

"In him [Christ] was life; and the life was the light of men." It is not physical life that is here specified, but immortality, the life which is exclusively the property of God. The Word, who was with God, and who was God, had this life. ST April 8, 1897

THE FATHER IS THE GREAT SOURCE OF ALL

Now we can see clearly that there are three heavenly powers, but only one Sovereign God—the Father, who is the Source of all life.

So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the **great Source of all**. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.
DA 212

Beside the one true God, there is one begotten Son of God— Jesus, who inherited the life and nature of God, and one Spirit—the Spirit of God, which is also the Spirit of Christ or the Holy Spirit.

All professions of Christianity are but lifeless expressions of faith **until Jesus imbues the believer with his spiritual life, which is the Holy Ghost.** 3 SP 242

The Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit is the spiritual life of Jesus. His Omnipresence is not a separate being; it is the mighty, powerful agency and attribute of God, the ability to be everywhere. It has an exclusive and specific function, which is to bring the presence of divinity to us and work in our hearts. Our Almighty God is the Father, and He works unitedly with His Son and with the Omnipresent Spirit, which both the Father and Son share.
(See Rom 8:9)

The **Father** hath given His **Son** for us, that through the **Son** the **Holy Spirit** might come to us and lead us to the **Father**.
7 LtMs, Lt 11, 1892

The Father is Omnipresent. The Son, who shares the divine attributes of the Father, is Omnipresent. The Spirit is that Omnipresence.

Nothing can happen in any part of the universe without the knowledge of **Him** who is **omnipresent**. ST July 14, 1881

The Lord is looking upon every individual; **He** is **omnipresent**. His eye reads the heart. 7 LtMs. Lt 18, 1891

The repetition of this truth is for a purpose. We have missed this point. We need to understand this truth.

The **Holy Spirit** comes to the world as Christ's representative. It not only speaks the truth, but it is the truth—the **faithful and true Witness**. SpTEd 51

The faithful and true Witness is the Holy Spirit, and also the Omnipresence of Jesus. It is the same speaker. “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the **faithful and true witness**, the beginning of the creation of God;” Revelation 3:14. This is Jesus speaking to the churches.

Who is it that speaks to the churches? “These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars” [Revelation 3:1].19 MR 205

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH

This truth regarding the Omnipresence of Jesus has not been proclaimed as it should have been. Also, the truth about the one true God and one Mediator needs to be proclaimed. We truly do have one God and one Mediator. This truth so stirred the spirit of dear Ellen White that she wrote this strong message:

I feel my spirit stirred within me. I feel to the depth of my being that the truth must be borne to other countries and nations and to all classes. Let the missionaries of the cross proclaim that there is **one God**, and **one Mediator** between God and man, who is **Jesus Christ the Son of the Infinite God**. This needs to be proclaimed throughout every church in our land. 7 LtMs, Ms 40, 1891

How could we possibly miss this, and not realize that we do indeed have one God—the Father, one Lord—Jesus Christ, and one Spirit—called the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter and the Spirit of Truth. All these are the same, one Spirit.

All who are united in church capacity, may be of one mind, of one heart, of one judgment, that Satan may not take any fresh advantage of the followers of Christ. We have one faith, one Lord, **one God and Father**, who is above all, and in

you all; then let there be a glorifying of God with one mouth, and **one spirit**. RH July 10, 1888

In the following quotation we can see how these three powers work together. The Holy Spirit has a distinctive work, but they are all three cooperating in accomplishing the goal of our salvation.

The **Holy Spirit** goes on convicting the sinner, piling up his condemnation, until the powers of the soul awaken and exclaim, “What must I do to be saved?” [Acts 16:30.] The **divine Spirit**, working with the human agent, has drawn the sinner, condemned by the law, to **Jesus Christ**. “**God** so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten **Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. **All heaven** is waiting and ready to co-operate with the human agent to expel sin from the soul and supply the vacuum with the **Holy Spirit**. 7LtMs, Ms 40 1892

OUR BEST FRIENDS – THE FATHER AND JESUS

While Ellen White writes of these three powers, she writes of the Father and the Son in a different way than that of the Spirit. We notice that Ellen White expressed her love for the Father and the Son, but didn’t include the Spirit in these declarations of her love:

I love **God**. I love **Jesus Christ**, the Son of God, and I feel an intense interest in every soul who claims to be a child of God. 3SM 71

I love **Jesus**, I love **my heavenly Father** for His love and mercy and gentleness to the children of men. 8 LtMs, Ms 55 1893b

Why wouldn’t she say, I love the Holy Spirit? But she never did write in that way.

We shall **love Jesus**, we shall **love the Father** who sent Him into the world, for we see Him in a wondrous light, full of grace and truth. HP 60

Ellen White appealed to the youth to recognize the Heavenly Father and Jesus as their very best friends. Notice that she wrote of “their love.” Two beings that love us.

Dear children and youth, your **Heavenly Father** and the dear **Saviour** are your **very best friends**. You have every evidence that it is possible for you to have of **their love** for you. YI February 1, 1874

Why does Ellen White not include the Spirit, if he is a co-equal being with the Father and Son? Why doesn't she include the Spirit in the quote below?

The people of God are now to stand as representatives of the attributes of the **Father** and the **Son**. 9 LtMs, Ms 39, 1894

We must notice these indications that give us insight into the way the Father and Jesus relate to us and how we are to relate to them. We also can understand how Satan is trying to distract us in our worship.

Oh, how Satan works to plant his throne between the human worship and the **Divine Being**, intercepting and appropriating the adoration God should have. 10 LtMs, Ms 59, 1895

This divine being referred to above is God the Father. Jesus is also a divine being.

On the Isle of Patmos, Christ revealed Himself to John, enabling His servant to endure the seeing of things of eternal interest. No mortal being can endure the revelation of God. His presence has always been shrouded by a guard of angels. But to John was given the privilege of seeing Christ, not in the burning bush, but amidst the indescribable glory of the holy sanctuary. Never was there a grander meeting than the meeting between John and Christ on the Isle of Patmos. The wonderful vision was accompanied by

the words, "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." [Amos 4:12.] It was no sophistry, but the **presence of the divine Being** who at the time of His ascension has taken into the heavenly courts a glorified humanity. He announced Himself as the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, and He came to give John a message for the churches. 22 LtMs, Ms 168, 1907

There are two divine beings, the Father and the Son.

TAKE THE BIBLE AS IT READS

Regarding the Holy Spirit, we cannot understand the nature of the Spirit. Some things are beyond our comprehension so we shouldn't speculate about things that aren't revealed.

The nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them. AA 52

But we can and should know all that is revealed to us. And it is revealed to us that Jesus Christ has a divine nature and a human nature. And we are told that Christ's Spirit is not burdened with a human form. But we are not to assume things which are not revealed. We are admonished to take the Bible as it reads, and inspired writings as well. That is what we are endeavoring to do in this booklet.

The language of the Bible should be explained according to its **obvious meaning**, unless a symbol or figure is employed. GC 598.3 (1911)

"If men would but **take the Bible as it reads...**" Ibid.

THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

In taking the Bible as it reads, we see that there is one God, the Father.

Christ is the One through whom God has at all times revealed Himself to man. **'But to us there is but one God, the Father,** of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one

Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him.' 1
Corinthians 8:6. PP 761

And the Father has one only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who is Christ?—He is the **only begotten Son of the living God**. He is to the Father as a word that expresses the thought,—as a thought made audible. Christ is the word of God. Christ said to Philip, 'He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father.' His words were the echo of God's words. Christ was the likeness of God, the brightness of his [the Father's] glory, the **express image** of his [the Father's] person.... YI
June 28, 1894

Jesus is a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person. That is indisputable if we take the inspired writings as they read.

A complete offering has been made; for 'God so loved the world, that he gave his **only-begotten Son**,'—not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, **but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person**, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.' ST May 30, 1895

Accepting the Bible as it reads brings up questions which God does not answer. Regarding those unanswered questions, we are not to speculate. But it is declared plainly that *Jesus IS the only Begotten Son of God*. We must not discount that truth!

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his **only begotten Son** into the world, that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9

When, where, and how He was begotten is not revealed. Regarding the when, we are only told that Jesus has existed "from everlasting" and "from eternity." We can't comprehend eternity, no matter how hard we may try. In the same paragraph that tells us that He existed from eternity, we are also told that Jesus declares that He was possessed by the Lord [the Father] in

the beginning, from the beginning, and that he was “brought forth” and “set up.” So, we must not speculate more than is written, but indeed we must consider every inspired writing that is written, as it was written.

The **Lord Jesus Christ**, the **divine Son of God**, existed from **eternity**, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by him as his right. This was no robbery of God. **“The Lord possessed me** in the **beginning** of his way,” he declares, “before his works of old. I was **set up** from **everlasting, from the beginning**, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was **brought forth**; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I **brought forth**; while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth.” RH April 5, 1906

And the **Son of God declares concerning Himself**: “The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was **set up from everlasting**.... When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.” Proverbs 8:22-30 PP 34

Jesus was the only Begotten Son of God before the incarnation. The following quotes reference a time before the creation of the world began.

Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, **the Only Begotten of God**, could fully **enter into His purposes**, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. PP 36

He [Lucifer] occupied a special, exalted position in the heavenly courts. He must have no one higher than himself. He must be next to God in efficiency. But Christ was above him, and he claimed he must be above Christ. **Christ was**

the only begotten Son of God, united with God. 25 LtMs, Lt 157 1910

And in addition, Christ became the Son of God in a new sense at the incarnation. So, He became the Son of God again while already being the Son of God.

In His humanity He was a partaker of the divine nature. In His incarnation **He gained in a new sense the title of the Son of God....** While the Son of a human being, He became the Son of God in a new sense. Thus He stood in our world—the Son of God, yet allied by birth to the human race.” 1SM 226

WAR IN HEAVEN

Lucifer had a real issue with Christ’s begotten status. Satan and his evil angels have been busy trying to convince us that Jesus is not really God’s only begotten Son after all:

Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. This fact the (evil) angels would ***obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God***, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ.... 25LtMs, Lt 42, 1910

Satan and his angels try to obscure, or hide the fact that Christ is truly the only begotten Son of God. Whatever Satan wants to hide, God’s people should want to make widely known!

Well, Lucifer, he was striving; he had glory in the heavenly courts, but he was striving for Christ’s place next to God. Next he wanted to be God, but he could not obtain that. **Christ** was the **only begotten Son of God**, and Lucifer, that glorious angel, got up a **warfare** over the matter, until he had to be thrust down to the earth. 25 LtMs, Ms 86, 1910

That fact that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and was higher than him, made Satan so jealous and angry that he

started a war! It's called the great controversy between Christ and Satan. And the battle is not over yet. Satan still wants to destroy any knowledge that exalts the Father and His only begotten Son.

Bear in mind that history is to be repeated. A great education in experience does not help if it does not perfect the knowledge of the glory of God to **exalt the Lord Jehovah and His only begotten Son Jesus Christ.** 24 LtMs, Lt 189, 1909

If Jesus wasn't really the only-begotten Son of the Father, why would Satan have been so angry that Jesus was the only begotten Son (if He really wasn't begotten after all)! That just doesn't make sense. Satan was angry that the Father and the Son **ALONE** are to be exalted.

The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted. **Their** holy banner is to be exalted above all the greatness of the greatest men, above all the honour and glory of the world. PrT April 26, 1900

We know Satan ***doesn't want us to believe*** that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. Does God ***also NOT want us to believe*** that Jesus is truly His only begotten Son, but to believe instead that Jesus is only a son metaphorically? Why would God tell us to take the Bible as it reads if we can't believe what it says? No! It **IS** true! Jesus **IS** the only begotten Son of God!

There are angels appointed over every church that claims to believe in the **truth of Jesus Christ being the only begotten Son of God.**" 19 LtMs, Ms 159, 1904

We can stand on this truth: that the Father has an only begotten Son, and the Son of God has a heavenly Father. There was a real sacrifice made for us, with a huge risk involved, and the Father and the Son experienced real pain. It wasn't imaginary pain. The Father experienced intense pain, as did His only-begotten Son.

The Eternal Father, the unchangeable one, gave his **only begotten Son**, tore from his bosom Him who was made in

the express image of his person, and sent him down to earth to reveal how greatly he loved mankind. RH July 9, 1895

In reality, Christ, before the incarnation, was the Son of the infinite God. In reality, not in metaphor, or role playing, **IN ACTUAL REALITY!**

When Christ first announced to the heavenly host His mission and work in the world, He declared that He was to leave His position of dignity and disguise His holy mission by assuming the likeness of a man, **when in reality He was the Son of the infinite God.** 18 LtMs, Lt 303, 1903

When inspiration declares that, before the incarnation, Jesus was the Son of God *in reality*, it cannot mean that He was only a Son in metaphor, and not reality. That would be total confusion!

THE FATHER AND THE SON HAVE LITERAL BODIES

The Bible speaks not only of a spiritual realm, but also of a physical realm. Heaven is a physical place, inhabited with two divine beings with literal bodies. We are told that the Father and Jesus have physical forms.

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the **express image of his person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, **sat down** on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Heb 1:3

I have often seen the lovely Jesus, that he is a **person**. I asked him if his Father was a **person**, and **had a form** like himself. Said Jesus, "I am in the **express image of my Father's Person.**" 2 SG 74

The Father and Son are almost identical. The express image means that Jesus is the exact copy of the Father. He inherited all the qualities of His Father, including His divine Omnipresence.

From eternity there was a complete unity between the Father and the Son. They were two, yet **little short of being identical**; two in individuality, yet one in spirit, and heart, and character. YI December 16, 1897

We were created in the image of the Father and the Son, who are two separate divine beings. Notice what the Father said to the Son:

After the earth was created, and the beasts upon it, the **Father** and **Son** carried out their purpose, which was designed before the fall of Satan, to make man **in their own image**. They had wrought together in the creation of the earth and every living thing upon it. And now **God** says to his **Son**, 'Let us make man in **our image**.' 1 SP 24

Before the Creation, the Father included the Son in His counsels as they discussed their plans for the human race. The Son of God is the *only being* invited into the Father's private counsels.

Christ the Word, the **Only Begotten of God**, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, and in purpose—**the only being** in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. GC88 493

God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made **equal with the Father**. **All the counsels of God are opened to His Son**. CCh 76

This is what made Lucifer so angry. He wasn't invited into the Father's counsels.

Yet the Son of God was exalted above him [Lucifer], as one in power and authority with the Father. **He shared the Father's counsels**, while Lucifer did not thus enter into the purposes of God. PP 36

Satan was very jealous of God's only begotten Son. He wanted to be the third being in the counsels of the Father. He was third in rank in heaven, next to Christ. He wanted to be above Christ!

But Lucifer, the most glorious angel next to Christ, thought himself equal with God and made the effort, because of his beauty and glory, that he should be next to God, and then he could work out God's plans. Thus Lucifer claimed the position next to the Creator. But **Christ was the only begotten Son of God**. Lucifer made **war in heaven** and

would not take the position God assigned him, therefore he fell from his high estate and has been in the world, a **warring element** against God's plans, 24 LtMs, Lt 189, 1909

The presence of the Holy Spirit was not mentioned in the counsel between the Father and the Son regarding the creation of man. It clearly states that Christ was the *ONLY being* qualified to be there. Therefore, *God's Omnipresent Spirit must not be a literal being*, with a physical form, as the Father and Son have, or it would have been stated differently.

THE COVENANT OF PEACE

The Son of God, Jesus, was the only one who could ransom us.

The **Son of God** was next in authority to the great Lawgiver. He knew that **His life alone** could be sufficient to ransom fallen man. 2SP 9.1

The Father and the Son made a solemn pledge between them.

Christ was not alone in making his great sacrifice. It was the fulfilment of the **covenant** made between **him** and **his Father** before the foundation of the world was laid. With clasped hands **they** had entered into the **solemn pledge** that Christ would become the surety for the human race if they were overcome by Satan's sophistry. YI June 14, 1900

The Father and Son made a covenant between just the two of them:

In the plan to save a lost world, the **counsel** was between them **both**; the covenant of peace was between the **Father** and the **Son**. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." [John 3:16.] The Majesty of heaven, the King of Glory, would become a servant. The **only begotten Son** in whom the **Father** delighted was given for the ransom of a fallen race. 12 LtMs, Ms 36, 1897

The Father and the Son counseled together, making a covenant of peace between them both. Where was the Spirit? It was not there as a physical being in a physical form as the Father and Son were.

OMNIPRESENCE

There are many things we do not know about the Spirit. But we do know that the Spirit of Christ is referring to the *Omnipresence of Jesus*, and thus the Omnipresence of the *Father* as well.

It is not essential for you to know and be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the Comforter is the Holy Ghost, “the Spirit of truth, which the Father shall send in my name.” [John 14:26.] “I will pray the Father, and he shall send you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” [Verses 16, 17.] **This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.** 7 LtMs, Lt 7, 1891

The Father is a Spirit (having the ability to be Omnipresent) and the Father also has a body, the same as Jesus. The Spirit is the Father’s and Son’s divine ability to be everywhere, Omnipresent, which bestows the grace of God on humanity.

. . . and, lo, **I am with you alway**, even unto the end of the world.” As you present the Word to your hearers, claim this promise of **Christ's presence**. There is no day, no hour of the day, when He will not be **near you** by **His Holy Spirit**. He is in every meeting that is held in His name. His promise is given for as long as time shall last. AUCR December 30, 1907

We must move every day under the guidance of God's mighty power. Every day we need to feel the deep working of the **Spirit of God**. . . . But not until self dies can **Christ live in us**; not until self dies can we possess the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Our faith must increase. We

must know the sanctification of the **Spirit**. In earnest prayer we must seek God, that **His divine Spirit** may control us. ST Oct 11, 1899

The Father and Son possess a divine Spirit that is invisible, thus the Father and Son are Omnipresent, as well as having a form.

The greatness of God is to us incomprehensible. ‘The Lord's throne is in heaven’ (Psalm 11:4); yet by His **Spirit He is everywhere present**.... Ed 132

The Father sits on the throne, and shares His throne with His Son.

The Son of God **shared the Father's throne**, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. PP 36

The Bible doesn't speak of the Holy Spirit sitting upon a throne or having a form. The Holy Spirit is the Father's Spirit and the Son's Spirit, because there is only one Spirit. This is the same Spirit God sends into our hearts.

“Because ye are sons, God hath send forth the **Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, crying Abba, Father.” Gal 4:6

The Spirit of His Son that God sends to us IS the Spirit of Christ, also called the Holy Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

So, we conclude that the heavenly trio includes the Almighty God—the Father, who sits on a throne, the only-begotten Son of God, who shares His Father's throne, and the Holy Spirit of God and of Christ, who is the invisible, spiritual, everywhere presence of divinity. Two divine beings and one divine Spirit. The divine Holy Spirit has a divine personality, and is considered a divine person, *but not in the same way the Father and Son are divine persons*. The Father and the Son are divine beings, with literal forms.

I asked Jesus if His Father had a **form** like Himself. He said He had...EW 55

In her writings, Ellen White does not call the Holy Spirit a being. She does call Him a person, showing that it is more than just an impersonal influence as some were falsely teaching. The Spirit is the actual invisible presence of God the Father and Jesus Christ in their Omnipresence, dwelling in Christ's followers.

We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and **God in him.**" [1 John 4:16 The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a **divine person**, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. 'For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.' LtMs, Ms 20, 1906

Ellen White clarified what she meant as a *divine person* in other places, by saying the Holy Spirit is an agency, or character, a divine power and even a divine influence from God. She did not say that the Spirit is a literal person, as in a being that has a physical form. The divine influence of the Spirit comes from God.

We must reach a higher standard; the highest influences in all the universe should be embodied in all our works. This is the **influence of the Comforter emanating from God.** 7 LtMs, Ms 4, 1891

Under the **divine influence of the Spirit of God** alone can his character be fashioned, so that he will not have so strong and masterly a spirit as he is now developing. 7 LtMs, Ms 13, 1891

In giving us His **Spirit**, God gives us **Himself**, making **Himself** a fountain of **divine influences**, to give health and life to the world. 7 T 273

But the Spirit of God is also *more than just a divine influence*. The Spirit of God contains the spiritual presence of God Himself and the spiritual presence of His Son. Therefore, the Spirit is the "person" of God's Omnipresence.

THE SAME PRAYER AND THE SAME ANSWER

Praying for the presence of Christ, and praying for the presence of the Holy Spirit is the *exact same prayer*, and the answer to each is the same.

Pray for the presence of Christ with you in the sickroom, for you need His presence as the One who alone can relieve suffering humanity. He will speak through you words inspired by the Holy Spirit. The presence of Christ is everything to a physician. 16 LtMs, Lt 124, 1901

Constantly you need to cultivate and cherish the thought, I am in the presence of One whom I love and fear and reverence, but he is seen only by the eye of faith. I must think no thought and do no action in my own spirit or after my own inclination. Unless I have the mind and the spirit of God, I cannot safely be trusted with sacred responsibilities. My mind, my judgment must not rule. The mind and judgment of the great I AM must rule. 12 LtMs, Lt 49, 1897

In the following quotation, Sister White made it especially clear that the presence of the Holy Spirit was actually the presence of the Lord Jesus.

The meeting at first seemed to be rather depressed, but the Lord gave me the spirit of prayer, and the Holy Spirit did come into our midst. Or rather I should say that the Lord Jesus quickened our senses to recognize His presence in the blessings of heaven. The Lord is very nigh us, but we do not always recognize His presence, His comfort, and His grace. But we were blessed this very morning. Praise ye the Lord. 12 LtMs, Lt 148 1897

And, in her prayer here, she petitioned Jesus for the Holy Spirit, and then asked Jesus to manifest Himself, and speak to their hearts.

And, O Jesus, we want the Holy Spirit with us at this very time. We need Thee so much, we plead with Thee that Thou wouldest manifest Thyself unto Thy children today, and that Thou wouldest speak to their hearts. 22 LtMs, Ms 193, 1907

To be filled with the Holy Spirit equals being filled with the presence of Christ.

God will bless those who thus prepare themselves for his service. They will understand what it means to have the assurance of the **Spirit**, because they have received **Christ** by faith. The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sin; it means that sin is taken away, and that the vacuum is filled with the **Spirit**. It means that the mind is divinely illumined, that the heart is emptied of self, and filled with the **presence of Christ**. RH, June 10, 1902

This truth should become evident to us as we consider all the quotations about the Holy Spirit, which is the spiritual presence of Christ Himself. Jesus did not split Himself into two separate beings, but He is able to manifest Himself as two interacting personalities, one as our Heavenly High Priest in His divine-human nature, and the other as His personal spiritual presence without human limitations. The presence of Jesus in these two ways **IS** different. The heavenly presence of Jesus is visible, physical, literal, in human form. The spiritual presence of Jesus in a Christian's heart is invisible. By this Omnipresent ability, He dwells in each of His followers.

Jesus is **present** in the person of His representative, the Holy Spirit. MR vol. 12, p 145, 1898

Why is this truth so important for us to know? Because it is the truth, and knowing the truth fortifies our minds from receiving error. Error is always spiritually dangerous. This truth is life eternal—knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee **the only true God**, and **Jesus Christ**, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

Knowing God deepens our love for Him. Knowing the truth that Jesus is always present with us is also our source of comfort. It deepens our trust in God and intensifies our connection with Jesus. The presence of Jesus becomes real to us and our love and commitment to Him is solidified and strengthened.

The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the **Spirit of Christ abides in Christ.** Whatever comes to him comes from the **Saviour**, who surrounds him with His **presence**. MH 488

This Omnipresent personality called the Holy Spirit has a specific role of bringing the presence of divinity into our hearts, *but it is not a being with a form like the Father and the Son*, which sits a throne in heaven. The Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ, (which is the same spirit,) works in our hearts, connecting us with God and Christ in heaven. We must have the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ (which are the same) or we don't belong to Jesus.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the **Spirit**, if so be that the **Spirit of God** dwell in you. Now if any man have not the **Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his. Rom 8:9

The **Holy Spirit** is the **Spirit of Christ**, which is sent to all men to give them sufficiency, that through His grace we might be complete in Him.... 14MR 84

The ***Spirit of God*** leads us,

“For as many as are led by the **Spirit of God**, they are the sons of God.” Rom 8:14

And the ***Spirit of Jesus*** supplies our needs,

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the **Spirit of Jesus Christ**,” Php 1:19

And the ***Holy Spirit*** does both of those too. ***These are all the same!*** Because there is only One Spirit! One Omnipresence! It is both the Father's and Son's spiritual presence, called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

God has a work to be done in the world. Those who believe in **Jesus Christ** and accept Him as their personal **Saviour** are “laborers together with **God**.” [1 Corinthians 3:9.] This

“together” means much more than many realize. Together in unity, and in love, in the **Spirit of Christ**, let each one take up his appointed work. 18 LtMs, Ms 113, 1903

WE WILL COME

Jesus told us: “**WE will come**”, referring to Himself and His Father who will both abide in us. This is because it is the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son which dwells in us, also called the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answered and said unto him, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come** unto him, and make our abode with him.” John 14:23

At the same time, the Father is still on His heavenly throne, and Jesus is still interceding before the Father in Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. In this promise about Their coming to us, through the Omnipresence of the Spirit, He revealed to us the mystery of godliness.

Here is the mystery of godliness: Christ revealed by his Spirit to those who love him. When he should pass from the world he would be unknown by those who love the world and obey not the requirements of God. **But the highest form of truth was presented to the disciples in the fact that the Savior would be discovered by those who love and walk in the light**, while he is hidden from those who do not accept the light. Every step in the life of faith and consecration is additional knowledge of the world's Redeemer. Though no longer personally with his disciples, **Jesus takes the hand of the faithful and becomes their Guide through all the dangers and trials of life's journey.** ST January 17, 1878

It is by their Omnipresent Spirit that the Father and Son dwell in us.

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, **I**

will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” 2 Cor. 6:16

Again, the Holy Spirit is the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ and of His Father—their Omnipresence. This is how God wants our bodies to be His temple, a dwelling place for Christ through the Spirit.

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the **Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” 1Cor. 6:19

Remember that the body is the **temple of the Holy Spirit**, and that it is to be kept pure and undefiled, fit for a **dwelling place for Christ**. 20MR 329

DIFFERENCE IN FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT

These three powers manifest the fulness of the Godhead differently. The Father, the Sovereign of the Universe, is invisible to humanity. The divine Son manifested the Father on earth, revealing His character. And the Spirit is **IN** us, dwelling in us, manifesting God’s power working through us. By listing the three powers we can see somewhat of how God the Father shows His love, through His Son and through His Omnipresent Spirit.

The **Father** is all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight. The **Son** is all the fulness of the Godhead manifested. The Word of God declares Him to be “the express image of His person.” “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Here is shown the personality of the Father. The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the **Spirit in** all the fulness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. SpTB07, p 62

WHO IS WALKING BY OUR SIDE?

This message regarding Christ's Omnipresent Spirit may be unfamiliar to you. As you try to understand it, various questions may arise. What does the fragmented quotation "the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds" mean? Is there something that we have failed to realize? Who is walking?

How few realize that **Jesus**, unseen, is **walking by their side!** 14MR 125

Listen closely! We are going to see something clearly now. The unseen, invisible Jesus, in His spiritual manifestation, is the one who is walking by our side. It is the Spirit of Christ who is with us. This is the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the **Spirit of Christ**. MR13, 212, 1895

The truth of God is not contradictory. Let us remember all the quotes that we have read in this booklet thus far and absorb their truthfulness into our hearts. As we take "here a little and there a little," all together the truth warms our hearts and thrills our souls. It fills us with abounding joy! And the truth is, our beloved Jesus IS walking through this earth, close beside us!

Christ walks unseen through our streets. With messages of mercy He comes to our homes. MH 107

As we will recall, however, Jesus, by His Omnipresent Spirit, is not burdened with the human form in His presence among us and in us. In His Omnipresence, He is walking on this earth.

This scripture [Revelation 2:1] shows Christ's relation to the churches. **He walks** in the midst of His churches throughout the length and breadth of the earth....**Christ is present** in every assembly of the church. 3TT 51

These words assure us of **Christ's constant presence** with His church. Those who are knit together in love will find Him **an ever present Friend**. 14 LtMs, Ms 121, 1899

So yes, the Omnipresent Holy Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of Christ, is walking through our streets, our churches, our schools, our homes. Praise the Lord for His presence with us!

He [Jesus] is an unseen **presence** in the **person** of the **Holy Spirit**, DG 185.2, 1897

The person of the Holy Spirit is the unseen presence of Jesus! And, of course, Jesus is absolutely a person, even in His Omnipresence, as much as Jesus and His Father are persons in their physical forms in heaven. His Spirit brings His very real, and marvelously powerful presence right here when and where we need Him. It is Jesus, present with us, who sees us and hears each word we utter.

Remember that **Jesus is beside you** wherever you go, noting your actions and listening to your words. YI, February 4, 1897

That is such wonderful news that Jesus Himself is beside us! The One who tenderly loves us is watching us, helping to draw us closer to Him! Even though the Omnipresent Holy Spirit is invisible and doesn't have a form, He is still a person! He is the Spirit of Jesus, the very Jesus who died for us! His loving, powerful personal presence is with us. That is the point that Sister White was trying to convey to the Avondale students as she spoke the following words.

The Lord instructed us that this was the place in which we should locate, and we have had every reason to think that we are in the right place. We have been brought together as a school, and we need to realize that **the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person**, is **walking** through these grounds, unseen by human eyes, that the **Lord God** is our **Keeper** and **Helper**. **He hears every word** we utter and **knows every thought** of the mind. 14LtMs, Ms 66, 1899

The Holy Spirit, which is the Omnipresent Spirit of Christ is the person who was walking through Avondale school grounds, and today, He is here where we live, beside each one of us. Jesus is here, He is present! That is tremendous news!

Jesus is present in the person of His representative, the Holy Spirit, reviving the hearts of the humble and contrite ones. MR12, 145, 1898

The following quotation is very interesting as it will equate Christ by our side with the Holy Spirit by our side. *They are the same!*

The **Lord Jesus** standing by the **side** of the canvasser, **walking** with them, is the chief worker. If we recognize **Christ** as the **One who is with us** to prepare the way, the **Holy Spirit by our side** will make impressions in just the lines needed. CM 107.

We must recognize *Christ* as the One who is standing by our side. The Holy Spirit and Christ are not in competition with each other, two separate beings who are standing by our side and walking with us. It is the same Omnipresent Spirit, the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit. They are the SAME!

The work of the canvasser-evangelist, whose heart is imbued with the **Holy Spirit**, is fraught with wonderful possibilities for good. . . . The **divine Worker** will be present to send conviction to hearts. "I am with you always," is **His promise**. With the assurance of the **abiding presence** of such a **Helper** we may labor with faith and hope and courage. PM 274

The above quote mentions the Holy Spirit, and then refers to Jesus, who promised to be with us always. The divine Worker and Helper is the Holy Spirit, Who is also the Omnipresent Spirit of Jesus.

The work of the **Holy Spirit** is immeasurably great. It is from this source that power and efficiency come to the worker for God; and the **Holy Spirit** is the **comforter**, as the **personal presence of Christ to the soul**. He who looks to Christ in simple, childlike faith, is made a partaker of the divine nature through the **agency** of the **Holy Spirit**. When led by the **Spirit of God**, the Christian may know that he is made complete in **Him who is the head of all things**. RH, November 29, 1892

What a gift Jesus gave us when He gave His own Spirit to be present with us. What a comfort that should bring to our hearts! Especially when we are going through difficult times, we need this truth!

When trials overshadow the soul, remember the words of Christ, remember that **He is an unseen presence in the person of the Holy Spirit**, and **He** will be the **peace** and **comfort** given you, manifesting to you that **He is with you**. LtMs, Lt 124, March 7, 1897

BETTER THAN YOU THOUGHT!

As we plead for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, Jesus Himself will answer that prayer by His own presence. He is with us! He will give us strength and grace and efficiency. This is more wonderful than you ever dreamed! You can receive the presence of the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ!

We want the **Holy Spirit**, which is **Jesus Christ**. If we commune with God, we shall have strength and grace and efficiency. Letter 66, April 10, 1894

Dear friend, this beautiful truth is not minimizing or taking away the Holy Spirit at all. Most assuredly not! It does exactly the opposite! It brings us the realization of how much we desperately NEED the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This divine presence is our very life, for it is the life of Jesus Himself. He is our righteousness.

We need now an **indwelling Saviour**, who will supply the pure, holy current of love, and maintain principles that will inculcate the sum of all righteousness, purity, holiness, and perfect benevolence. 14LtMs, Lt 138, 1899

Our intimacy with Jesus as we accept His Omnipresent Spirit into our hearts is enhanced exceedingly as we understand that Jesus Himself is abiding in our hearts. The indwelling Savior will become our highest treasure. This truth, when accepted, will fill you with supernatural love, and bring joy beyond measure.

The right principles lived daily, hourly, in the home bring **Jesus** very near, and where **Christ is**, there is light and peace and **joy**. What are the conditions of **Christ's indwelling presence**? "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." [John 15:10.] "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and **will manifest myself unto him**." [John 14:21.] "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that **your joy might be full**. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." [John 15:11, 12.] 12LtMs, Ms 140, 1897

WHICH IS THE BEST GIFT?

Perhaps you've been thinking as you read this booklet about the gift of the Holy Spirit, that God's best gift to mankind was Jesus, not the Holy Spirit. Yes, when God gave His only begotten Son to the world, that was indeed His best gift!

God has given us his **best gift**, even his **only begotten Son**, to uplift, ennoble and fit us, by putting on us his own perfection of character, for a home in his kingdom. RH, April 8, 1890

This glorious truth has been declared by God's prophets many times and in many ways. But then we see quotations like this, and it may cause us to wonder:

He [the Father] has in store for us the **richest gift** of heaven, even the **gift of the Holy Spirit**. He is waiting to pour upon His people the mighty power of this Spirit. 17 LtMs, Ms 121, 1902

In receiving the **Holy Spirit**, all other blessings would be included. It is the **richest** gift, of the **greatest** and **most extensive plentitude**. 12 LtMs, Lt 150, 1897

So, which is the greater gift, the only begotten Son or the Holy Spirit? We discover that the gift of the Holy Spirit is an expansion of the gift of the only begotten Son of the Father. The Holy Spirit completes the gift of Jesus to us. The Holy Spirit is the agency through which the gift of Christ is made effectual.

In the **gift of the Spirit**, Jesus gave to man the **highest good** that heaven could bestow.... It is the **Spirit** that makes **effectual** what has been wrought out by the world's **Redeemer**. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given **His Spirit** as a **divine power** to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to **impress His own character** upon the church.... It is the privilege of every son and daughter of God to have the **indwelling of the Spirit**. RH May 19, 1904

It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit that we are enabled to appreciate the gift of the only begotten Son of the Father.

The **Holy Spirit alone** can help your children to understand the words of truth and to **behold the precious Saviour as the only begotten Son of the Father**, full of grace and truth. 25 LtMs, Ms 60, 1911

The gift of the Holy Spirit contains the very soul of Jesus. This is how we are able to receive the gift of Jesus from the Father:

Christ declared that after his ascension, he would send to his church, as his **crowning gift**, the **Comforter**, who was to take his place. This Comforter is the Holy Spirit,—**the soul of his life**, the efficacy of his church, the light and life of the world. With his Spirit Christ sends a reconciling influence and a power that takes away sin. RH May 19, 1904

The Comforter, who is the unencumbered spiritual presence of Jesus, took the place of the physical presence of Jesus, since the literal, physical Jesus ascended to Heaven and took up His mediatorial work in the sanctuary. This gift of the Holy Spirit brings the vital presence of God to us!

Yes; in giving the **Holy Spirit**, it was impossible for God to give more. To this gift nothing could be added. By it all needs are supplied. The **Holy Spirit** is the **vital presence of God**, and if appreciated will call forth praise and thanksgiving, and will ever be springing up unto everlasting life. ST Aug. 7 1901

It is interesting to consider that our Creator breathed the breath of life into the first human being, and Adam became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7) After His resurrection, Jesus again breathed on His disciples, in order to give them the breath of eternal life as He said, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. (John 20:22)

Christ not only gave himself *for* but *to* his disciples. The record declares, 'He breathed on them, and saith unto them, 'Receive ye the Holy Ghost.' Jesus is waiting to breathe upon all his disciples, and give them the inspiration of his **sanctifying spirit**, and **transfuse the vital influence from himself to his people**. ...Christ is to **live in his human agents**, and work through their faculties, and act through their capabilities. Their will must be submitted to his will, they must act with his spirit, that it may be no more they that live, but **Christ that liveth in them**. Jesus is seeking to impress upon them the thought that in giving his Holy Spirit, he is giving to them the glory which the Father has given him, that he and his people may be one in God. ST, October 3, 1892

Jesus breathed into His disciples ***His own life!*** That was His spiritual life, which gives the recipient the attributes of Christ.

The Holy Spirit is the **breath of spiritual life in the soul**. The impartation of the Spirit is the **impartation of the life of Christ**. It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ....
DA 805

So, we learn that the marvelous gift of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whom the Father gave to us, also embraces the gift of His Spirit. In the following quotation, the *Spirit of all truth* is Jesus. He is the channel through which we receive the heavenly current.

How shall I bear impressively the commission **Christ** has given to His people—the privilege of being workers with the **Spirit of all truth** manifest in the flesh—the **divine Son of God**, clothed with humanity, a **channel** devised and prepared to be continually receiving and imparting the heavenly current? **Himself the overflowing Fountain**, He receives to communicate to all those who will accept the gift. 21 LtMs, Ms 125, 1906

We understand that this channel referred to above is the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Christ. This is the Omnipresence of Christ as we've been discussing throughout this booklet. The gift of Christ's invisible presence and the gift of the Holy Spirit are the same precious gift.

The **gift of Christ** and the illumination of the **Holy Spirit** reveal to us the **Father** and the **Son**. SD 78

Therefore, whenever we read about the ever-present, abiding Christ, we know this is referring to the Holy Spirit. Whenever we read about the Holy Spirit, we also know that this is referring to the ever-present, abiding Christ.

Rejoice evermore. No one but a true Christian is truly happy. God is life and light and joy to the soul. With the sense of an **ever-present, abiding Christ**, you may rejoice all the day

long. You may sing aloud and shout His praises. Your joy in and through Christ Jesus is as the eating of the leaves of the tree of life, which are for the healing of the nations. Rejoice all the day long that you may have the **companionship of Christ**, assured you by the promise, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” [Matthew 28:20.] 16 LtMs, Lt 124, 1901

When we pray to be filled with the Spirit, and when we invite Jesus into our hearts, the Father sends us the Spirit of Jesus Christ, His Omnipresence. It is Christ Himself! What a blessed gift is ours to enjoy!

This refers to the **omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ**, 14MR 179

The Omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ is our ever-present and all sufficient Savior.

Be assured that **Jesus Christ is your ever-present agency in the Holy Spirit**, to cheer, to sustain, to bless in the varied experience that day by day you are passing through. 11 LtMs, Lt 16, 1896

Christ is the light of the world, an **ever-present** and all-sufficient Saviour. BE Oct 28, 1995

Not only is it our privilege to enjoy the presence of Christ with us, it is an absolute necessity if we are to win souls to Christ.

Those who are pressing toward the mark for the prize of our high calling in Jesus, are giving to the world an example of faith and obedience. They are directing attention to the world to come, and impressing upon souls the worth of eternal life. You cannot do this great work without **taking the Saviour with you**; but you may have **his presence**, and rejoice in associating with the Prince of peace. You may **communicate with Jesus** by the way. You may speak with him as with a friend. RH June 12, 1888

In summary, Christ promised the disciples a marvelous gift, His own personal presence in a spiritual manifestation. In that Gift,

Jesus gives us His life, His righteousness, and His victory over sin. When we pray for the Holy Spirit, we can expect Jesus to come personally into our hearts and fill us with divine power to be transformed into His character. This personal presence of Jesus is filled with all the love and power God can send us, and we should appreciate this divine presence and treasure it as our most precious possession.

God has instructed me to tell you and all His people to be very careful not to resist the working of the Holy Spirit—the Comforter that Christ sends. Fear to take the first presumptuous step in resistance. When Christ spoke to the disciples of the Holy Spirit, He sought to uplift their thoughts and enlarge their expectations to grasp the highest conception of excellence. Let us strive to understand His words. Let us strive to appreciate the value of the **wonderful gift** He has bestowed on us. **Let us seek for the fulness of the Holy Spirit.** 17 LtMs, Lt 155, 1902

That is our prayer, that we will not resist our Comforter, the wonderful Gift of the Omnipresence of Christ Himself!

Oh, that we might sense our need of Christ and by living faith claim the **promise of His presence!**—Letter 172, 1908

As we claim the promise of Christ’s abiding presence, what a precious, precious experience we will enjoy!

Wherever we go, we bear the **abiding presence** of the **One** so dear to us; for we **abide in Christ** by a living faith. He is abiding in our hearts by our individual, appropriating faith. We have the companionship of the **divine Jesus**, and as we realize **his presence**, our thoughts are brought into captivity to him. ST
September 3, 1896.

May we enjoy this most wonderful Gift as we sense the continual presence of Jesus! Amen! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

What does this teaching about the gift of the Holy Spirit mean to me personally, in a very practical way? Amazingly, this truth about the personal spiritual presence of Jesus with me and in me fills me with incredible joy! It is so thrilling to realize that JESUS is right here with me, to guide me, strengthen me and comfort me.

. . . we want **Jesus by our side** as a **guide** and **counselor**.
There will be no tendency to lightness where the **presence of the Saviour is recognized**. GW92 229

Of course, I understand that physically Jesus is interceding for me before the Father and I am so grateful for that! My prayers are directed upward to the mercy seat in the Heavenly Sanctuary to my loving Heavenly Father in the name of His only begotten Son, Jesus.

But now, with a new understanding, I am privileged to sense the continual presence of Jesus within my heart. I can hear His voice and allow Him to guide all my decisions. What I think and feel is being molded by His own thoughts and feelings.

When his words of instruction have been received, and have taken possession of us, Jesus is to us an **abiding presence**, controlling our thoughts and ideas and actions. Sp. TA09, p. 77

It is much easier to surrender to One I know and love—Jesus—than to an entity I know nothing about. When I pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit, which I do every morning, I know now that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. Jesus fills me with His righteousness, His very life that He lived on earth, so that I can be transformed into His image.

I know that the promptings in my conscience come from Jesus, the One who loves me and gave His life for me. I know He always has my best interest at heart. I know He understands me and that He knows what it is like to be truly a human and face all

the trials and temptations I face. He knows my pain and my struggles. And if I resist the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Himself in His spiritual manifestation, I am resisting the One who suffered and died for me. I am causing actual pain to Jesus directly.

When I read or hear the words “Holy Spirit,” I don’t think of another being that is unknown and unknowable, with an unbiblical title of “God the Holy Spirit.” How can I feel close to a “God” I don’t know personally and can’t get to know because we are not told anything personal about this “God.” Instead, I think this: the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus, my best Friend whom I love and trust. He is here with me, and I adore Him.

The love and appreciation I have for Jesus puts within me a desire to respond to every holy prompting He gives me. I want to please my Jesus! I want to let Him have complete control of me and take charge of my life. I can have the mind of Christ, so that I think like He thinks and feel like He feels, with His very character to guide all my choices.

When His words of instruction have been received, and have taken possession of us, **Jesus is to us an abiding presence, controlling our thoughts and ideas and actions.** TM 389

I can be filled with the fruit of Jesus’ Spirit—the love of Jesus, the joy of Jesus, the peace of Jesus, and so on. Best of all I can have the faith of Jesus, the same unwavering, dependent, trusting connection He maintained with His Father.

Jesus has made it possible for me to live His life—a holy, consecrated life! I am enabled to walk with Jesus every moment of the day, sensing His precious presence, praising Him, rejoicing in Him, loving Him. This truth is transformative as it is embraced and practiced. It brings a sense of overflowing joy! The promises in the Word come alive with new meaning. The truth about Jesus’s presence removes the resistance factor and places within me the desire to please Jesus in every tiny detail of my life.

I still have the choice to resist, and if I do, He is right there to help me return to complete surrender. I freely acknowledge that, of myself, without His Spirit, I am beyond weak; I am vile and wretched and without hope. But now that I have tasted of the sweetness of Christ's Spirit, my admiration of Him is only increasing.

Often there will come to us a **sweet joyful sense** of the **presence of Jesus**. COL 129

How true this is! I sincerely believe that this wonderful truth that comes from the inspired writings has the power to bring a genuine revival into the lives of all who receive it. As we realize the truth that Jesus is actually present with us, and we sense His presence in a real way, Satan will lose his power over us.

He who bears with him a **continual sense of the presence of Christ** cannot indulge self-confidence or self-righteousness. FW 54

We have been Laodicean long enough. It's time to shake off our lethargy and receive the refreshing that comes from the presence of the Lord. But we must actually believe that the presence of Jesus is with us. To the degree that we believe, we will be transformed into His image.

Our experience in divine things will be **in proportion to the vividness of our sense of his companionship**. ST September 3, 1896.

It's time to respond to Jesus, who is knocking at the door of our hearts. We need to open the door and *let Jesus come in*.

Nothing is wanting but a preparation of heart, and earnest, believing prayer, **to bring Jesus to our side as a mighty helper**. He longs to come. If we will but listen to his voice and open the door, he will come in. GW92 225

He wants to give us *His life*! We must entirely surrender our old life, and receive a new life, which is *HIS LIFE*! This is accomplished by His Spirit, His Omnipresence, His spiritual

presence in our hearts. This Holy Spirit is the agency that brings Jesus into us, to reign in our hearts.

The Holy Spirit, which we now understand to be the powerful and precious presence of Jesus' own Spirit, is right here, right now, to be forever cherished. I believe it is true!

. . . the sense of **Christ's abiding presence** can come only through **living faith**. . . HP 56

Let us respond: Yes, Jesus, I will follow YOU because I love YOU so much. I feel YOUR love and sense YOUR presence. It really is YOU, Jesus! My focus is on YOU, and I am longing to be with YOU forever when You come in Your literal, physical form, to take me home with You. What a blessed day that will be!

Thank you, Jesus, my Savior! Oh, how I love You!

Dear Brethren in Christ,

If you have read this book carefully and thoroughly and find that your beliefs differ from the point of view found in this book, I warmly invite your comments, so that we may consider this topic in Christian dialogue.

In order that our communication may be beneficial to us both, I would hope that you love the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart, and deeply desire to know the truth, no matter the consequences. Only as we have a meek and teachable spirit can we be in the position to learn spiritual truths.

I earnestly declare that if I can be kindly shown from inspired writings wherein I am wrong, while still considering the quotations found in this book, I will not hesitate to change my viewpoint. I would hope as well that you, as an earnest seeker for truth, would be willing to change your belief if new truth is presented in the pages of this book.

The truth about God is too sacred to be debated with animosity and strife in one's heart. It is in the spirit of love and gentleness that this book was written. May the loving Spirit of Jesus reign in all of our hearts as we prepare for His soon coming.

Please contact me with your comments at
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