



Jesus sends the Spirit

JESUS SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY
Psalm 1 2 Timothy 3:10-17 2 Peter 1:16-21 John 16:12-15

May 22, 2022

Pastor Dave Bolte

In all three of the Creeds of the Christian Church -- the Apostle's creed, the Nicene creed, and the Athanasian creed -- we confess that Jesus *ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty*.

The *right hand of God* is **not** a physical location as if Jesus were restricted to the right hand of God the Father until the Last Day.

Rather the *right hand of God* is a **figure of speech** for God's almighty power, strength, and glory.

Here's an example of how the Bible uses this **figure of speech**:

Your *right hand*, O Lord, is glorious in power,

Your *right hand*, O Lord, shatters the enemy. Exodus 15:6

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you,

I will help you, I will uphold you with My *righteous right hand*. Isaiah 41:10

When we confess that Jesus is at the *right hand of God* the Father Almighty, we are confessing that the Son of God left the glory of Heaven, was born in Bethlehem, and was crucified in Jerusalem; rose from the dead; and then He ascended back to His throne in Heaven¹. The work of salvation is complete, our sins have been paid for, and we have been rescued from death. Jesus returns to His glory in heaven in full divine power, strength, and majesty. He now sits at the *right hand of God* to rule and reign over the Church.

¹ This is how Jesus teaches us to think about His work in John 16:28: "I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." Jesus was on a "roundtrip" mission to save us from our sins! Once the work is finished, He has now returned to His position of power, authority, and glory --> the right hand of God!

One of the things that Jesus stressed in His teachings is that He has **not** abandoned us when He returns to Heaven. His Ascension to the **right hand of God** does **not** mean that we are now on our own. **He promises to be with us forever**; and one of the ways that **He is with us** is by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"When the **Comforter** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—He will testify about Me. John 15:26

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the **Advocate** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. John 16:7, 13-14

Just as Jesus was present and with the disciples protecting and teaching them, so He promises to send the Holy Spirit to be present and with us to protect and teach us. From the **right hand of God**, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to be your Comforter, Defender, Advocate and Teacher.

The presence of the **Holy Spirit** means that God is with you every moment of every day of your life. The **Holy Spirit** comes alongside of you – *forever!*

- He **nurtures and sustains** your faith through His Word and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- He comes alongside of you to **guide and direct** you as you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- He promises to **strengthen and uplift** you each day
- He works to **comfort and encourage** you in every trial and burden; and to **empower** you to *patiently endure* whatever may happen
- He is with you to give you **courage, boldness, and zeal** in the faith
- He motivates you to be a **Biblically Literate, Doctrinally Sound, Mission Minded and Passionately Engaged Disciple**

Just as Jesus walked alongside the disciples; now the **Holy Spirit** walks alongside you!

In fact, your **maturity and wisdom** in the Christian faith; and all of your knowledge and wisdom, all of your good works and love for others, comes from the work of the **Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacrament!**

The Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus, who sits at the **right hand of God the Father almighty**, has sent the **Holy Spirit** to be with you throughout your life!

One of the things that Jesus told us right before His death was that He Himself *has more to teach us!*

Jesus said, "I still have MANY THINGS to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. John 16:12-13

This is the promise of the **New Testament!** The Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus, who sits at the **right hand of God the Father almighty**, sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles to continue to teach the church!

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me. John 15:26 ESV

When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the Truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. John 16:13 ESV

The Spirit-inspired words of the Apostles are what we know today as the **New Testament**. The New Testament is Jesus *continuing* to teach His Church from the **right hand of God!** The New Testament is the Holy Spirit teaching us the **truth** and *bearing witness to Christ*².

This is crucial for us as conservative Lutherans, because we focus on Christ and His death and resurrection in our preaching and teaching. This is exactly what

² Jesus promises the Paraclete (the Holy Spirit), who will cause the disciples to "remember" what Jesus had said and lead them into all Truth (14:26, 16:13). That is, the Paraclete would be the interpreter of the Scriptures for the Church, guiding her to a Christological understanding of the Scriptures. John 1:1-7:1, W.C. Weinrich, Concordia Commentary Series, p. 751

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do: “**He will bear witness to Me.**” There are so many churches that have abandoned this Gospel focus on Christ, and in many and various ways their teaching focuses on man’s own good works and human effort³. But that is not what Jesus teaches!

The Holy Spirit worked through the Apostles to write the 27 books of the New Testament --> and those Books are invaluable to us⁴! In those Books, Jesus continues to teach us through His Spirit about God the Father and His Kingdom. The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God; the teachings of Christ given through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth!

The Spirit would guide the Apostles to write down their Word, and God would preserve it in the New Testament Scriptures for us to read today. In this way He would build His church (Ephesians 2:20)
John, G.P. Baumler, PBC, p.228

In the Creeds, we confess that Jesus has ascended into heaven and now sits at the **right hand of God** the Father almighty. He is in a position of power, glory, and authority.

From the **right hand of God**, Jesus **sends the Holy Spirit** to His people.

- ⇒ The Holy Spirit lives and works within us so that we can live **holy and godly lives** as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- ⇒ The Holy Spirit lived and worked among the Apostles, to write down the teachings of Jesus, the very **Word of God**, which we believe teach and confess today!

Amen!

³ Not all churches are the same! The preaching, teaching, and focus of most churches is not on Christ, but other things, such as current events, life coaching, better living, moralism, political agendas, social action, or community involvement. Many churches teach a distant God who just wants everyone to be nice, and the purpose of life is to be happy. As conservative Lutherans, our preaching, teaching and focus is squarely on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and His life, death, and resurrection for us!

⁴ The Holy Spirit not only caused the Apostles to just speak by inspiration, but also to write by inspiration! The New Testament is the Word of Jesus given by the Holy Spirit! And the central teaching of the New Testament is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins! Remember 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. As conservative Lutherans, we hold to this central teaching that we have learned from Christ and His Spirit in our theology, doctrine, preaching, teaching, and counseling.

Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus, who sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty, we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to us. We thank you for giving us faith so that we know, believe, and understand your Word and Will. We ask that you work in our lives so that we may abide in You and love our neighbor. Amen!

Psalm 1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. ⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶ For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom ^[a] you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God ^[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son,[i] with whom I am well pleased,” 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

John 16:12-15

Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will Glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He t will take what is Mine and declare it to you.