

*The Untold Story*  
*God's Best for You*  
Clay Weed

**TALK IT OVER**

Key Scripture:

**John 16:5-15 (NLT)**

*5 "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. 12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'*

**John 14:15-20 (NLT)**

*15 "If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. 18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans-I will come to you. 19 Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. 20 When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*

**John 15:26-27 (NLT)**

*26 "But I will send you the Advocate -the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. 27 And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.*

**John 14:1-12 (NLT)**

**John 14:25-26 (NLT)**

**Acts 1:8 (NLT)**

**Acts 2:44-47 (NLT)**

**Philippians 2:1-2 (NLT)**

**Luke 3:16 (NLT)**

**1 Corinthians 6:11 (NLT)**

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Discuss your thoughts, past or present, regarding the Holy Spirit. Is the Holy Spirit comforting, empowering, awkward, peaceful, scary, etc.?

Start **thinking**. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- **Read John 16:5-15.** Why did Jesus say he must depart in order for the Holy Spirit to come? Why is it better for the Holy Spirit to be in the world?
- From **John 16:10**, what does Jesus mean by "Righteousness is available because I go to the Father"?
- **Read John 15:26.** What is the significance that we are sent one who is both "the Advocate" and "the Spirit of truth."?
- Is the Holy Spirit available to non-believers? If not, how do they come to see the truth of a redeeming faith in Christ?

Start **sharing**. Choose a question to create openness.

- When the Holy Spirit is inside of us, our lives should be different than those without the Holy Spirit. Are there individuals in your life that you can clearly see God's presence in them? What does that look like? Can others see God's presence in your life?
- From Acts 1:8, the Holy Spirit empowers us to make His presence known in the world. How are you doing in letting others know about Christ? What are some practical ways that you can put this into practice this week?
- Clay said the Holy Spirit gives evidence of God's power by empowering, unifying, testifying, purifying, and convicting of sin. Have you experienced any of these roles of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- What part does the Holy Spirit play in your daily walk with God? How can we live a more vibrant life in the Spirit?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- This week, focus on allowing the Holy Spirit to convict and guide you in your faith walk.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Dear heavenly father, thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit as advocate, to dwell in us so that we may walk in truth, and be kept upright and obedient to your will. -Amen

Start **digging**. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

## Question: "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

**Answer:** There are many misconceptions about the identity of the Holy Spirit. Some view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force. Others understand the Holy Spirit as the impersonal power that God makes available to followers of Christ. What does the Bible say about the identity of the Holy Spirit? Simply put, the Bible declares that the Holy Spirit is God. The Bible also tells us that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, a being with a mind, emotions, and a will.

The fact that the Holy Spirit is God is clearly seen in many Scriptures, including Acts 5:3-4. In this verse Peter confronts Ananias as to why he lied to the Holy Spirit and tells him that he had "not lied to men but to God." It is a clear declaration that lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God. We can also know that the Holy Spirit is God because He possesses the characteristics of God. For example, His omnipresence is seen in Psalm 139:7-8, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there." Then in 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, we see the characteristic of omniscience in the Holy Spirit. "But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

We can know that the Holy Spirit is indeed a divine person because He possesses a mind, emotions, and a will. The Holy Spirit thinks and knows (1 Corinthians 2:10). The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). The Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27). He makes decisions according to His will (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. As God, the Holy Spirit can truly function as the Comforter and Counselor that Jesus promised He would be (John 14:16, 26, 15:26).

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