

OLG, Santa Fe, NM  
May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
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## Conocer quién es el Espíritu Santo

The Holy Spirit has many titles. For example, our Lord calls him “the Counselor.” Another translation has “Advocate.” Still others, “Consoler” or “Comforter.” ... each of these reveal to us the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

As Advocate or Counselor, he pleads our case before the Judge. The ancient Greek word means a legal attorney or counselor. Yet unlike a lawyer in this world, the Holy Spirit does not stand beside us to defend our case. Rather, the Holy Spirit dwells within us, as the soul of our souls. From within our deepest most intimate parts, he appeals to God on our behalf. Scripture reminds us that the Spirit is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

The Holy Spirit pleads our case in response to the devil, *the accuser*, who night and day accuses us before God as the book of the apocalypse tells us. The evil one tries to win our condemnation on the evidence of our sins.

In response, the Holy Spirit stands firmly on our side as our Advocate. He wins our acquittal on the power of Christ’s sacrifice, through the power of his precious blood, by which we have been redeemed and made the beloved children of God.

The holy spirit instructs us in the truth so that we can faithfully witness to Christ. He commands us what to say and, just as importantly, what not to say. He will give us the perfect words when we need to share them... but also keep us from foolishness that will hinder the gospel. Ask the Holy Spirit to guard your mouth if you find that to be difficult.

Our Lord in Matthew 10 describes Christian witness in just this way: *It is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

Most of all, the Holy Spirit is our Advocate in prayer. He prays from within us, bringing our prayers to our heavenly Father in his own voice. Romans 8 says, *It is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. He helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.* This is helpful when we lack confidence in our words. When our prayers feel weak because we are hurt or lost.

John 16 tells us The Holy Spirit is also *the Spirit of truth* (Jn 16:13). His comfort is greater than anything we could ever rely upon in this world. Why? because it is rooted in the truth. The Holy Spirit does not bring a false mercy or consolation. He will convict our hearts of every evil. He will not let us make a covenant with mediocre Christian living. Nor will the Holy Spirit allow us to be indifferent or accepting about the mortal sins of our brothers and children. But the spirit

will not allow us to be overcome by the lies of Satan that make us think our struggle with sin is hopeless. Where sin abounds, grace and mercy abound all the more!

Our Lord connects this consolation with being God's children. His words in John 14 "*I will not leave you desolate*" can also be translated "*I will not leave you as orphans.*" In the midst of the world's trials, the greatest comfort we have is that we are God's children.

Knowing who the Holy Spirit is — as advocate, defender against the assaults of the devil, teacher in the ways of righteousness, powerful partner in prayer, and source of true consolation makes us prepared for his coming. Soon he will be upon us again in power. Let's pray to Our lady to send us the Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit, come by means of the powerful intercession of the immaculate heart of Mary, your well beloved spouse. Come, Holy Spirit, Come!