

"Who is Your Comforter?"

Ellen White used the 1828 Noah Webster dictionary which we will use to look at the word **COMFORTER**, which is a noun and we find two definitions:

1. One who administers comfort or consolation; one who strengthens and supports the mind in distress or danger. **"I looked for comforters, but found none."** Psalm 69:20. **"Miserable comforters are ye all."** Job 16:2.
2. The title of the Holy Spirit, **"... whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, ..."** John 14:26.

The other word we want to look at that Jesus used in John 14:18 is **COMFORTLESS**, adverb meaning without comfort; without any thing to alleviate misfortune, or distress. **I will not leave you comfortless.** John 14:18. Now we really need to put sections of John 14 under the microscope.

John 14:1-3, **"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."** These 3 verses, without controversy, pertain to the future, physical, second coming of Jesus and have long been a great comfort to every sincere Christian.

John 14:6 **"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** Note - Jesus stated clearly that **"... no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** Jesus is the **only** compelling power that draws people to the Father. Definitely not a third being.

John 14:16-18. The scripture reads, **"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 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. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."**

Looking at verse 16 Jesus is telling His disciples that the Father shall give (future) them **another comforter**. You see while Jesus was there in His physical presence, He was their visible, physical comforter. He states that when He says, **"but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you"**. Then Jesus, referring to the future comforter that the Father will send tells them that, **"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."** Jesus is making a promise that He will not leave them without a comforter, His promise is that He will come to them. But how would He fulfill His promise to come to them and comfort them?

John 14:19-21 **"Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 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 to him."** Note - What did Jesus mean when He said He, **"I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."**?

This is the time that we must hear what God has said through His prophet: ***"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 be unseen by the world. They did not understand the meaning of a spiritual manifestation.” The Southern Work, September 13, 1898

John 14:22, 23 ***“Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 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.”*** Note - This would only be possible by that external omnipresent Holy Spirit of the Father and the Son, the only two Divine Beings in the Godhead.

Listen to how God’s prophet backs up that scripture, ***“By the Spirit the Father and the Son will come and make their abode with you.”*** BEcho, Jan 15, 1893, par. 8. (The Bible Echo)

“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 Note - What Ellen White believed and taught, was also believed and taught by our pioneers.

Here are two such statements: ***“The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God; it is also the Spirit of Christ. It is that divine, mysterious emanation through which they carry forward their great and infinite work.”*** — (Uriah Smith, *GC Bulletin*, March 18, 1891, pp. 146,147) Note - The word emanation in the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary is defined as that which issues, flows or proceeds from any source. Since the Father is the source of all that there is, and the fact that He gave His Son His external omnipresent Holy Spirit, which they share, the statements of Uriah Smith is undeniably true.

“Here we find that the Holy Spirit is both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ.” — (E.J. Waggoner, *Christ and His Righteousness*, p. 23, 1890)
Note - Waggoner backs up what Smith had written.

Continuing now with more quotes from God’s prophet, which makes it crystal clear as to Who our Comforter is: ***“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.”*** (Ellen G. White, 14 Manuscript Releases, p. 84)

“The Holy Spirit is the comforter, as the personal presence of Christ to the soul.” (Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*, November 29, 1892)
What else does the Servant of the Lord say?

“There is no Comforter like Christ, so tender and so true.” *Review & Herald*, Oct. 26, 1897.
And this, ***“The Savior is our Comforter. This I have proved Him to be.”*** Manuscript Releases, vol. 8, p. 49.

“These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, (future) he shall teach you all things (future), 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.” John 14:25-27

“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.” “I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; 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” [John 14:16, 17]. This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter. Again Jesus says, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth” [John 16:12, 13]. {14MR 179.2}

Note - What comfort would you receive from someone who was not made flesh, who was not tempted in all points like as we are, who is not able to succor us as we are tempted? That's not very comforting, is it? So, here is Jesus. He came to earth, lived for 33-1/2 years, experienced everything that we have to experience, and then left us and sent someone else to help us. I don't think so. Listen carefully to this next quote as it is very telling:

“The Lord is soon to come. We want that complete and perfect understanding which the Lord alone can give. It is not safe to catch the spirit from another. WE WANT THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST. If we commune with God, we shall have strength and grace and efficiency.” {Lt66-1894 (April 10, 1894) par. 18} Note - This quote tells us two very important things, #1. It is not safe to catch the Spirit from another (or believe in another being as the Holy Spirit) and #2 she so very clearly states that the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ. That's the testimony of Jesus speaking through His prophet. In order for Jesus to be with every believer, He would have to come in the personal presence and power of His Omnipresent Spirit.

Listen with your understanding to this next quote: **“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. The Holy Spirit is Himself (Jesus) 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.” {14MR 23.3}** Note - Each subsequent quote strengthens the previous quotes.

“While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth. He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20. While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.” {DA 166.2}

“Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.” John 14:28, 29. Note - This is very revealing scripture in that Jesus clearly states that His physical presence was being removed from them, however He is stating that He will come again to be with them. He was also telling them before it was to happen, so that when it happens they will believe. Jesus was not referring to His future second coming in visible, physical form. He spoke of something that would soon occur to the apostles, and that is Pentecost.

And God's prophet said: **“...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.**

“Henceforth through the Spirit, Christ was to abide continually in the hearts of the children.... All that Christ was to the disciples, He desires to be to His children today. {FLB 62.6}

“...Christ is present by his Holy Spirit....” RH 11.4.02

What did God’s Prophet mean when she referred to the Holy Spirit as the “Third PERSON of the Godhead”? There is no denying that Ellen White used the words 'third person' in her writings (providing those writings have not been altered and the words added by someone else). Notice that it is third person of and not in the Godhead, But instead of taking those little statements on their own, like many Adventist leaders do over and over again, we need to look at it in context to get a clear understanding of what was meant. Just like we do with the Bible. So, let us take a look at a couple of these statements Mrs. White made with reference to the Holy Spirit being a 'PERSON'. Here is one:

“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. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. 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. 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.” (Ellen White, Lift Him Up, p.191)

Note - Can you see IN CONTEXT what Mrs. White was saying? She was saying that this 'third person' of the Godhead is in fact the Spirit OF Jesus, which He received from the Father. And it is THAT Spirit OF Jesus, a 'divine power', which Ellen White relates as the 'third person'. But it is clearly not an actual separate being. It is the Spirit OF Christ, and by His Spirit we have His personal presence and power.

Here are some things we need to know about God’s prophet:

In all of the writings of Ellen G. White, there are 4 things she never did:

- #1. **She never referred to the Holy Spirit as a third *Being*.** That is where the confusion comes. People automatically think that the Holy Spirit has to be another Divine Being, rather than seeing Sister White meant the personal presence and power of Christ in His Omnipresence.
- #2. **She never used the four word phrase “God the Holy Spirit.”** Not even once in her over 25 million words, because she knew the Holy Spirit was not a third being.
- #3. **She never used the 3 word phrase “God the Son.”** For that matter, you will not find the phrase “God the Holy Spirit” or “God the Son” in the entire Bible either.
- #4. **She never said the Holy Spirit was a “separate and distinct” person from the Father and the Son.** This is very important to understand. In the many SOP quotes given by Ellen White using the words “separate and distinct” or “distinct and separate,” not once were they used regarding the Godhead. The majority of the time it was regarding God’s people being separate and distinct from the world.

Here is another quote regarding the third Person of the Godhead: ***"During the Jewish economy the influence of God's Spirit had been seen in a marked manner, but not in full. For ages prayers had been offered for the fulfillment of God's promise to impart His Spirit, and not one of these earnest supplications had been forgotten. Christ determined that when He ascended from this earth He would bestow a gift on those who had believed on Him and those who should believe on Him. What gift could He bestow rich enough to signalize and grace His ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. He determined to give His representative, the third person of the Godhead. This gift could not be excelled. He would give all gifts in one, and therefore the divine Spirit, that converting, enlightening, and sanctifying power, would be His donation. It came with a fullness and power, as if for ages it had been restrained, but was now being poured forth upon the church."*** (E. White, My Life Today, p. 36)

Please notice that Ellen White refers to the Holy Spirit a number of times as an 'it'. She would NEVER refer to a literal divine being as an 'it'. Never! Can you see? Mrs. White is telling us that this 'third person of the Godhead', again, is the Spirit OF God and Christ, but also that it is a 'divine POWER'. A converting POWER. It's not a literal separate being apart from God and Jesus. It is THEIR PERSONAL DIVINE OMNIPRESENT SPIRIT, which acts as a 'third power' of the Godhead. Their Holy Spirit is the third Person.

Here is something else to consider. If there were a third divine Being in the Godhead apart from the Father and Christ, shouldn't such a being be exalted? Here is what Ellen White has said in that matter.

"The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted." SD 58. If we are exalting a third God, we are violating God's first commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Here is one of the recently released formerly unpublished EGW writings:

"Jehovah, our Father, and His Son Jesus Christ are alone to be exalted. The knowledge of God is eternal life to those who receive it. His holy banner is to stand elevated above all the greatness of the greatest men, above all the honor and glory of the world." {Ms11-1898 (June 29, 1898) par. 11} Note - Two things I would like to point out about this quotation. If there were a third God called, "God the Holy Spirit," why then would He not be exalted as well. Next it says, "The knowledge of God is eternal life to those who receive it." God is giving us here in these messages, the correct understanding of the knowledge of God as believed by our pioneers, in order to dispel the false teaching of the trinity doctrine that has come into our ranks.

Right now, I want to get back to the original question in the title of today's sermon. **"Who is Your Comforter?"** I have shared a few of the quotes God has given us through His prophet Ellen White. There are many more, but here are three quotations about Christ being the Comforter:

"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....'" Ms. 7 (Jan. 26, 1902), par. 10. This quote comes from the newly-released, formerly-unpublished writings of Ellen White, which were released on the one-hundredth anniversary of her death and can be found at <https://egwwritings.org>.

“...Christ is everything to those who receive Him. He is their Comforter, their safety, their healthfulness....” LHU 221.

“...We adore God for His wondrous love in giving Jesus the Comforter.” 19MR 297.3

“There is no comforter like Christ, so tender and so true. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. His Spirit speaks to the heart.” AG 187.2

The scriptures are clear on this as we read in Romans 8:9:

“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.” Do you understand what Paul was teaching? He was certainly referring to the omnipresent Spirit of Christ, the Comforter. But if you reject the knowledge of Who the Comforter/Holy Spirit is, and if you say it is another third being instead of the Spirit of Christ, then Romans 8:9 says you are not Christs. You in effect are rejecting these awesome truths of the pure faith of the pioneers whom God taught, in favor of misguided intellectual philosophy.

Then Hosea 4:6 applies to those who reject the knowledge of God. **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.** You know that God is no respecter of persons, if you reject the true knowledge of the Godhead, it doesn't matter how much you have done for the Lord in the past, works won't save you. Satan's trap of getting people to embrace a three god trinity doctrine, regardless of the scenario, breaks the first commandment.

I am going to repeat a portion of a previous quote because God's people can never plead ignorance on the subject of the Godhead. **“Jehovah, our Father, and His Son Jesus Christ are alone to be exalted. The KNOWLEDGE OF GOD is ETERNAL LIFE to those who receive it.”** {Ms11-1898 (June 29, 1898) par. 11} So, what would it be to those who reject it? Eternal loss. But you get to decide. Messages of mercy will one day be heard no more.

Listen carefully to my next question. What is the reason that the Laodicean church is so weak and so sickly today? Could it be that the church embraces a third God that they have made their comforter? God's prophet provides the answer. R&H 8/26/1890, **“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 the one who reproveth, who warns, who admonishes them, saying, ‘This is the way, walk ye in it.’”** Review and Herald, August 26, 1890 par. 10.

So, what has the devil tried to do to weaken the churches? Shut Jesus from our view as the Comforter. In other words, he gives us another Comforter. This Comforter today goes by the name of “God the Holy Spirit,” a different individual to Christ, who is being exalted today when inspiration has warned us that **“Jehovah, our Father, and His Son Jesus Christ are alone to be exalted.”**

“Satan is not asleep; he is wide awake to make of no effect the sure word of prophecy.” {CCh 342.5}

We need to have this understanding correct for Satan would have us embrace the error as the major part of the church has done today. He has brought in the error stealthily and practically imperceptibly. He even has a major part of the denominational churches throwing out the Spirit of Prophecy.

Paul warned both the people of his time and God's end-time church in 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4 where he wrote: **"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."**

Who is your comforter?

AMEN.

Richard C. Vaughn