



July 23, 2023

***Abounding Grace: Belonging***  
***Another Helper***

John 14:6

**For Discussion and Reflection**

1. While the Westminster Confession does not have a direct statement about the Holy Spirit (excluding the 1903 additions that were rejected by some Reformed churches) it mentions the full deity of the Spirit in 2:3, and declares the Spirit as the person of the Godhead that actively accomplishes the decrees of God, especially what pertains to our salvation. What do you know about the Holy Spirit?
2. The Apostle Paul says that the Holy Spirit is our guarantee of our inheritance in Christ, Ephesians 1:13,14. He says we are sealed by and indwelt by the Spirit. What is he communicating to you about the nature of the presence of the Spirit?
3. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the source of our new life, but He is also the source of our new desires. Robert Dabney says, "Each gracious affection, in the believer, is a feeble reflex of the same affection existing in its glorious perfection in our Redeemer's heart." In other words, our growing love for Christ, our desire to obey, our love for others, etc., find their source in the affections of the Spirit of Christ who dwells within us and is renewing us. He enables and trains us to love what he loves and desire what he desires. How are you seeing those "feeble reflexes" of the Spirit in your life? What does it communicate to you?
4. The Apostle Paul says that we can "grieve" the Spirit who seals us. Notice first that the Spirit as a person can be grieved. Notice next that whatever grieves the Spirit doesn't eliminate his presence or sealing grace. But read the context and consider what grieves him, Ephesians 4:30. What grieves the Spirit?
5. What does the Apostle Paul say about the role of the Spirit in your life in Ephesians 3:14-19? Have you ever asked the Spirit to accomplish this in your life? How could this power of the Spirit change your life?
6. In the Old Testament, we see the Holy Spirit coming upon kings, prophets, priests, judges, musicians, artisans, etc. to empower them in their ministry for God. We dare not conclude that the Spirit wasn't present in every believer's life, because his life-giving work of regeneration and sealing has always been necessary. How do we then interpret Jesus words, in Acts 1:8? What is the specific purpose of this empowering work of the Spirit?
7. As we go through these texts, how is your understanding the Holy Spirit's presence and purpose growing? How does the presence of the Spirit help you know that you belong?
8. What steps can you take to grow in the grace of God?