

## The Revealing Advocate

The first mention of the Spirit in the Gospel of John takes place during an encounter between Jesus and John the Baptist. At the end of this meeting John states that he saw the Spirit come down on him (Jesus) like a dove from heaven, and rest on him. The word “rest” conveys the same meaning as the phrase “make our home” does in today’s gospel. It is a beautiful thought that the Father, Jesus and by inference the Spirit will come to us to make their home with us.

When we speak of the Father, Son, and Spirit abiding within us we are called to attune our thoughts and feelings to recognising the triune God at the heart of our being. Opening our minds to this reality brings with it many gifts and many insights. Primarily we are made aware of a dimension in our lives that is meta-physical, something about us that is beyond or outside the physical horizon of our senses. This comes to us as we search for meaning and purpose which ultimately draws us towards the fundamental questions of “how” and “why”. Our knowledge of the physical world can take us to the very core of understanding the “how” of our existence, but this knowledge does not necessarily assist us with the “why”. For us to explore that we have to gain insight into another aspect of our being.

As Christians we believe that this insight is revealed to us in the person of Jesus. In his humanity Jesus experienced the world with its cause and effect in exactly the same way as you and I experience it. This is necessary for his humanity to be real; in “emptying himself” he did not cling to his glory with the Father, but through his grace and truth he let that glory be shown in his life and in his death, and for this God raised him high. This is the insight that has been revealed for us and it is revealed through the action of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells us that the Spirit, which with the Father and the Son will make its home in us, will be the animator and catalyst of our desire for this revelation. The Spirit will disturb and agitate us. It will stir us up and disquiet us, make us restless and eager. The Spirit will ask us to question all aspects of our life and call on us to apply the grace and truth which Jesus has revealed into every nook and cranny of our being. And the Spirit will never stop doing this since the Spirit remains that restless wisdom which *was besides the master craftsman...ever at play in his presence*. Our lives then are to be lives which are aglow with that playfulness *in his presence*. If we believe that the indwelling of the Trinity in each one of us renders this possible then we must express that same playfulness as we live. What does this involve? Here is the answer: *If anyone loves me he will keep my word and my Father will love him*. I think that the “why” will only be settled when we have explored every aspect of what that phrase means and to do that we must turn to the Spirit, the Revealing Advocate who time after time and generation after generation has responded to the question by calling on us to turn to Jesus and by doing so be reminded of everything that he has said.