

Procession of the Holy Spirit, John 14:26; Ministries of the Holy Spirit: Teach & Recall; Historical Controversy over Procession, John 15:26

John 14:26 - But the Energizer/Mentor, namely the Holy Spirit ...

18. The next phrase is the innocent source of one of the greatest controversies in the history of the Church Age and one we will examine in detail at the conclusion of this verse: "Whom the Father will send in My name."
19. This statement indicates that the Holy Spirit is sent to the Church Age believer by God the Father. However, later in this same discourse, the Lord says in John 15:26, "When the Paraclete comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father."
20. The doctrine in dispute is the "procession" of the Holy Spirit. The word is **ἐκπορεύομαι, ekporeuomai** and means "to go forth out from." A theological debate broke out in the fifth century over the source of this procession. Did the Holy Spirit proceed to the believer only from the Father, or was the Spirit sent by both the Father and the Son?
21. We will examine this controversy later but in John 14:26 we establish that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father.
22. The initial function of the Holy Spirit will be to instruct the disciples in the revelation of divine thought, both by recalling the teachings of Christ and by supplementing these with additional information.
23. Between Pentecost and the completion of Revelation, the Holy Spirit made available to the disciples all they needed to know to properly function as evangelists and for some of them to function as pastor-teachers.
24. A still smaller number was designated as human authors of Scripture and given the task of putting into writing the precise revelation of God to believers of the Church Age.
25. To accomplish these several objectives the disciples/apostles/writers had to be taught and this was assigned to the Holy Spirit: the Paraclete, Who would energize and mentor these men by means of teaching and recall.
26. The word "teach" is the future active indicative of the verb: **διδάσκω, didaskō**: to teach or instruct and in this context it suggests direct revelation.

future:	Predictive: predicts an event which is expected to occur in future time and therefore prophetic of the Holy Spirit.
active:	The Holy Spirit will produce the action of teaching through personal instruction beginning at Pentecost and continuing throughout the Church Age.
indicative:	Declarative for the reality of the Holy Spirit's teaching ministry.
27. The Spirit's recall ministry is mentioned next with the future active indicative of the verb: **ὀπομιμνήσκω, hupomimnēskō**: to cause one to recall, remember, or bring to his mind.

John 14:26 - “But the Energizer/Mentor, namely the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things [**the specific information required for the disciples/apostles/writers to fulfill their duties beginning at Pentecost**], and will cause you to remember everything I said to you.”

28. Once the canon of Scripture was completed then the ministries of the Holy Spirit to the Church Age believer were diminished. The communication gifts of apostle, prophet, knowledge, and languages were all removed by A.D. 96. Only the gifts of evangelist and pastor-teacher remained and this circumstance will continue until the Rapture.
29. The ministries of the Holy Spirit of Energizer and Mentor are now made available exclusively to the spirit-filled believer.
30. The objective of these ministries is to develop a believer who is a spiritual sophisticate. One who possesses a clear understanding of the will of God with the capacity righteousness to serve God and glorify Christ to the maximum.
31. The Lord’s next occasion to mention the procession of the Holy Spirit is the source of much historical controversy and which continues to have its ramifications today:

John 15:26 - [NASB] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send [ἐγὼ plus πέμπω, *egō pempō*] to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds [ἐκπορεύομαι, *ekporeuomai*] from the Father, He will testify about Me,

v. 27 - and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

1. This verse begins with a temporal clause indicated by the conjunction ὅταν, *horan*, translated “when.” This indicates that what follows is the Lord’s revelation of a future event and is therefore prophetic.
2. The event will not begin until Pentecost but will continue throughout the Church Age: “When the Helper comes.” We have already established that the “Helper” is the Holy Spirit who energizes and mentors the disciples/apostles/writers/believers of the Church Age.
3. What these people will do is testify about Christ. The fulfillment of this prophecy is contingent upon the Holy Spirit being sent. While the Lord is present on earth during the Incarnation, He has the teaching authority.
4. However, once He ascends into heaven the world is left without an Energizer/Mentor. For ten days, between the ascension and session of Christ and Pentecost, the disciples are to await the arrival of the “other Paraclete.”
5. His arrival occurs at Pentecost, but it is contingent upon the actions of both Christ and the Father. Jesus says to the disciples, “I will send to you”: ἐγὼ πέμπω ὑμῖν, *egō pempō humin*.
6. This is a critical clause in the “procession controversy.” It begins with the first-person, personal pronoun ἐγὼ, *egō*, which refers to Jesus Christ Who is speaking. Thus Jesus is the subject of the statement. What follows is the future active indicative of the verb πέμπω, *pempō*: to send.

- future: Predictive: predicts an event which is expected to occur in future time and therefore prophetic of the procession of the Holy Spirit which will be initiated by the Lord on the Day of Pentecost.
- active: Jesus Christ produces the action of the verb. We are about to learn from this verse, as we have already observed from John 14:26, that the Father will do so as well.
- indicative: Declarative; reality of the correct biblical doctrine of procession.

7. This is followed by the dative plural indirect object: **ὑμῖν, *humin***. This is a dative of advantage; the procession of the Holy Spirit to Church Age believers will be a benefit to each and every one of them.

John 15:26 - "When the Energizer/Mentor comes, whom I [Jesus Christ] will send to you for your advantage ...

8. Participation in the procession of the Holy Spirit by God the Father is stated next by the prepositional phrase, "from the Father."
9. The preposition is the ablative of source of **παρά, *para***, translated "from," and followed by the definite article **τοῦ, *tou*** plus the proper noun **Πατήρ, *Patēr***, translated, "the Father."

John 15:26 - "When the Energizer/Mentor comes, whom I will send to you for your advantage from the source of the Father ...

10. The Holy Spirit's ministry is amplified next by an appositional phrase. It starts with the appositional nominative of the noun **Πνεῦμα *Pneuma*** followed by the descriptive genitive of **ἀλήθεια, *alētheia***: the Spirit of Truth.
11. This phrase corresponds to and further defines the ministry of the Holy Spirit and becomes His operational title. The "Spirit of Truth" is a metonymy, a figure of speech that replaces the name of one thing with the name of something else closely associated with it.
12. In John 14:26 we learned that the Holy Spirit will teach and bring to their remembrance all of the things the Lord said to the disciples. These assets are also true for every Church Age believer.
13. The metonymy, "Spirit of Truth," indicates the basis of the Spirit's communication. The Greek word *alētheia* is translated "truth." But as Pontius Pilate quizzed the Lord, "What is truth?"
14. First of all, truth is absolute and what is absolute is complete in itself and unconditional. It is a permanent concept that exists independently of any other cause or arbitrary standard. It has no restriction, exception, or qualification, and is therefore immutable.
15. An absolute may be a principle such as a mathematical formula, or a standard, such as a biblical commandment.
16. Truth must correspond with reality, for example 2 times 2 is 4. To say 2 times 2 is 5 is untrue because what is true is unalterable and thus immutable, therefore 2 times 2 is eternally 4.
17. The absolute principle is 2 times 2 equals 4. Since this corresponds with reality then it is true.

18. The Bible is the ultimate source of absolute principles regarding the plan of God, such as “God created the heavens and the earth.” If the first thing the Holy Spirit reveals in the Bible is not true, then we can’t trust anything else He discloses from that point forward.