

**"...The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." (From Romans 8:15 NIV)**

In deliverance we see so much hurt in people's lives from family not being what they should be, *and being what they should not be*. And think about friends; when the people that have committed to being there for us—aren't, it hurts! You thought you could trust them, but they don't show up or even acknowledge you. They neglect and are indifferent to your relationship with them. Are we like this to *our* Holy Spirit?

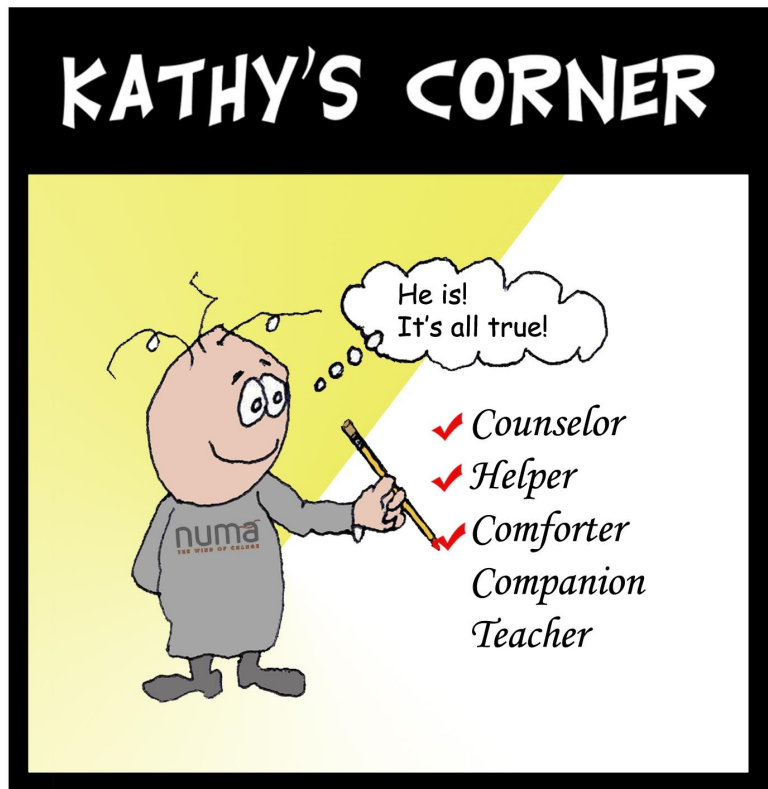
It feels funny to me to even use the word *our* in front of the Holy Spirit, but why should it? We refer to God the Father as our Father and my Father; we refer to

Jesus as our Savior and my Savior. He is our Holy Spirit and my Holy Spirit. He is as personal a gift as any from our Father. **"And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago."** (Ephesians 1:13 NLT) He is a good and perfect gift, a constant companion Who is always there for us. He invites us to, "Follow Me," as Jesus did His disciples.

"Follow Me—accompany Me on the road." We don't journey alone—ever! But also, following means He is in front leading. Following is a choice. In the Word we are told that a disciple must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Him. We are told we must count the cost. Jesus is our forerunner and leader in this. The cross is a choice to do God's will no matter what! As human beings we all have burdens we must bear, responsibilities. A cross is not the same thing. A cross is choosing God's will over my will even when it may come to being misunderstood, mocked, rejected, insulted, despised, abandoned by the very ones you love. Jesus poured out His all—His blood and His body broken for us. He wanted us to remember this. Before He did this He had told His disciples, **"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."** (John 14:18 NIV)

**"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."** (John 7:38-39 NIV)

When we look at each other, our church family, do we recognize that each is a carrier of our Holy Spirit. Our Holy Spirit is developing and expanding His life in and through them and us. What they have is as valuable as what we have. We all possess what can make a difference—a very positive difference *wherever we are led*. We are vessels to carry the light, our Holy Spirit who shines in the darkness. Jack Hayford wrote in reference to the Holy Spirit, **"But it seemed as though the Lord were showing me something; that the intensity of today's times required my expanding His fullness all the more: "Let the *entheos*, the Spirit-fullness already in you increase and abound!"** (*The Power and Blessing*) This book was written years ago. How much more intense are the times today!



“Rivers of living water” is the Holy Spirit who brings times of refreshing into and flowing out of us. His all-mightiness in and through us as we allow Him to flow; He will flow. He will counsel us, comfort us, lead us into all truth, cause us to bear fruit—the reproduction of His character in us through the fruit of the Spirit, and cause reproduction of His mightiness—His acts as in the book by that name, **as we allow His leadership**. Philip did (evangelized the eunuch). Stephen did (becoming a martyr as He didn’t cower but proclaimed the One he knew). John and Peter (in their healing miracle outside the temple). These are just a drop in the bucket of all the Holy Spirit accomplishes through those who are led by Him. To God be the glory!

The disciples were students. Maturity took time. They did not yet have the Holy Spirit in them until much later. They did have Jesus and the words he spoke. They had to *hear* the word in a way that they allowed it to make a change in them. We want, even long, to be led by the Spirit, but we cannot be led by a voice we cannot *hear*. Faith comes by hearing, and *hearing* by the Word—the word of God. Both faith and hearing are by the Word. Let the Author of the Book, our Holy Spirit, reveal His word to you. His voice that we long to hear is the word of God. The Holy Spirit breathed it into its written form. He will breathe it into life in your spirit. The life is the light of men.