

The Bridge to Grace

Jesus is the bridge that brings Muslims to a saving knowledge of Him



Muhammad and the Bible The Paraclete

My dear Muslim friends,

In the name of our most Precious Heavenly Father, I bring this topic to you in the spirit of love. May the eyes of your understanding be enlightened. Amen

Muslims say, “Muhammad is mentioned in the Bible, being referred to as The Comforter.” In the gospel of John, chapter 14, verse 16, Jesus said, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.” Muslims claim that Christians misinterpreted the Greek word paraclete, or paracletos, when referring to the Helper, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, when in fact, they say, it means Muhammad. They say this cannot be, because the Holy Spirit was already present in the times of the Old Testament. Some Islamic scholars go so far as to say that the Greek word was actually periklytos, meaning the praised one, which would be Ahmad, or Muhammad. Let’s investigate these theories.

It is true that the Spirit of God was present since the beginning of time, and Genesis 1 backs up that claim, which Muslims do not dispute. The second verse states, “and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

The Hebrew word in the above verse in Genesis is ruach, which translated means breath, life, or spirit. The Greek word for Spirit is pneuma. All through the Old Testament, from Genesis to Malachi, God would give freely of His Spirit to men of that time for specific reasons, but mostly for prophesying. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit was also given to certain men for certain special purposes, that is, until Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in a new manner, for all who believe, which we will discuss later. Throughout the Bible, breath and wind are symbols of the Holy Spirit.

In Genesis 41:38 we see the power of God in the life of Joseph, Isaac’s grandson, when Pharaoh said, “Can

we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?” In Exodus 31 and again in chapter 35, Bezalel, from the tribe of Judah, is “filled with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,” as it was God’s intention to use his artistic abilities in the building of the tabernacle.

Numbers 11:25-26 states, “then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him (Moses), and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.” In this case, Moses needed assistance in handling the daily needs of the multitudes of the twelve tribes of Israel.

There are numerous occasions in the Old Testament when the Spirit of God would assist one of His elect. Samson was blessed with the Spirit of the Lord upon him, which enabled him as a young boy to kill a lion and to defeat the giants of the Philistines. King David was blessed with the Spirit of the Lord in 1 Samuel 19, yet at that same time, God’s Spirit was taken from Saul when he rebelled against Him and planned to destroy David, God’s chosen.

During these times, the Spirit of God was available only to a select few for a specific purpose, and not to the congregation of people at large.

In the New Testament, which was written mostly in Greek, we have a new word. In the above passage, John 14:16, Jesus promised that a Helper would come. He said in the same chapter, verse 26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” This Helper, or Comforter, in Greek, is Parakletos, the Paraklete. The Hebrew word for comforter is nacham. There is no such word in the Greek language called periklytos.

The Greek name for “the praised one,” or “one who is praised,” is Aeneas, derived from the word ainein, meaning to praise, and not periklytos as is claimed by Muslim scholars. In Greek mythology, Aeneas was the son of Aphrodite and a Trojan hero. This obviously refutes claims that the word Paraclete is referring to Muhammad.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:25, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” According to Muslims, Jesus is a prophet of God, and as such, he cannot lie. If He cannot lie, and He stated that His words will not pass away, then His words are truth and should be believed, one and all.

In the Old Testament book of Joel 2:28-29, the author prophesied, “and it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My **Spirit** on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall **prophesy**, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

Jesus continued to say in John 14:17 “ - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” If Muhammad was invisible, then I could understand your point that perhaps this verse refers to him.

Also, if this verse is speaking about Muhammad, then it would be saying that Muhammad lives inside of every Christian. Muhammad was a human, nothing more. He cannot live inside of another human being, but the Spirit of God certainly can and does.

The author of the Book of Acts, Luke, recorded in Chapter 1 the account that happened, just as Jesus promised. The author said, “John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Chapter 2:4 of Acts announces, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...”

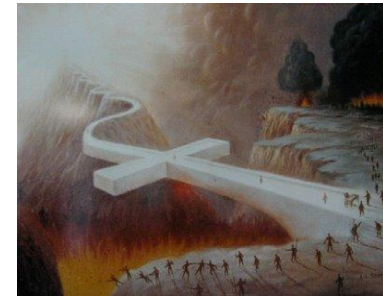
Jesus said of the Holy Spirit in John 16:8-14, “and when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

Who is the Holy Spirit? He is one of the three persons of God, a third part of the Trinity, which includes The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. These verses tell us that the Holy Spirit comes to guide us into all truth, to convict us of our sins, and to glorify Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:10 says that, “the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” And 1 Corinthians 3:16 shows us that the Spirit of God lives in us who **believe**. “Do you know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

How do we know we have the Spirit of God within our lives? John 4:24 states, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Galatians 5:22 tells us how our hearts will change once the fruit of the Spirit begins to take root in our lives. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

“There is one body and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and **in you all**.”
Ephesians 4:4-6



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Sharing the Truth in love!

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6

Due to space constraints, please study on your own, read, open your heart and pray that God will give you understanding. Underlined words are key words that can be more deeply studied.