

Paraclete
(PAR-AK'-LAY-TOS)
"COMFORTER"

*"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter,
that He may abide with you forever."
~John 14:16*

The Greek word for ⁽¹⁾_____ is Parakletos, from which we have ⁽²⁾_____. ⁽³⁾_____ is composed of two words: ⁽⁴⁾_____, which means ⁽⁵⁾_____, and ⁽⁶⁾_____, meaning ⁽⁷⁾_____. Paraclete is "one who is called ⁽⁸⁾_____", or "one who is called to ⁽⁹⁾_____".

Illustration: ⁽¹⁰⁾_____ represents the one who is ⁽¹¹⁾_____. Unable to plead successfully before judges, another is called to intercede on his behalf and help the ⁽¹²⁾_____. The ⁽¹³⁾_____ of help is referred to as an ⁽¹⁴⁾_____. (1 John 2:1)

The name ⁽¹⁵⁾_____ is used only once, but the same Greek word is translated in four other references as ⁽¹⁶⁾_____. (John 14:16, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7)

These three titles are representative of the truth of ⁽¹⁷⁾_____, but each manifests a unique truth concerning the ministry of God our Comforter.

Background – John 13:33, 14:1-18: In John's Gospel, the account is given concerning "another Comforter" (John 14:16), and two great truths are quickly seen:

1. By the use of the word "another," the Lord Jesus implied that "HE" is the *other* Comforter.
2. By the use of the word "another," the Lord Jesus is acting as that Comforter by relating to the disciples that He will provide them with comfort, even in His absence (While He is unveiling this truth, He is fulfilling it!)

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There is an additional revelation in this truth of *another Comforter* that carries a two-fold significance:

1. Another of the same kind.
2. Another of a different kind.

Which is it?

The word has a root meaning “*in the same likeness*”, or “*mirror image*.” It does not mean “*unique*,” which could be interpreted “*another*.” The context as well as the etymology clarifies this great truth. He who comforts will comfort, whether present or absent. He will comfort! Now that is a Comforter, and that is a comfort! (*Acts 9:31, 2 Corinthians 1:4*)

The word for comfortless means ⁽¹⁸⁾ _____ or ⁽¹⁹⁾ _____. (*John 14:18*) It is also translated ⁽²⁰⁾ _____. The promise itself was of great comfort. The Lord Jesus was leaving, but He was not leaving them alone! He was providing One who would be as He, and continue in His absence. They would not become *orphans*.

Illustration: Identical twins – inseparable characteristics.

When Jesus made the promise, He was mindful of His departure. And He certainly had ⁽²¹⁾ _____ in view. But, He was also mindful of “*another Comforter*,” for He also had ⁽²²⁾ _____ in view! The disciples certainly evidenced the fulfillment of this great promise in Acts 9:31. They ministered in the ⁽²³⁾ _____ of the Holy Ghost, and they were mindful of His presence and His encouragement in their trials. He is The Comforter. (*2 Corinthians 1:3-7*)

The Greek word ⁽²⁴⁾ _____, He is “*the counsel for the defense*.” The word rendered ⁽²⁵⁾ _____ (*1 John 2:1*) was used by John through the Holy Spirit to identify Christ as our intercessor in heaven, then used by the Lord to describe Himself while on earth. (*Luke 22:31-32*)

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⁽²⁶⁾ _____ then, is a term used to identify "one who comes forward in favor of and as a representative of another." He ministers, counsels with the *cle* or the one called.

⁽²⁷⁾ _____ then, pleads the case before the judge! He represents the *cle* or the one called before the "Seat."

Note: The difference in the name may in some measure explain the difference in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit ⁽²⁸⁾ _____ in our hearts, producing *comfort* or *conviction*. This is the *counsel* of God, guiding His children.

2. The Lord Jesus ⁽²⁹⁾ _____ in heaven, and, thus *advocates* our cause before the throne and against the accuser of the brethren.

If we do sin, our *Advocate* pleads the shed blood of Jesus Christ on our behalf! He ever liveth to make *intercession* for us. (*Hebrews 7:25*)

We have two divine Advocates:

1. One within, the Holy Spirit.
2. One above, the Lord Jesus Christ.

As *Para-cle*, He is our *Counselor*, but as our *Advocate*, He pleads for us. *Para-cle*: He speaks to us; *Advocate*: He speaks for us.

Illustration: When we are in trouble about a matter of the law, we should first require the opinion of a ⁽³⁰⁾ _____ to make our case clear (*Proverbs 12:15; Psalm 16:7*). Then an ⁽³¹⁾ _____ would be necessary to plead our case (*Job 16:21*). To plead our own case would be foolish. (*Job 9:2-4*) A good attorney-advocate is familiar with the ways of the law and the court, is familiar with our cause, and is able to take our case. (*Isaiah 59:1*) We are privileged to be represented by the Lord Jesus who pleads our case. (*Lamentations 3:58*)

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Herbert Lockyear reminds us of the qualifications of "he who ever lives to make intercessions for us." (Hebrews 7:25)

1. He must be wise in the ways of the court of judicature – our heavenly advocate most certainly is. (Colossians 2:3)

2. He must belong to the Law, which is the rule for Him to practice – Christ satisfied the law for us by His death (Galatians 3:13, 4:4) and likewise fulfilled the Law for us by His obedience. (Romans 5:19)

3. He must have the judge's ear more than others, having full authority to speak, which Jesus has. (John 11:42) The ground of His pleading is Calvary, which gives Him prevailing power with the judge of all the earth.

4. He must be careful to keep up the honor of the judge, to prevent any contempt of court. In His high-priestly prayer of John 17, our heavenly advocate illustrated this in truth.

Because of all they are in themselves, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are alone qualified to intercede in and for us, and they are our only intercessors (1 Timothy 2:5).

We have only one ⁽³²⁾ _____ in the presence of God, "the Lord Jesus Christ", and the Father listens intently for our plea presented on our behalf by the Advocate above inspired by the Advocate below.

We have one who ever lives to make intercessions for us. He is alongside those who are called ⁽³³⁾ _____. Consoling the troubled heart by guiding us in "truth" through God's Word. (John 14:2) In His absence, we find instead of sorrow or abandonment, "another Comforter." (John 16:7)

A COMPLETE COMFORT – HERE BELOW, THERE ABOVE!

Paraclete

PARACLETE ANSWER KEY

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Comforter | 15. Advocate | 29. Pleads for us |
| 2. Paraclete | 16. Comforter | 30. Counselor |
| 3. Paraclete | 17. The Comforter | 31. Advocate |
| 4. Clete | 18. To desert | 32. Advocate |
| 5. Called | 19. To leave desolate | 33. Paraclete |
| 6. Para | 20. Orphaned | 34. Represent |
| 7. Along with | 21. Calvary | 35. Reveal |
| 8. Along with another | 22. Pentecost | 36. Remind |
| 9. Another's aid | 23. Comfort | 37. Remit |
| 10. Clete | 24. Paraclete | 38. Prayer partner |
| 11. Called | 25. Advocate | 39. Teacher |
| 12. Clete | 26. Paraclete | 40. There |
| 13. Para | 27. Advocate | |
| 14. Advocate | 28. Pleads with us | |