

What Child is This?
A Wonderful counselor
John 14:16-26

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Introduction: Isaiah 9:6 is the background for this series of messages throughout the Christmas season. Isaiah prophesied about Jesus, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**. I believe that God intends that we experience all that Jesus intends to be in our lives. So, for the next four weeks, we are going to consider each of these descriptions in turn. The first designation is “Wonderful Counselor.” Now, perhaps a word is in order about the putting together of the words Wonderful and Counselor. Some of the translations of the Bible have a comma separating the two words, thus leading some to see these as separate titles. I believe that the words should be taken together as are all the other phrases in this verse.

To help us to understand each of these titles, we will turn to another passage of Scripture. Today, we turn to John 14:16-26.

Text: **16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— **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. **18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. **19** “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. **20** At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. **21** He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” **23** Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. **24** He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me. **25** “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. **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.

Who is This Wonderful Counselor?

- John 14:6 refers to the Holy Spirit as the (in Greek) *paracletos*. This Greek word comes from two Greek words. **Para** which means alongside of and **Kaleo** which means to call. Put these two words together and we discover that the Holy Spirit is the one who has been called alongside of us.

How Does the Holy Spirit Serve as our Wonderful Counselor?

3 Ways:

1. **Godly People**

- Psalm 1:1 “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.”

This verse in Psalm gives us a progression of what happens when we rely on the wisdom of the world. First, we walk with them, then we stand with them, then we sit with them. The reverse can be true as well. The more we are around the counsel of Godly people, the more likely we are to be influenced by their wise and Godly counsel.

You need to build people around you either in either a very organized way or a spontaneous way who will be honest with you—who will tell you that they disagree with you and lovingly give you counsel.

2. **God's Word**

Even as necessary as Godly people are in your life, there is something greatly more important. That is God's Word.

- Psalm 19:7-8
 - The law of the Lord is perfect.
 - The testimony of the Lord is sure.
 - The precepts (statues) of the Lord are right.
 - The commandment of the Lord is pure.
- Psalm 119:105
 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching.

3. **God Himself**

In addition to Godly people and God's Word, we have God, Himself. With God, we see that...

- No Appointment is necessary (John 14:16)
- He is Able to empathize with our weaknesses. (Hebrews 4:15)

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

- He has All Knowledge (Romans 11:34)

34 *"For who has known the mind of the LORD?
Or who has become His counselor?"*

How Should We Respond to the Wonderful Counselor?

1. Get to know Him (John 14:17)

We get to know Him by spending time with Him in worship, in prayer, in Bible reading. You cannot wait to get to know Him when the crisis comes. Get to know Him before the crisis.

2. **Trust Him (John 14:18)**

3. **Listen to His Counsel (John 16:13)**

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.