

Exaudi 2026

Jesus ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. There, he shares the same throne as God, because he is God. He is at his right hand, which means that he consults with him. He shares everything with him. And yet, he now does so as a true man. There, at the right hand of God is the man Jesus Christ. Our human nature now shares in the splendor of God's eternal glory forever.

The prophet Isaiah asks, "Who has directed the LORD's Spirit, or who was his advisor to instruct him" (Is 40:13)? The prophet Jeremiah asks (Jer 23:18), "Who has sat in the counsel of the LORD?" The answer: The man, Jesus Christ. The Son of God and Child of Mary remains true God and true man at the Father's right hand.

The right hand of God is the counsel of God. It is his glory. It is his throne. It is his power over all things. No one can share this glory with him. Only his Son and his Holy Spirit who proceeds from him. In other words, only God can share God's glory. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, whom he calls the Comforter. But he doesn't send him while he is still on earth. Instead, he first ascends to the right hand of the Father. From there, he sends the Holy Spirit. From there, he directs the very Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father.

Only the Spirit of God can tell the truth about God. Only the Spirit of God can reveal what God's plan is. Jesus therefore tells his disciples, "He will bear witness about me." In other words, "He will tell the truth about me."

This is why Jesus calls him the Comforter. He is the Counselor from the throne of God. He knows the very thoughts of the Father, because he proceeds from the Father. He is eternal God with the Father and the Son. He therefore comes to us in his Word to declare this saving truth from God.

But what is this truth? It is that the Son of God, who is the pure Wisdom of God, the Creator of all things, whose mind no one can know, whose ways and thoughts are higher than ours even more so than heaven is higher than earth – that this eternal God of all has become flesh, born of a Virgin, suffered for our sins, and has reconciled poor sinners to the living God. This great truth, which no man could ever think up, the Holy Spirit now reveals to simple mortal people like you and me.

The Holy Spirit tells the truth about Jesus who remains true God and true man at the Father's right hand. He remains the one who was born of the Virgin Mary and suffered under Pontius Pilate. He remains the one who was obedient in the place of all sinners, who made full satisfaction for our sins, and was raised from the dead. He remains the one who was bruised for our iniquities and whose blood washes us clean from sin. He remains true God and true Man forever.

This is why Jesus says to his disciples, “And you will bear witness too.” In other words, “You also will tell the truth.” Here, Jesus puts the eternal witness of God’s Spirit of Truth into the mouths of men. They were with him from the beginning of his ministry, and now the Holy Spirit has spoken through them. That which was hidden in God from eternity is now revealed. It is God’s peace and favor toward mankind.

In other words, God is letting us poor, sinful humans into his counsel. He comforts us with the very truth that only he could give. What man could think of such things, that the God of the universe would come into human flesh, suffer the misery of our sin, and pay the debt we owed him?

About a month ago I was sitting next to a Muslim on an airplane, and I explained to him what the Bible says about God. God can’t change. God remains one and undivided. So far, he agreed with him. I then explained that the Bible also speaks of God as having a Son, and since God cannot be divided, the Son of God is also God. God remains one. God has a Spirit, and since God cannot be changed or divided, the Spirit is also God. God remains one. The Muslim man looked at me like I was crazy, and I told him that it is beyond our understanding. Don’t you agree that God is beyond our understanding? He remains one eternal God, right? The Muslim agreed even though he was still troubled by the concept of the Trinity. But it was when I began to speak of the incarnation, that God passed through the womb of a woman, that he was not ashamed to claim our flesh and blood, that he willingly bore our sin and misery and death and condemnation – it was at this point when my airplane companion was the most perplexed. Even though we were having a cordial conversation, he couldn’t hide his disgust and utter disapproval at such a thought.

Why? Because he’s a Muslim? No, but because he’s a human. He relies on his human reason. He could never have thought of such a remarkable story. God is too great to join himself to mankind and suffer in our flesh. At least that is what our reason thinks. We can’t comprehend it. But this wonderful truth is what the Spirit of Truth declares. It’s the message he brings straight from the throne of God, at the command of Christ the Son. This wonderful message is preached among us from the words and pens of the apostles. And while the world takes it as merely the testimony of man, the Holy Spirit reveals that it is nothing other than the Word of God himself.

This is what our Lord gives us from his ascension into heaven. He gives us the Truth. He gives us what no man can grasp with his reason. And in that Truth, he is with us. He is with us in his body and blood. I never got to tell my Muslim companion about the fact that we actually eat the Lord’s body and blood in the bread and the wine. The flight was only an hour long. But this is the witness the Holy Spirit gives. It is the testimony from God’s eternal court, what no eye can see. The Spirit of Truth comes to us poor humans, because

a human sent him. The God-Man, Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of the Father, sent him to us.

Jesus told his disciples beforehand that he would send to them the Spirit of Truth. He told them beforehand so that they would not fall away when things got rough. Those who don't know God cannot accept the testimony of God's Spirit. This is why many would persecute and attack the disciples. They were kicked out of the synagogues and murdered. People thought they were serving God when they did such things to the disciples. They thought they were defending God's honor. How dare you say that God would subject himself to such humiliation and shame! How dare you say that God would become a man, suffer, and die! These were the thoughts of those who attacked Christ's disciples. But they didn't know God. They were blind and deaf to what was in God's heavenly court.

But we know, because the Spirit of Truth has revealed it in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We know that the sinful nature brings nothing but death and condemnation. We know that we can find no lasting peace and comfort in this world. My Muslim companion on the plane was complaining about all the war and division in the world. I agreed with his complaint, and I pointed to the fact that we are all born and conceived sinful. But he couldn't grasp what I was saying. The world can identify sin as far as it can observe sin. But the world is blind to the deep corruption of sin, which only the Holy Spirit can reveal.

But the Holy Spirit also reveals the great answer to that problem. He bears witness to the truth of Christ who suffered and died for all sinners, reconciling all people to the living God.

We need to realize this. The truth of the gospel is not common knowledge. Many of your own neighbors have never even thought about it. Sure, they've heard of Jesus. But do they know what he did for them? Do they know what he rescued them from? The Holy Spirit gives you this precious truth, and he gives you opportunities to confess it to those around you.

But you especially need to remember that your own sinful flesh knows nothing of this Truth. Your old Adam, which is still hanging around your neck, continues to rely on its own human thoughts. When you fall into sin, your human reason will try to find some kind of comfort somewhere, but it will never lead you to the cross and empty tomb of the Son of God. It will never lead to you to your baptism. It will only leave you wondering if you have done enough.

Jesus sends his Holy Spirit from his heavenly throne so that we would have hope as we live in this dying world. We can't rely on our own thoughts. We can't even rely on our own witnessing. God knows that we often fail to take the opportunities to talk about his saving Truth. This is why Jesus sends us the Spirit from the Father. He sends us the comfort and assurance, which none of our own restless thoughts and actions can give. The Man Jesus

Christ, the Son of the eternal Father, lives for us. He intercedes for us. He remains our righteousness, our redemption from sin, and our eternal Advocate before the Father.

So take comfort in this Truth. Confess it. Rest in it. Live in it. When the devil, the world, and your own sinful nature attack it, just remember that Jesus told you that would happen. But his words remain with you. And his Spirit continues to intercede for you with groaning too deep for words. He is the Spirit of Truth. And the Truth always sets you free. In Jesus name, Amen.