

MY HELPER #16
THE SPIRIT LIKE A DOVE

Genesis 8⁶ After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth.⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground.⁹ But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark.¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark.¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth.¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. NIV

I. A SYMBOL for the Holy Spirit being like a dove may be found in the nature of the dove.

A. Gentle- the gentle disposition of the dove is that the **bird has no gall**

B. Peaceful and harmless- it is seen as having an olive branch in its mouth.

C. Conjugal love- **it lives in strictest monogamy, never desiring another mate.** Perhaps the bridegroom had that thought in mind when he said of his bride, ". . . thou hast doves' eyes . . ." (Song of Solomon 4:1)

Just as the dove has eyes for its mate only, **so the Christian (the bride of Christ) has an eye single to Christ and to His glory.** Is it not true that we become like that which fills our vision and we reflect that which is set before our faces? If we are looking at the world and the flesh then we shall reflect that image.

2 Corinthians 3¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. NKJ

D. Innocent- The dove was the sacrifice offered by the poor.

E. Timid, easily frightened or grieved

II. The **SEARCHING** of the dove.

He is seeking “a place to land”

A. After the **creation**

The Holy Spirit is “hovering” over the waters that have covered the earth.

Genesis 1² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

B. After the **flood.**

⁹ But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark.

Finding no rest for its foot, he returns to Noah and the ark.

The raven did not return but feeds on the carrions it finds. It is like the carnal heart that feeds on the things of the world. The dove will not feed on dead things.

III. The **SETTLING** of the dove.

The doves were sent out 3 times.

1st flight- He flew over an earth that had been judged.

2nd flight- He returns with an olive branch in his mouth that indicates now we have peace with God.

3rd flight- He does not return to the ark. He must have found a place to land.

A. He settles on JESUS.

John 1 ³² Then **John** gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.” NIV

It is Jesus that the Holy Spirit points to.

John 16 ¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴ **He shall glorify me:** KJV

B. He settles on the CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

Before Jesus left he spoke this to his disciples:

John 14 ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth.

Before Jesus ascend into the heavens he knows that the Father is going to send the Dove....

Acts 1 ⁸ But you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit comes on you;**

I hear the sound of the Doves wings in Acts 2 as he comes upon the church the way he did Jesus.

Acts 2 ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and **came to rest on each of them.** ⁴ All of them were filled with the

Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. NIV

Will you allow the Holy Spirit to “settle on you”.
Will you be a resting place for the Spirit?