

A Nice Walk
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I enjoy taking walks. One thing I enjoy about hunting is simply being outside, enjoying the beauty of being in the woods. Sometimes, it is nice to get out by yourself and simply listen to the sound of the wind through the trees. You can sit in the warm sunshine and look at the myriad colors in the woods as the trees put on their fall colors.

Some of my favorite walks in the woods are when my wife and I stroll through a trail in the woods together. We enjoy holding hands and just wandering along at a leisurely pace. We have nowhere to go and nothing to do except enjoy being together with each other and looking at the scenery around us.

While we are walking, we love to talk about things. Sometimes, we will talk about our hopes and dreams for the future. Other times we talk about our fears and uncertainties. We may discuss our hopes for our children and grandchildren. We talk and we also listen.

There is someone else we can talk with while we walk. He also listens and speaks to us, as well. This person is called the *paraclete*. This is a Latin word meaning “one who walks along side.” It is one of the names the Bible gives to the Holy Spirit. It expresses that one role of the Holy Spirit is to walk along side us. He keeps us headed in the right direction, if we will listen to Him.

It also indicates that as we walk along, we can talk to Him. He listens to our hopes and dreams, or fears and uncertainties, and our daily struggles. He listens to us quietly, as a dear friend. After we have expressed our thought to Him, He takes these things before God. The Bible says that He expresses our requests to God in “groanings and utterings” beyond words.

I have come to know what this means. There have been times that I have been with someone who has experienced a terrible loss. I grieve with them, but there simply aren't the words to say. Sometimes, I have even expressed to them that I wished there were adequate words. They understand. Sometimes, it is enough to know that someone else simply knows and feels it with us.

The Holy Spirit does this. He knows how we feel because He lives within us. He feels it with us. But He doesn't stop there. He expresses our hurt and our feelings to God and then brings us comfort. This is another role of the Holy Spirit. He is to serve as our comforter. He enables us to make it through very difficult times with the strength and presence of God.

If you are not already doing so, I would encourage you to begin taking a walk on a regular basis with the *paraclete*. Let Him walk along beside you and talk with you. Enjoy the company of One who wants to be with you and will offer you guidance, companionship and comfort. You will find that it can be some of the best time you spend walking.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.