



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther
The Creed, the Second Chief Part: The Gospel
Explanation of the Third Article

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

If you are asked, "What do you mean by the words, 'I believe in the Holy Spirit?'" you can answer, "I believe **that the Holy Spirit makes me holy**, as His name implies." How does He do this? By what means? Answer: "Through the Christian Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." In the first place, he has a unique community in the world. It is **the mother that begets and bears every Christian** through the Word of God. **The Holy Spirit reveals and preaches that Word, and by it He illumines and kindles hearts so that they grasp and accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it.** – Martin Luther, *Large Catechism*, II, 40-42.

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE - JOHN 16:5-15

"Now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. **It is to your advantage that I go away**; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, **He will**

convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; **of righteousness**, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; **of judgment**, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" – **Ephesians 4:4-6**

