John 5:26 says, "When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father – He will testify about Me." John 5:26 tells us quite emphatically that the Holy Spirit is a person. When Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit, Jesus tells us not only who the Holy Spirit is but what the Holy Spirit does. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father. It is important in our prayer life, or rather it can be important if you are able to see the Holy Spirit as a person. The Holy Spirit is an ever-present reality that is always available to those who will acknowledge Him in their prayer life. The Holy Spirit is the presence of Jesus Christ in the world today. If we are to experience Jesus in the world today, it is first and foremost through the presence of the Holy Spirit who testifies to the present reality of Jesus Christ's presence.

It is helpful to see the Holy Spirit as God. Not the Spirit of God, but God. Not the power of God, but God. The Holy Spirit is God, and because the Holy Spirit is God, the Holy Spirit can act and perform like God. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit only does what He sees the Father doing. The Holy Spirit only does what Jesus did. **John 16:13-15 says, "(13) When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. (14) He will glorify Me because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. (15) Everything the father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you."** In verse 13,

Jesus is telling us that the Holy Spirit will do what it hears from God. This tells us that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are working, operating in concert, together. The Holy Spirit will not do anything that Jesus has not done and will not do anything that God, the Father, has not ordained or planned. The Holy Spirit is given a masculine pronoun not out of a patriarchal or ancient male tradition. It is done to demonstrate and affirm the personal nature of the Holy Spirit. The Trinity does not attempt in any way to hide its deep and personal concern for the Child of God in every aspect of our existence. The mission, and assignment of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus. This is done by meeting the needs and concerns of the Children of God. **John 7:18 says, "The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him, there is no falsehood."** The only purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring glory and to glorify Jesus. So, the Holy Spirit receives what Jesus communicates to Him and performs it.

Let us be very clear the theology of the Gospel of John is Theocentric, God-centered, not Christ-centered. Meaning God, the Father, is the director of this entire plan of salvation, and the Son, in the person of Jesus Christ, is the instrument of that salvation. The Holy Spirit is sent to have and maintain the presence of God in the world. The Holy Spirit is God acting in the world through the Child of God. Again, it is the Holy Spirit's mission, and task to communicate what comes from Jesus to the disciples. The Holy Spirit serves the mission of Jesus, just as Jesus served the will of the Father. The Godhead, Trinity, is united in purpose and mission.

As disciples, we are called to follow in communicating the saving mission of Jesus to the hostile world that killed Jesus. We will not escape the hostility of the world. We will not escape the persecution that comes with our testimony that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. However, through it all, we will have (1) another Paraclete, (2) one who will teach us, (3) one who will witness with us, (4) one who will serve as our attorney and judge in the world, and (5) one who will guide us authentically in truth.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool