

*The Advocate will remind us of all Jesus said to us.*

What will be the effect of this memory?

When someone has been extraordinarily important in our lives, and especially if they have been extraordinarily dear, they never really leave us. If we are Christians who hope to share our lives one day with the departed, the remembrance of the dead is a daily act of faith in that future. The dead have actually increased power over us, because they have passed through the veil to the Father; and they no longer use, or need to use, earthly authority or influence. They are now themselves pure and simple, and our relationship with them is also purified of all that is inadequate and childish. The poet Eliot wrote

*The communication of the dead is tongued with fire  
beyond the communication of the living*

The presence of the Holy Spirit is not the presence of a person we ever knew in a worldly frame. The Holy Spirit communicates to us over and above all earthly or human relativity. It is in our life of faith, hope, and love that we sense the communication of the Holy Spirit. And when this communication illuminates the meaning of Jesus, we can be sure that we are indeed caught up into the communion of the Trinity itself, where the Father and the Son are mutually known through the Spirit.

What makes us aware of God's reality is the fact that he fails to do what we ask him, that he fails to obey us, that he does not perform according to our understanding of what is best. The reminding of Christ that is the Spirit's great rôle is equally inconvenient and often disturbs our resolve and our self-possession. It is just when we are set on a course that falls short of the glory of God that we are likely to recall something of Jesus that will unhorse us and change our mind.

*The keeping of Christ's word* - which is not his own, but the word of the one who sent him - is only possible if we hear it in every place and time. The Spirit's sudden prompting of us is a palpable sign of divine presence and favour - even when it least coincides with our own preoccupation or inclination. So we need to be ready to change our mind, if we are to be *reminded* of Christ.