

By Rev. John Dillon

We've spent almost a year living through restrictions caused by a deadly virus that may have changed our daily lives forever--but we have the latest technologies, found new ways to shop, new ways to visit and "gather" with families safely. We can celebrate birthdays and seasonal holidays using tech. And we are able to come together as our family in Christ to pray for God's continued help for those in need.

Then came one of those events that brings many of us to ask "Where is God when we need Him?" "Is He really with us, protecting and guiding us in these difficult times?"

I believe the answer is in Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

*"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"*

From my own experience, I can only share with you that the Holy Spirit, that strange, hidden power exists in our lives and when we accept and recognize that it exists, the Spirit provides guidance, help, and strength in difficult times.

There was a time when I felt lost and frustrated with work and nothing going my way. Then I became involved in a church retreat where, to keep this short, I accepted Jesus as my Lord. A change that brought my trust in the Holy Spirit to guide my life and not my own wants and desires.

I believe, sadly, that now is the time we all need to trust God will surround us all with the Holy Spirit to guide us and protect us in these uncertain times.

I know what I ask is difficult to grasp, but it has helped me to give thanks every day to Jesus and the Holy Spirit for the strength to endure the restrictions, to stay safe, for the support and love of family and friends, and a wonderful partner to share the good and not so good times.

I pray that peace and love of Christ and the Holy Spirit be with us always.  
Amen.