

## Daily Devotional, October 27, 2021 Giving Up the Ghost

***But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26 (NIV)***

In the *spirit* of this approaching Halloween, I had this little story tucked away in the back of my mind.

I grew up a short time after the golden age of classic horror movies: Bela Lugosi as Dracula, Boris Karloff as Frankenstein, and Lon Chaney as the Wolfman. However, those same movies showed up on my television every Saturday night on *Shock Theater*, hosted by a *ghoulish character named Marvin*. As the oldest child of the family (I was all of about 7-8 years old), I was allowed to stay up late with my mom, and I got to watch those movies over and over again. Understandably, my developing and impressionable mind was frightened. To me, monsters, ghosts, and goblins were real. I couldn't go to sleep at night because I was convinced that they were coming to get me.

My mom tried her best to convince me that those scary characters were not real, that monsters were just actors on TV, and that ghosts really did not exist. But when you're young and inexperienced with that sort of thing, each one of those characters took on a life of their own, and no amount of persuasion or reasoning was going to make any difference to my young and impressionable mind.

Now, I don't really remember it precisely, but my parents told a story about me so many times that I grew to believe it. It seems my dad was trying really hard to convince me that there was no such thing as ghosts. Apparently, I replied, "Well if there's no such thing as ghosts, what about the Holy Ghost?"

Supposedly this got a good laugh from my parents and aunts and uncles whenever he told the story at family gatherings.

My very young-mind could not grasp it at the time, but being in church week after week and hearing the congregation recite the Apostles' Creed had made an impression on me and had laid down a most foundational truth that I may not have grasped at the time, but God was at work in my mind and in my heart to help me understand that He is real and active in my life every day. I'm also convinced that this is why the church no longer uses the word "Ghost", but instead uses "Spirit": to stop scaring little kids into wanting to stay home from church, and to trust that the movement of the Spirit in us is a good and loving thing.

**Prayer: Lord, open my heart today to be filled with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to hear your Word for me and to remember that You have promised never to leave me. May I always trust in You and Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.**