

The Holy Spirit Will Guide You into All Truth

John 16:5-16 (V. 13)

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I. Introduction/Biblical Background

The work of the Holy Spirit in Creation is one of the biblical proof of His deity. The first sign of the Holy Spirit in Scripture is that of the Spirit “moving” or “brooding” over the waters in Genesis 1:2. The Spirit of God is a clear reference to the creative activity of the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit ‘s work in Creation results in order, life, beauty, and renewal. The Scripture also describes the physical body of Christians as the temple of the Holy Spirit. He is in the process of recreating us into Christ’s image.

II. The Lesson: The Holy Spirit Will Guide You into All Truth

1. v. 5.

In the beginning of John, Chapter 16, Jesus spoke of His leaving to return to the Father and the Comforter He would send to help the disciples. Although in previous chapters, John 13:36; 14:5, the disciples had asked where Jesus was going, they really were not interested. They were really just self-absorbed in their own loss at His leaving them. They did not have the big picture of the Lord’s returning to the Father and of His sending the Holy Spirit to empower them for the task of the great commission (Matt.28:19-20).

2. vv. 6-7.

The disciples were confused and grieving to learn that Jesus was going away. However, Christ tried to console them with the truth that His going will be for their own good. Jesus’ going to the cross and being raised from the dead is God’s Plan of Salvation for the disciples and the whole world. The Holy Spirit

will be poured out on them after Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection and ascension to empower His disciples for ministry. The Holy Spirit would not only guide, encourage, teach and remind them as Christ had done, but He would also empower them.

3. vv. 8-11.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to help an individual to see and understand truth. Christians today depend upon the ministry of the Holy Spirit to help them understand truth and respond accordingly. When the Holy Spirit came during Pentecost, many who had no prior conviction of sin were convicted by the Holy Spirit which led to their salvation. Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit's work was from without. The Spirit came upon man temporarily and exceptional (1 Sam. 10:10; Judges 14:5-6). After Pentecost, the Spirit's work is from within; He indwells (1 Cor. 6:19; 1 John 4:13). If Christians truly believe in Christ, they will begin confessing their sin when the Spirit convicts them through God's truth.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to reprove, point out a fault or error or to expose something as it really is. The Spirit reproves concerning three topics:

- a) **Sin** causes separation from God. The Spirit reveals the need of redemption. The greatest sin is unbelief (John 3:18). While the greatest work is belief (John 6:29).
- b) **Righteousness**: The Spirit reveals the possibility of redemption. Jesus Himself is the standard for righteousness. He went to the Father after a righteous life and a death that will impute that righteousness of Christ to every sinner who trust Him (2 Cor. 5:21).
- c) **Judgment**: The Spirit reveals the reality of redemption. Satan is the ruler of this world, and he was judged at the Cross (John 12:31-32). The power of Christ to judge Satan and to overthrow his kingdom is not future but at the Cross and the resurrection. At the Cross, Satan's doom

was sealed. Even though he still roams about carrying out his evil schemes, sentence has been passed, both for him and his followers.

4. **vv. 12-13.**

The disciples “can not bear” certain things now (V. 12) but will, through the Spirit, be guided “into all the truth” (V. 13). Jesus saw the confusion, blindness and limited views of His disciples. The Holy Spirit will declare, speak and guide them, by guiding us into all the truth, where truth is the revelation of God found in and through Jesus. Directing the believer to the Cross, the Spirit proclaims the truth that, “Whoever believes in Jesus is not condemned”, and “there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (John 3:18). That the Spirit speaks only whatever He hears is in complete continuity with Jesus’ method of revealing only what He hears from God (John 16:15; 8:26-28; 12:49; 14:10). Even though Jesus is no longer physically present as God’s Revealer, the believer can trust that Jesus and the Spirit share the same source of revelation through God.

5. **vv. 14-15.**

The Holy Spirit did not come to glorify Himself, but Christ. The way that He glorifies Christ was by showing or revealing everything about Christ’s person or character, His life, work, love and power. Christ has been revealed as the eternal Word of God, the Light of the world, the Lamb of God, the Living Bread, the great ‘I Am’, the Good Shepherd, the true Vine, the Way, the Truth and the Life. All of these speak to us of the glory of Christ. What the Spirit reveals comes from Jesus: “He will take what is mine and declare it to you” (6:14). Since the Spirit takes what belongs to Jesus, then even in Jesus’ absence, God’s revelation to the world and to the church is still available through the Spirit. The ultimate source of revelation is God. There is firm confidence in the Spirit to continue the ongoing presence and revelation of Jesus within the Christian community after Jesus’ return to the Father.

6. v. 16.

“A little while, and you will no longer behold Me”. This statement created great concern and confusion among the disciples. The disciples were confused about not seeing Him and then after a little while seeing Him again. Jesus, in just a little while, would be going to the Cross. Three days later they would see Him again after the resurrection before He returned to the Father. Jesus knew what was coming and had tried to prepare His disciples for the event.

III. Conclusion

God’s Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. No one without access to God’s Spirit can even begin to understand the spiritual truths of God. The Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth, enables us to understand things that are far beyond our physical world.