

The Work of the Holy Spirit – John 16:4b-15

1. Introduction – What does the Holy Spirit do today?
 - a. The fear of sounding charismatic
 - b. A lack of knowledge and expectations

Jesus lays out three distinct works of the Holy Spirit in this passage – the blessing of the Holy Spirit’s presence, the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, and the declaration of the Holy Spirit of the truth to believers.

1. The Blessing of the Holy Spirit v. 4b – 7
 - a. **“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’**¹
 - i. Jesus references his previous words to his disciples (Jn. 14:27-28)
 - ii. Jesus would no longer physically be with the disciples – but they were concerned rather than joyful that Christ was fulfilling the work of atonement on the cross, victorious resurrection, and ascension.
 - b. **But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.**²
 - i. Jesus corrects them for having hearts filled with sorrow.
 - ii. The implication here is that rather than rejoicing in Christ’s going away, they were incorrectly sorrowful.
 - c. **Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.**³
 - i. Christ states that nevertheless, or even though, or despite the fact that they are sorrowful that he is leaving, he will tell them the truth they need to hear: that his going away would bring the Holy Spirit – the Helper as Christ calls him here.
 - ii. When Christ says that he is, “going away,” he is using a single phrase to describe the saving work of his suffering on the cross, burial, victorious resurrection, and ascension to the Father which he had spoken of since the beginning.
 - iii. What Christ was pointing to was the disciple’s lack of understanding of the plan and mission of God through Christ – They still didn’t understand what was going on – what Christ was going to do.

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:4–5.

² *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:6.

³ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:7.

- iv. What Christ was teaching – which they would understand after his death and resurrection – was that through the death of Christ God would redeem His people and send forth the Holy Spirit upon them.

Application:

1. The indwelling Holy Spirit was better for the disciples than the pre-death and resurrection presence of Jesus. Because the Holy Spirit within us is the greatest blessing God can give.
 - a. Luke 11:13 - *If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*⁴
2. Christ calls the Holy Spirit the Helper – significance of the name “parakletos”
 - a. Christ is the first Paraclete – 1 John 2:1-2 – “Advocate”
 - b. Encourager, the one who comes beside, the one who defends legally, the one who helps. God himself – the third person of the Trinity was the blessing given to the disciples after Christ’s completed work on the cross and his victorious resurrection.
 - c. He is called – the Spirit of Christ – He brings all the benefits, blessing, glory, strength, and help that Christ has promised to His people. Every blessing given to believers is mediated through the Holy Spirit who himself is the greatest blessing.
3. This gives strength and understanding to the believer – the Christian life is often discovering what God has already done for us – this is the blessing of this passage – this is the benefit that every believer has – the indwelling Holy Spirit.

2. The Conviction of the Holy Spirit (v, 8-11)

- a. **⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:**⁵
 - i. The Holy Spirit is sent by Christ into the hearts of believers, but he is also sent now to work in the world the ministry of conviction in drawing sinners to Christ.
 - ii. The word “convict” – to bring to a point of guilt – to declare guilty in a court of law. Christ is telling the disciples the distinct work of the Holy Spirit here – he brings conviction to unbelievers – the world – in three distinct ways in connection with the preaching of the Gospel.
- b. v **⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;**⁶
 - i. The Holy Spirit brings a real heart and mind conviction of the personal guilt of sin to those whom he is drawing to Christ.
 - ii. Christ states that the Holy Spirit will convict people of their own sin because they don’t believe in him.

⁴ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Lk 11:13.

⁵ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:8.

⁶ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:9.

1. The lack of faith in Christ is emphasized by the Holy Spirit when someone hears the gospel. This is a sense of fear – a reality that they are outside of the family of God, condemned for their own sinful acts and rebellion against God.
- c. ¹⁰ **concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;**⁷
- i. Here Christ specifically states that he will convict the world concerning righteousness because he is going to his Father and will be seen by the disciples no longer.
 - ii. Christ is referring to his death, burial, resurrection and ascension – his completion and victory of the act of redemption as the sacrifice for our sins.
 - iii. Christ is saying that in the presentation of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit brings a conviction to sinners about their own lack of righteousness by demonstrating the righteousness of Christ.
 - iv. Christ suffered righteously, lived a righteous life, died righteously, suffered God’s righteous wrath on the cross, and was raised from the dead declaring that sin had no hold on him, and that our righteousness was purchased by his perfect righteous sacrifice.
 - v. 1 John 2:1-2 Jesus is called the “Righteous One”
 - vi. Christ is righteous – we are not – this is the conviction of the Holy Spirit
- d. ¹¹ **concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.** ⁸
- i. The ruler of this world is none other than Satan himself – he is called the prince of the power of the air in Ephesians 2.
 - ii. How is Satan judged? He has been judged a liar and condemned by Christ crushing his head through his death and resurrection!
 - iii. Hebrews 2:14-15 - ¹⁴ *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,* ¹⁵ *and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*⁹
 - iv. The Holy Spirit reveals to the one whom he is convicting that Satan has lied – and that Christ, who has defeated death, will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 - v. The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of their guilty stance before Christ the judge of all mankind.

Application:

⁷ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:10.

⁸ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:11.

⁹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Heb 2:14–15.

The Holy Spirit's work in the world is to bring conviction – and these give us a good understanding of how He works – through a bringing of truth. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of the truth about themselves and about Christ and their desperate need of him.

Encouragement – the Holy Spirit will do this work – and it is undeniable when he does.

3. The Declaration of the Holy Spirit (v. 12-15)

- a. ¹² **“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.¹⁰**
 - i. Jesus then promises the blessing of the Holy Spirit leading his people into truth.
 - ii. Here the actual promise is about him speaking through the Spirit of Truth (the Holy Spirit) to the disciples the future words that Christ has for his church.
 - iii. This is actually a promise of the letters of the New Testament – this is the promise of Christ to bring words to His people through his disciples.
 1. 2 Peter 1:20-21 - ²⁰ *knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*¹¹
 - iv. The Spirit of Truth brought the message of Christ to his disciples and that is why we have the NT! The New Testament is literally a letter from Christ directly to his people!
- b. ¹⁴ **He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.**¹²
 - i. The personal leading of the Spirit of Truth – everything the Spirit speaks is truth – he cannot speak anything else – he is God.
 - ii. The number one goal that the Holy Spirit does amongst the body of Christ is to glorify Christ.
 - iii. He declares the truth to the heart and mind of a believer to glorify Christ by bringing about obedience and faith.

¹⁰ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:12–13.

¹¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Pe 1:20–21.

¹² *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 16:14–15.