

“Present Ministries of the Spirit”

John 16:4b-15

“But 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.”

The persecution predicted by Jesus in the early verses of Jn.16 must have made the disciples uncomfortable. The prospect of excommunication and death was a dark, discouraging thought.

On top of it all, the Captain of the team was suddenly talking about leaving and going home.

Jesus will teach them that His departure was actually an advantage, because the Holy Spirit would come.

Advantages of the Holy Spirit's presence in the believer

Ministry to the world: conviction

Ministries of the HS at new birth: regeneration; baptism; sealing.

Results of the filling of the HS: more holy; guides us; assures us; prompts prayer; prompts service or ministry; HS teaches us.

1 The Spirit's presence is an advantage for the believer in this world, 16:4b-7

A. The disciples failed to recognize the advantage of Christ leaving them, 16:4b-6

1. Jesus received the hate of the world while with them, 16:4b.

They might have wondered why Jesus didn't tell them earlier. So Jesus said, “These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you” (Jn 16:4b). Jesus received the hate of the world while He was on the earth. “But now” He said, “I am going away” (5a).

2. The disciples' reaction to Jesus' departure indicated a selfish sorrow, 16:5-6

The disciples feared that world's treatment of Jesus would fall on them. They were more interested in their own future, not Jesus' future.

B. Christ's departure was necessary to enjoy the advantage of the Spirit's presence, 16:7

“But 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.” John 16:7

1. “Helper” – “called alongside to help; an advocate in a legal setting”

2. Jesus Christ Himself sends the HS.

In relation to the world of people --

2 The Spirit's presence is active through believers to convict the world, 16:8-11.

Common idea: “HS works directly on heart of unsaved people to bring them to salvation.”

1st correction: Many think that Spirit works directly on unbeliever’s heart to convict.

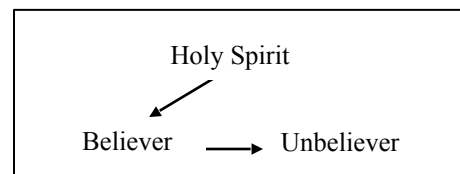
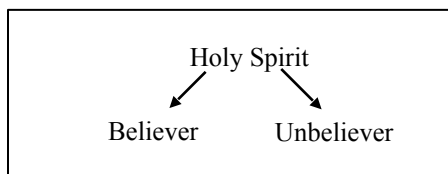
2nd correction: Some think that Spirit convicts only those who believe in Jesus.

3rd correction: Some think that whoever is convicted by the Spirit will accept Jesus as Savior.

A. The Spirit’s active ministry is to convict the world through believers, 16:8

And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

1. The Spirit’s convicting ministry works through the believer.
 - a. “when He comes (to you, v.7)....”
 - b. HS doesn’t come to the world (14:17). HS comes to the believer and works through the believer to convict the world.



2. WS: “convict”
 “reprove” (KJV) not best either.
 “To present unquestionable proof; to place the truth in clear light.”
 - 1] Normally, we think of being brought to point of sorrow for sin. Not necessary to be emotionally upset.
 - 2] Rather, the Spirit demonstrates guilt of world by presentation of the evidence/facts.

So the scene is a court of law:

- Lawyer = HS
- client = JC
- key witness = the believer
- defendant = world
- charges = 3 – sin, righteousness, judgment

B. The Spirit convicts the world thru the believer in relation to 3 areas, 16:9-11

1. Sin, 16:9 (of the world)

concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

HS will present proof of the guilt of the world in area of sin:

Not theft, murder, hate. But UNBELIEF.

- a. Proof: “they do not believe on Me.”
- b. Believer's responsibility: When we witness, we speak of JC & the Gospel. Ray Stedman notes that if the church had not spoken of JC the world would soon forget because the world tries to make Jesus irrelevant.

Our job: constantly talk about JC – not what church offers.

c. Result: World is convinced that its biggest sin is not believing in Jesus.

2. Righteousness, 16:10 (of JC)

and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

a. Proof: “because I go to the Father, and you no longer see Me.”

How is that proof? HS would not be present in believer if Jesus had not ascended to the Father. The Father would not have received JC if Jesus wasn't innocent of the charges against Him.

b. Responsibility: Our life should provide evidence of the righteousness of JC.

c. Result: World sees the righteousness of Christ in believer & is convinced of its own guilt.

3. Judgment, 16:11 (of Satan)

and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

a. Proof: “because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

(When? cross. How is this demonstrated thru the believer?)

b. Responsibility: When world looks at us & sees that we are no longer slaves of sin or of Satan because Satan's power is broken, then they will realize that Satan was defeated

c. Result: World sees that “ruler of this world” has been judged already at the cross when see authentic, victorious Christian.

Verdict of the court:

- 1) The convicting wrk of HS requires the evidence provided by a Christian's life.
- 2) When Christians live authentic life, the world stands guilty as charged.

In relation to the Word of God --

3. **The Spirit's presence brings the advantage of a teaching ministry to the believer, 16:12-15**

A. The teaching ministry of the Spirit guides the believer, 16:12-13.

1. Prerequisite to learn the truth, 16:12.

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now."

“bear” is not that they couldn't tolerate it, but couldn't understand or accept.

EX: theological implications of the death of Jesus, His resurrection, inclusion of Gentiles, rapture.

The Lord wants to teach us, but we must be able to “bear” the truths He wants to teach us.
Conditions –

- 1] When we accept Jesus as Savior, HS comes in. 1 Cor. 2:14
- 2] Be spiritually healthy. 1 Cor. 3:1
- 3] Be spiritually mature to receive deeper truth. 1 Cor. 3. cf. Heb. 5:11-14

We have an advantage now that disciples did not have then. We have the HS. “but” v.13 – everything changes.

2. Process for the Spirit’s guidance into truth. 16:13.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

- a. “guides” – like a guide for tour group in unknown country, called “truth.”
- b. HS does not wrk independently. “He will not speak on His own initiative,”
“whatever He hears, He will speak” --- direct from God the Father

NAU **1 John 2:27** As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

A chief characteristic of Spirit’s teaching ministry:

B. The teaching ministry of the Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ, 16:14-15.

1. The Spirit glorifies Christ by disclosing truth relating to Jesus’ Person & Work, 16:14.

“He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.”

2. The Spirit glorifies Christ because Jesus is the revelation of the Father, 16:15

“All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.”

Spirit’s credentials: glorifies Jesus (not so much Himself)

We should also call attention to Jesus Christ to be in step with the HS’s ministry.

We have a tremendous advantage today through the powerful ministries of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God uses Christians to convict the world.

Every Christian is a key witness in God's courtroom. Are we believable? credible? The case against the world succeeds or fails based on our testimony. We can't want to perjure ourselves. Unsaved people don't respect phony Christians

Next Session: John 16:16-22 “Joy in Sorrow”