

39- The Witness of the Spirit 16:1-15

Jesus had instructed His disciples about the coming of the One He called **“The Comforter”** in *John 15:26*. We know well that this is the Holy Spirit. He said that when the Holy Spirit came He would **“...testify of me”**, me being Jesus. Remember this is all in preparation for His crucifixion and death.

I- Prophecy of Persecution:

Jesus had not told the disciples everything at once but in fact had revealed thing in a slow metered manner.

Joh 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

These things He refers to here are the hatred of the world of chapter 15. He then make a prophecy that is verifiable in the book of Acts.

Joh 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

We see this literally come to pass in *Act 7:57-60* with the stoning of Stephen.

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, 58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Holy Spirit would use the way that Stephen died to impact a young man named Saul who became the great Apostle Paul.

II- The Benefit of His Departure:

The disciples were used to the presence of Jesus and could not fathom a world without Him being there to teach them.

Joh 16:4-7 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. Here again we see the progression of the revelation of Christ to His disciples. He had not told them earlier because it was not time. He had not told them because He was still with them in the flesh.

He is going to teach them that it is to their benefit that He depart back to the Father that sent Him.

Joh 16: 5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? 6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

The word translated expedient in the JKV means according to *Thayer's Greek Definitions*

- 1) to bear or bring together
- 2) to bear together or at the same time
 - 2a) to carry with others
 - 2b) to collect or contribute in order to help
 - 2c) to help, be profitable, be expedient

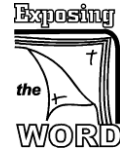
The departing of Jesus facilitated the coming of the Holy Spirit. I have often thought about why Jesus said as while He was here the Comforter could not come. The



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greatest explanation I have found is in *Barnes Notes* that says the following:

It was an evident arrangement in the great plan of redemption that each of the persons of the Trinity should perform a part. As it was not the work of the Spirit to make an atonement, so it was not the work of the Saviour to apply it. And until the Lord Jesus had performed this great work, the way was not open for the Holy Spirit to descend to perform his part of the great plan; yet, when the Saviour had completed his portion of the work and had left the earth, the Spirit would carry forward the same plan and apply it to men.

From our timeframe viewpoint it has certainly been advantageous for us because the Holy Spirit now abides within believer across the globe simultaneously. We do not have to go to the small area of the earth that Jesus walked to experience the presence of God. We have Him in the form of the Holy Spirit indwelling believers.

We also understand that another reason that Jesus' departure was a benefit to us is that He now can intercede for us all at any given moment before the Father. **Rom 8:34** *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

III- The Witness of the Comforter:

This verse in Romans says that Christ that condemneth us. Condemn here means "By one's good example to render another's wickedness the more evident and censurable." *Thayer*

It is the perfect life that Jesus lived as a human that speaks loudly that men are sinners. The Holy Spirit can now take the

perfect life lived and lay our lives beside it to show us our failures.

Joh 16:8-11 *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

There is a lot contained within these verses that we will in no exhaust the teaching of nor find the depth. Lets begin by understanding this word **reprove**.

Barnes Notes says the following:

The word translated "reprove" means commonly to demonstrate by argument, to prove, to persuade anyone to do a thing by presenting reasons. It hence means also to convince of anything, and particularly to convince of crime. This is its meaning here. He will convince or convict the world of sin. That is, he will so apply the truths of God to men's own minds as to convince them by fair and sufficient arguments that they are sinners, and cause them to feel this. This is the nature of conviction always.

Now we are given several particular things, namely three, that the Holy Spirit convicts of; 1-sin; 2- righteousness; 3-judgment.

1- Sin: Joh 16:9 *Of sin, because they believe not on me.* The greatest sin that the Holy Spirit convicts men of is the sin of unbelief. This is the sin that brings eternal condemnation, failure to have faith in Christ. **John 3:18** *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten*



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Son of God. Jesus told us that the work of God that all must work is to believe. The greatest work is faith or belief. **John 6:28-29** *Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*

2- Righteousness: Joh 16:10 *Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more.* The Holy Spirit convicts men of their need of righteousness and the sequential lack thereof because of the righteous life of Jesus. We also see another element of righteousness as well in the fact that by faith in Christ His righteousness is place on our account that is bankrupt otherwise. **Romans 4:5** *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.* The Holy Spirit convicts men of their need of this righteousness. Now I realize this is a little deep for the new believer but beloved we do not have to understand it all for the Holy Spirit to bring it to fruition in our lives.

3- Judgment: Joh 16:11 *Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

On the cross the lies of Satan were judged and his aspiration for a kingdom was overthrown. Is judged here literally means “has been judged.” There are really only two options of whom we will serve, God or Satan. If we serve self that in effect is serving Satan. If men bow before idols that is serving Satan. If men claim there is no God and refuse to serve anyone that in effect is serving Satan. Now the other option is to accept Christ and serve God. This seems to be the logical thing to do because the

kingdom of Satan has already been judged and defeated.

IV- The Future Revelator:

There were many things that Jesus did not have time to reveal nor were the disciples ready to receive them. Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would help them in the future to understand the teaching He had given them and to expand the teaching as well.

Joh 16:12-15 *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

The Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth, (remember Christ is Truth) will help men to discern truth from the lies and deception of Satan. He will also show them things to come. Jesus had told them many things but the Holy Spirit spoke to many of these same men that dwelled within the inner circle of Christ at that time with revelations of the Word of God and of prophecy. It was by the moving of the Spirit that men wrote the New Testament as it had been for the Old Testament.

Still the grandest thing that the Holy Spirit does is reveal Christ to the lost world. He seeks to glorify Christ. The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son in all traits or essence but still separate in person. In duty the Son was obedient and therefore the Spirit is submissive to witness of Jesus.