

The Gospel of John – The Holy Spirit

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I watched a war movie one time where the commander was ready to lead some men into a special mission. A couple of men stayed behind to cover the back of the men. The commander made sure he told one of the men staying in back that if he didn't return, they would be in charge of the men that was left. The soldier that covered the back of the men was trained by this commander, so he knew the commander's methods and what he would do in battle. A good business will train a new leader before the old leader leaves so that the transition will go more smoothly. This gives the new leader some training on how the business is run and how the old leader did things. This usually doesn't happen anymore. Sometimes, the old leader leaves suddenly or the old leader was so bad, the business wants to start fresh with the new leader. However, most big business today just throws a new leader into the position and hope for the best. I've seen this happen so many times and it usually doesn't work out very well. A good business will want a good healthy transition from one leader to another. We've been looking into the Gospel of John and today we're going to look at a conversation Jesus has with His disciples about Him leaving for Heaven, but someone will take His place on earth. There is going to be a Heavenly transition on earth because of the Easter event and how thankful we should be for the transition. Let's try to get a better understanding of this.

Let's turn to John 16: 5-7 where Jesus is teaching His disciples, “⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ 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. (ESV – www.biblegateway.com)

Jesus is making His way to fulfill the plan of His Father. Jesus making His way to the cross to become our lamb and sacrifice for our sin. Jesus has been teaching

His disciples over and over again about His real mission on this earth. The disciples and others wanted Jesus, the Rabbi, to fight against Rome and free Israel from their bondage to Rome. Jesus kept telling them He didn't come for that human mission. Jesus came for a bigger mission, a God mission that they just couldn't understand. Plus, Jesus didn't just come to carry our sins on the cross, but He also went to the cross to allow the Advocate or Comforter to come. The Greek term that John uses for Advocate or Comforter is "parakletos" which means counselor, intercessor, helper, one who encourages and comforts and in NT it refers exclusively to the Holy Spirit and to Jesus (Strong's Concordance). This is huge and we don't focus on this enough. John uses this same Greek term to describe Jesus in 1 John 2: 1 where he states this about Jesus, "My dear children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (KJV)" The term "advocate" is the same Greek term John uses to describe the Holy Spirit back in John's Gospel. So, the Holy Spirit is doing what Jesus did when He walked the earth fully human and fully God without sin. Jesus was a counselor, intercessor, helper, and He comforted and encouraged those who needed it. The Spirit has taken over that responsibility after Jesus went to Heaven after the Resurrection. Wesley Commentary has this to state about John 16: 5-7, "Christ's presence on earth was limited to one place at a time, but when the Spirit came to reside among us, Christ's presence could be with all of us all the time. If Christ did not leave, the next era of history would not unfold – the church age. (Wesley Bible Curriculum)" Jesus' mission was to go to the cross for our sin and set the path for the Holy Spirit to make His presence on this earth. Jesus carried our sin on the cross. The Holy Spirit did not, but it was the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. Paul states this about the Spirit in Romans 8: 11, "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you. (NLT)" So, when we feel conviction in our heart, it's the Holy Spirit moving in our heart to give us grace to be able to make a choice to believe in Jesus or not. If we do make that choice, we have to tell Jesus, not the Holy Spirit that we believe in Jesus and ask Jesus for the forgiveness of our past sins. Then, Jesus forgives us and then He allows the

Holy Spirit to take permanent residence within us as we walk on this earth. The Holy Spirit does what Jesus did when He walked this earth with His disciples. It's hard for us to understand this, but this same Spirit is in all true followers of Jesus and He does the same thing with everybody else. This is why Jesus stated that unless He goes away, the Advocate will not come on verse 7 of chapter 16 of John. Jesus knew we or all of us need daily help from Him all day long. Of course, the Spirit allows us to make the choice to get Him involved in our daily life. Again, not only did Jesus go to the cross for our sin, but also to release the Spirit to be able to live inside us when we give our life over to Jesus. How great is that? There's more.

Let's turn to John 16: 8-11 where Jesus continues with His teaching, ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (ESV – www.biblegateway.com)

Now, Jesus tells us that when He (the Spirit) comes, the Spirit will convict people on their sin. In other words, we do not convict people about their sin. The Holy Spirit will teach them what they know or what they need to know about their own sin. Our job is to point those lost in their sin to Jesus. Jesus tells us plainly that is the Spirit's job, not ours. We can't force someone to feel guilty about their sin. What we can do is pray to Jesus that the Spirit will convict them and help them to understand about their sin and there's no one better at it than the Holy Spirit. Remember, the Spirit is also a counselor. The person still has the choice to accept it or not. Plus, the Spirit will help them to see their need for the forgiveness of sin by Jesus. Jesus did this when He walked the earth. He told Nicodemus that he had to be reborn again. Jesus told the woman at the well about her sin. The Holy Spirit is doing what Jesus did. The Holy Spirit will reveal God's righteousness and about the coming judgment upon this earth on all people. We can call this prevenient grace. Grace that goes before we are saved. It convicts us of our sin. If Jesus didn't go to the cross, prevenient grace wouldn't be working as it is today.

Plus, Jesus reminds us that the prince of this world has already been judged in verse 11. This is why conviction is so important because of God's judgment on sin. The hatred we are seeing for true followers of Jesus is being fueled by the prince of this world, satan. The Holy Spirit will help us to see the need to be more depended on Him because of the growing hatred toward Jesus. Remember, they hated Jesus before they hated us. They hate us because we allow His Spirit to guide us into all God's Truth. Many people in church are turning against true followers of Jesus because of this.

Jesus talks about the Spirit and God's Truth in the last part of John that we will look at which is John 16: 12-16, "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. 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. (ESV – www.biblegateway.com)

Jesus knew His disciples was having a hard time understanding Godly things with their human minds. However, Jesus tells them when the Spirit comes to live within them after Jesus leaves this earth after His resurrection, the Spirit will lead them into "all" truth. You have the best GPS in the world living within you. You have the Word of God within you, you have His wisdom within you, you have His compassion within you, and the list can go on and on. His Spirit will help us to understand the Trinity better and better everyday if only we would allow Him freedom to do so. If we don't ask Jesus to allow the Spirit to help guide us into all truth, it almost seems to me we are cheapening the grace of the cross. The Holy Spirit only wants the best for you and if we love the Lord with everything we have, we'll love the Holy Spirit in the same way.

The final item we'll look at today is in verse 14 where Jesus tells us that the Spirit will bring glory to Jesus by revealing to you whatever He (Spirit) receives from Jesus. If we allow our pride or human nature to control our daily lives and ignore the Holy Spirit, we will miss communication from Jesus. We'll have a poor

signal. Maybe we can say we'll miss Jesus' updates. You know how our computers are always needing to download updates for security and etc. We too need to be in constant communication with Jesus so His Truth can guide us through the messed-up world we live in. His Spirit will help us to continue to give Jesus glory to the people around us no matter what is happening. I like what Jesus states in John 15: 26-27 when Jesus started His teaching on the Holy Spirit, "But I will send you the Counselor – the Spirit of Truth. He will come to you from the Father and will tell you all about me. And you must also tell others about me because you have been with me from the beginning. (NLT)" Jesus gives us a command here that we are to tell others about Him. Some may say this command was for the disciples that were with Him. Let's remember, when Jesus left this earth for Heaven, the Holy Spirit came to us to continue to do the mission of Jesus. We tell others about the glory of Jesus so others can hear about the gift of salvation. We're partners with the Holy Spirit and that could only happen because of Jesus, the Son of God, fulfilling the mission of His Father – to die on the cross. We have been blessed with a wonderful gift from Jesus, not only salvation, but the gift of the Holy Spirit.

NLT Life Application Study Bible. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: Wheaton, 1996

The Strongest Strong's Concordance. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2001

Wesley Bible Curriculum Sept-Nov 2025. Wesleyan Publishing House: Fishers, 2025