**JOHN 16 – Welcome the Spirit**

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Last week:

**John 15:9**“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10**If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11**I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Jesus laid it out very simply for us; If we keep His commands, we will remain in His love. If we do this, His joy will be in us and our joy will be complete.

This week, they are still gathered in Jerusalem on the night before the cross. And Jesus is briefing them on what is about to happen in the next few days:

**John 16**“All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. **2**They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. **3**They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. **4**I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, **5**but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ **6**Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things.

Jesus starts the chapter off with some bad news. He tells them that they will be persecuted by their own people, and He will no longer be with them. Apparently, they are no longer asking where He is going (as Peter and Thomas did in Ch. 13 &14), they are grieving because of the bad news He had just told them.

But then He tells them, that is not such bad news, it is actually good.

**7**But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8**When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: **9**about sin, because people do not believe in me; **10**about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11**and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Again, he mentions the “Advocate” (The Holy Spirit). He tells them that if He does not go away, the Advocate will not come.

Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit as “He”. The Holy Spirit is not an “it” or a non-personal entity. He is a person.

The Bible tells us that He; “guides us” ([Romans 8:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%208.14) “led by the Spirit”), “comforts and teaches us ” ([John 14:26](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2014.26) “the comforter will teach you””), and even gives commands ([Acts 8:29](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%208.29) “the Spirit told Philip, to go to the chariot”).

Ephesians tell us to not “grieve” the Spirit.

**Eph 4:30** “do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.”

He also convicts the world of *sin, righteousness* and *judgement.*

**John 16:8** “**8**And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

The Holy Spirit is the one who declares, what is sin, what is righteous and judges between the two.

**12**“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13**But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14**He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. **15**All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Jesus was telling these eleven apostles, that from now on, their connection to Him, is now going to be through the spirit. The same as it is for us.

**16**Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

**17**At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” **18**They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

**19**Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? **20**Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. **21**A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. **22**So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

He is letting them know that He is going to be taken away from them very soon. (within the next few hours). Then He will no longer be with Him. He will die and be hidden away in a grave. But soon after He will be resurrected, and their *“grief will turn to joy.”*

**23**In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **24**Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

**25**“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. **26**In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. **27**No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. **28**I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

Jesus is telling them that when He finally leaves them and goes back to the Father, they will have such a strong connection and communication with the Father through the Holy Spirit, that they can ask of The Father directly, *in His name*. This same access is given to us as well. We can pray to the Father directly in Jesus’ name.

### Praying or asking in HIS NAME means asking according to His will and in His authority.

### NOT asking according to your own will, in your own authority but then using His name. (That belongs in the category of using His name in vain).

### When we ask in His name, according to His will, He will do it.

### This is why we end our prayers *“In Jesus’ name”,* always with the understanding of *“Not our will, but your will be done”.*

**29**Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. **30**Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

**31**“Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. **32**“A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

“Do you believe?”

He is saying to them that it’s not just enough to *say* you believe. You have to really believe. Their belief was about to be really put to the test.

It’s the same for us. We can *say* that we believe, trust, have faith in, and hope in the Lord. But what happens when that is all put to the test. When circumstances seem to deteriorate and we experience “Tsoris”.

**Tsoris** (Yiddish); trouble, persecution, distress, hurt, psychological suffering or even tribulation.

***Final verse of the chapter:***

**John 16:33**“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” <>

In our world, we certainly have trouble. Unquestionably, there are many terrible things going on in our world every day. This has always been the case however, and no generation was ever without its share of horrific catastrophes, natural disasters, awful injustices, and global crises. King Solomon once said:

**Ecc. 1:9** “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.”

This verse underscores the fact that there has always been trouble in the world and there will always be trouble in the world. Jesus mentions it as well, and also tells us how we should react to it:

**John 16:33** “ **3**These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you ]will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

While trouble and tribulation have always existed in our world, it’s only been in recent history that people have had continual, uninterrupted access to information about it. In the modern age, information is accessible in real time. Troubling stories and images are constantly at our fingertips and on screens all around us, whether we want them or we don’t.

Our soulful (non-spiritual) response to upsetting information is normally feelings of *fear*, *helplessness, anxiety, uncertainty, anger,* and *outrage.* Our spiritual response to this type of bad news is *faith, hope, trust,* and *peace* when we choose to walk in the Spirit.

We must remember that “He has overcome the world”, *nothing happens unless God lets it happen, or makes it happen.* He is never caught by surprise, and He is never defeated or overcome by evil. We have to trust Him. The next time you are given the opportunity to fear, don’t take it.

Instead, “be of good cheer” and rest in the fact that although you may not fully understand it, He has overcome the world. Shield your mind from the influences of fear, anger, and the evil of this world. Protect yourself from the contagious poison in the deceptive messages all around you. Protect your peace, and the peace of your household, and above all else, guard your heart.

**Proverbs 4:23** “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

***FINALLY: WELCOME THE HOLY SPIRIT***

**John 16:13** “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”

We must rely upon the Holy Spirit to be our trusted helper and our guide. It’s impossible to have the wisdom and power we need without the Holy Spirit’s guidance. If we *operate* and *make decisions* only from our minds and emotions, without being guided and directed by the Holy Spirit, we can easily lose sight of God’s truth. The Holy Spirit is *the one* who guides us into all truth.

The Holy Spirit is not just an *optional accessory* for the Christian life. He is a *mandatory component*.

Paul says that unless we have the Spirit of Christ, we do not belong to Him. That’s right, having the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, and living by the Spirit is not just an optional preference for Christians who like to refer to themselves as “Spirit-filled.” It’s for *all* who consider themselves children of God. It’s only through the Spirit that we receive the adoption that makes us sons and daughters of God.

**Romans 8:9,14-16** "You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ . . ....

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

We are given this great gift sent from the Father – The Holy Spirit.

He comforts us, teaches us, guides us, empowers us, leads us and even convicts us. Let’s not ignore Him, and certainly let’s not “grieve Him:”.

We cannot live a victorious Christian life without first and foremost being led by the Spirit.

Now, As we walk away from here, let’s commit to continue walking closely with God.

The only way we can do that is by walking with, operating in, and living by, the Holy Spirit whom he has sent.

Gal 5:25“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

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