

## Week 33

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today we will study Jesus' teachings regarding the Holy Spirit Who has many responsibilities; to teach us God's Word, and to help us understand what it means, how to apply it to our own lives and situations. I hope you are understanding that you are not left on your own to figure out what the bible says and how to apply it to your life so that you can live the life of a believer, the Holy Spirit has been given to live out the life of Jesus through us, all we have to do is keep ourselves from interfering.

John 16:5

The disciples previously had asked where He was going in John 13:36 and 14:5. He was looking for them now to ask again but they just became sorrowful.

John 16:6

He had talked with them about His death before but the truth was beginning to dawn on them with full force and no doubt at this point it was all about them, that is don't you think they were asking "if you leave what will happen to us?"

John 16:7

If Jesus had not died and been resurrected there would be no way we could be saved. His death and resurrection made it possible for Him to remove our sin. If He had not gone back to the Father, the Holy Spirit could not have been given, that is made available to all who would believe. The work of the Holy Spirit was frequently mentioned in the Old Testament, before we had the New Covenant or Testament in Jesus blood. The Holy Spirit would come upon someone, usually to empower them to accomplish a task assigned by God and after that was complete, the Holy Spirit was usually removed. There was no evidence of the Holy Spirit generally available for everyone who would believe.

John 16:8

To convict (elencho) means "to expose the facts, to convince someone of the truth, to accuse, refute or cross-examine a witness". As a prosecuting attorney, the Holy Spirit carries out His convicting work in at least 3 ways

1. He proves the world wrong by exposing the world's error and convincing people they are sinners.
2. The Holy Spirit legally convicts people of their sin, representing the righteous judgment of God.. In legal terms, the Holy Spirit reads the verdict of the court. There is no appeal possible.
3. The Holy Spirit shows people their sin in order to bring them to repentance. He breaks through our pride and rationalizations and confronts us with glimpses of ourselves.

Have you ever had this happen? It is not very pleasant to be convicted of your sin, I don't like it at all, but then, I realize how if left to my own pride I would probably never see myself as God sees me and I have often thought how kind of God to show me my sin so I can repent.

God is a loving Father, correcting and forgiving. If you hear a loving voice convicting you, He will sound something like this; "you need to confess and repent, let me help you, let me guide you into all truth", that is your heavenly Father. If the voice is accusatory, unkind it is your enemy, with a purpose to dishearten, destroy. Get to know your Father's voice.

After considering what it means to convict of sin, notice Jesus gave the scope of this conviction, the whole world. This must have been quite a revelation for the disciples, they usually thought of themselves, the Jews, in special and unique relationship to God, not the whole world in relationship to God. The Holy Spirit would be an Advocate for all of mankind, He would raise up a standard of morality, purity and knowledge which men could not conceive. This is not limited atonement; Jesus said the Holy Spirit would convict the whole world of sin. Doubtless, any success in the mission field or in our neighborhood will require the convicting and convincing work of the Holy Spirit. When praying for non-believers, I often pray that God will convict of sin and grant repentance.

John 16:9

The greatest sin is refusing to believe in Jesus, it is the unforgivable sin. To reject Jesus puts us in danger of eternal separation from God.

John 16:10

The Holy Spirit will convince the world that Jesus alone is the standard of God's righteousness. The Holy Spirit can make believers understand how they fall short of God's standard.

The Holy Spirit can also show the world the futility of self-righteousness and the inadequacy of ceremonies and rituals to make us right before God.

John 16:11

The Spirit will show that through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, Satan has already been judged and condemned. He still actively works to harden hearts and delude the world and to steal the joy of believers, however, his end is certain, the Lake of Fire, and God has already determined when this will happen.

John 16:12

Jesus told them what the Holy Spirit would have a role in the life of unbelievers, convicting of sin, but what about believers? Well, evidently the disciples were not ready to hear that yet.

John 16:13

However, when the Holy Spirit came He would guide them, the believers, into all truth. And remember, as we said at the beginning of the broadcast, Jesus' Word is eternal, it will never pass away, so it follows that it would require special handling to understand and apply it.

The Holy Spirit is the guide for all true believers, necessary for believers to understand the truth of Christ, His words which will never pass away.

In addition, just as Jesus described Himself as telling us only what He hears from the Father, the Holy Spirit tells us what He hears from the Father.

John 16:14

The Holy Spirit never glorifies Himself; His purpose is to glorify the Son. He reveals to us Who and What the Son is, that is He takes the things of the Son and reveals them to us. He helps us apply the eternally true teachings of Jesus to our lives.

John 16:15

So the Holy Spirit works with God the Father and God the Son, revealing the truth of God to believers. Do you want to know God better, seek His face instead of His Hand that is; tell Him you want to know Him rather than asking Him to do something for you?

The doctrine of the Trinity is a summary of what Jesus taught about His relationship to the Father and the Spirit. God exists in perfect harmony while at the same time functioning in the person of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are one yet they relate to one another. This is beyond my grasp yet it has been revealed in a way, which I choose to believe it; I trust it and therefore am saved for all eternity. Not based on what I have done, but what Jesus has done.

If the ministry of the Holy Spirit or the doctrine of the Trinity seems impossible to grasp please do not renounce them as many have. Just because you cannot understand them that does not make them untrue. Friend, do you understand the processes of nature; how does the tree in my yard take toxic fumes and convert them to oxygen? Its been explained, I believe it but the understanding is far from me. I choose to accept it. Take these teachings of Jesus, which will ever pass away and study them and ask in faith for the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth, He will do it.

John 16: 16-19

He was leaving and would be gone 3 days and then He would return. The disciples were perplexed, where was He going, they kept asking each other?

John 16:20-21

Now Jesus gave an illustration from life as to the processes they would soon experience, His departure but then how quickly He would return. He promised the dark night of the soul they were soon to experience would turn to joy. The joy a woman feels when her birth pangs are over and there was a new little life in her arms.

John 16:22

And how long would their joy last? It would be endless, because Jesus lives. No one could take away this joy because it is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and it is forever. Remember what Paul said; "Our light and momentary affliction, is working a far exceeding weight of glory" 2 Corinthians 4:17

Here again is the promise that the disciples and we will be with Him eternally.

John 16:23-24

Did you ever hear anyone say, "When I see Jesus I have a lot of questions to ask Him". Better put that aside, God has said all His promises and all our questions are yes and amen in Jesus, meaning that all is answered and fulfilled.

Jesus is telling them that from this moment on, they would be asking God their questions and making their requests to Him directly and in Jesus Name. Requests asked in Jesus' Name are requests that the believer knows Jesus would be pleased to answer, requests in accordance with the Father's will.

Answered prayer brings joy. Jesus encouraged the disciples to ask so that they might have the fullness of joy.

#### John 16:25-27

After Jesus, the perfect Sacrifice was made, that is Jesus' death, and He arose from the dead and the Holy Spirit was given, then the disciples were given a new relationship with the Father. No intermediary is needed now, because Jesus has provided the way. When coming in the Name of Jesus, the disciples and we have direct access to God. Jesus would still make intercession for them and for us according to Romans 8:34 "Jesus Christ was raised, is at the right hand of God the Father and makes intercession for us".

The Father loves all who love Jesus and believe in Him as God's Son. God remembers our faithfulness to His Son, Jesus. Your faithfulness to Jesus is essential.

Let's review John's stated purpose for writing this gospel. Turn to John 20:30-31 Many other signs Jesus performed in the presence of His disciples which are not recorded in this book but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life". Remember all the teachings and miracles or signs John recorded and that we have studied have a single purpose; to convince you that Jesus is the Messiah so that you may believe and have eternal life.

My question to you today is this, have these signs Jesus did and the teachings He gave convinced you that He is the Messiah, the Son of God, and have you received eternal life in His Name?

#### John 16:28

Here Jesus has described His purpose, His mission; He was incarnated, remember at His birth the angels told the shepherds "the Savior who is the Messiah or Christ is born) that is He came from the Father and was made a human, a man in order to secure the salvation of human beings-He entered the world and He would be resurrected from the dead and ascend back to the glory from which He came.

Let me give you a glimpse of that glory as described by Paul in Colossians 1:15-17 Jesus is the visible image of invisible God and supreme over all creation, (remember how He told the storm to stop?), for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. Jesus made the things we can see and the things we can't see such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. He existed before anything else, (in the beginning was the Word-Jesus) and He holds all creation together.

#### John 16: 29-30

Now the disciples realized finally that Jesus was speaking of His departure to the Father. His constantly telling them of what the future would be convinced them that He was the Son of God; they were convinced He knew everything. This was their first step toward an enduring faith.

#### John 16:31-32

I sense He was saying "finally". Zechariah had said in 13:7 "Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered". As He said when He was arrested they all ran away. However, He reminded them He would never be alone. If you are His child you are never alone either.

#### John 16:33

His final note of encouragement, He promised them peace because of their union with Him because He overcame the world. The world, Satan's system is opposed to God and he will give opposition to

believers but Jesus has beaten Satan's system, won the victory and overcome the world. He not only accomplished it, He predicted it.

Jesus will never leave us or forsake us, just as His Father stood by Him, He stands by us. Jesus never abandons us to our struggle. Remember, friends, the victory has been won. Jesus has given us His peace.

Please note, peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the assurance of His Presence and guidance in the conflict. Lastly, Jesus has said to us, and it's a promise, "in this world you will have trouble". Those televangelists who tell you that if you have enough faith you will have everything you want, prosperity, good health, etc., friends, is that true? Does that sound anything like what Jesus has said? Think this through; nowhere in God's word is there any promise of worldly goods or good health to believers. The only ones who achieve wealth are the ones who talk about it on TV and lure unsuspecting people to send them money. Be alert.

Today is the day of salvation, today if you hear His voice, respond; tell Him you are a sinner and you need a Savior to fit you to live in the special dwelling He has prepared for you. Friend you can get to that dwelling only one Way, Jesus, the Way the truth and the Life. Tell Him you believe and you are willing to give your life to Him, as He gave His for you. If this is the true desire of your heart, you will be forgiven and you will be saved.