

John 15:26-16:15

This section of Christ's discourse focuses on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is offering instruction and comfort to His disciples by pointing them to the important role of the Holy Spirit in their lives and ministries - a role they don't yet fully understand.

For our group discussions tonight - let's take time to review the various aspects of the Spirit's work that are spoken of in these verses.

1. The Spirit testifies of Christ. (15:26-27)

The Holy Spirit is like the spotlight that constantly shines on the Person and work of Jesus. The Spirit illumines our hearts by enabling us to see the truth, beauty, and glory of Jesus the Messiah. His testimony will enable the disciples to bear witness of Jesus as well.

Discussion Question: How will the Spirit's testimony help the disciples when they are persecuted in the ways mentioned in 16:1-4?

***Thoughts:** The Spirit will help the disciples remember the word of Christ. He will also embolden them to speak without fear of the consequences. See a similar section in Luke 12:11-12.*

2. The Spirit will be manifested as "the Helper" after Christ's death and resurrection. (16:7)

This title is a summary of all the Spirit will do for the disciples. He is FOR us. He helps us because He loves us and desires to use us for God's glory. His help is provided because we are weak and unable to honor God without Him.

3. The Spirit convicts the world. (16:8-11)

The three main areas are in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Discussion Question: Take some time to unpack how the Spirit's conviction works in the three areas of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

***Thoughts:** Verses 16:9-11 offers some insight. In summary, the Spirit opposes and exposes unbelief. Men have no excuse for rejecting the word of Christ. The Spirit is constantly shining the spotlight on Jesus AND judging the enemy's lies. The Spirit is the light that dispels the darkness of sin, unbelief, and Satan.*

4. The Spirit guides believers into the truth. (16:13)

We cannot arrive at the truth in our own strength and ability. We need supernatural help - and that's exactly what God has promised. See 1 Corinthians 2:13-16.

The Spirit ILLUMINES our hearts (turns the lights on) and brings to our REMEMBRANCE the word of Christ. The result is a person who knows the truth and loves God. Spirit-filled people live in the light of the truth.

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5. The Spirit speaks the same thing as the Father. (16:14-15)

God is not divided. The Father, Son, and Spirit all agree and speak the same thing. The Holy Spirit does not proclaim any new message. Rather, He leads us and settles us into the already established message of Christ. We don't need a new message from the Spirit! What we need is a greater grasp of the "good old" word that's been spoken from the beginning.

Closing thoughts: The Holy Spirit is Christ-centered and other-minded. He exalts the work of Christ by opening the eye's of men's hearts to behold the Lamb! He takes us into a deeper understanding of the word of God - which ultimately leads us into a deeper relationship with Christ - the word made flesh.