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**“Functions of the Holy Spirit” John 16:5-15**

**“Three Words That Keep Us Going” 16:16-33**

**January 29, 2025**

**Lesson Facilitator: Elder Woodretta Allen**

**Memory Verse:** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and will tell you what is yet to come (John 16:13 NIV).

**Objectives:**

1. To observe the love Jesus expressed toward his disciples.
2. To gain a deeper understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit.
3. To examine the promises of Jesus.

**Introduction**: In chapter 16, Jesus offers a heartfelt farewell to His disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for their understanding that He will eventually leave but reassures them that they will not be alone. The Messiah illuminates the vital role of the Holy Spirit, explaining how they work together as one. In this final discourse, Jesus provides His disciples with profound comfort and encouragement, imparting powerful messages of joy, love, and peace to empower them in their journey.

**Point 1: Jesus says His heartfelt farewell to the disciples. (John 16:1-7)**

In an emotionally charged farewell speech, Jesus profoundly impacts His disciples, rendering them speechless. His deep love for them is evident as He acknowledges their silence. He sees their fear, sorrow, and anxiety about the changes ahead. With great compassion, Jesus speaks directly to their hearts, assuring them of His presence. He highlights the importance of the Holy Spirit, reassuring them that they will not face the future alone and will have divine guidance and comfort by their side.

Theologians state that the Holy Spirit is mentioned eighty-one times in the Old Testament.

* Judges 3:10 The Spirit of the Lord came upon Othniel.
* Judges 6:34 The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon.
* Numbers 11:17 Moses and seventy of the leaders had the Spirit of the Lord

The Holy Spirit is a person and is one who Romans 8:27 states has a mind, The Holy Spirit has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11) and the Holy Spirit has emotions and can grieve according to Ephesians 4:30. The Bible uses terms as he/ him to describe him as a person. The Holy Spirit is not an it.

**Question- What attributes or what would be the character of the spirit of untruth, or the spirit of a lie.**

**Point 2: The Function of the Holy Spirit.**

John 16:8, “When he comes, he will prove in the wrong about sin and righteousness, and judgment.

**Sin:**

***About sin, because people do not believe in me (John 16:9).***

If people remain in their sin of disbelief they will remain in their sins. In verse 9 Jesus states “about sin, because people do not believe in me.” The key word in this verse is “in me.” James 2:19 states, “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder. The Holy Spirit wants sinners to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

As a believer it is not enough to admit that Jesus Christ exists, a person must confess that he is Lord. The Word of God states in Philippians 2:10-11, “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

**Righteousness:**

***About righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer (John 16:10).***

The righteousness of God is the legal standing before God as not guilty. 1 John 3:10 states, in this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.”

**Question- What is the difference between righteousness of God and being right?**

**Judgment:**

***And about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned (John 16:11).***

The ruler of darkness stands condemned, and those who follow him will face judgment. It is crucial to understand that non-believers will share in this fate unless they turn away from their sins and seek forgiveness. Acts 2:38 states, Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As believers in the Lord, it is essential to understand that our purpose is not to serve as God’s secretary, listing the sins of those around us. Rather, believers are to shine brightly by demonstrating our obedience to Him. Let us rise above and truly reflect the love and grace that define our faith.

**Point 3: Three Words that keep us going.**

**Joy:**

***Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete (John 16:23).***

Jesus demonstrates profound compassion for His disciples by offering them joy. He assures them that they need only to ask— all they must do is pray. This promise highlights the enduring relationship between believers and Jesus, emphasizing that He is always ready to listen and engage with His people.

**Love:**

***“No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and believed that I came from God (John 16:27).***

Jesus describes in John 14:23 what he means by “you have loved me.” The Word of God states, “Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” Jesus is saying that love is more than an action. Words of love are vital but acts of love provide proof.

After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, he became the everlasting bridge between God and humanity. Because of Jesus believers can approach the Father directly. Jesus describes this access to the Father as love.[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Question: How would you explain the love of God in your life?**

**Peace:**

***“I have told you these things so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33).***

If someone experiences distress only occasionally or experiences joy that outweighs their troubles, their disturbance is temporary and does not last long. This is why those not united with God through love often face troubles without experiencing peace, while the saints who have God in their hearts through love possess peace in Christ, even during worldly problems[[2]](#footnote-3): “He makes peace in your borders” (Ps 147:14).

**Conclusion:**

Jesus entrusted us with His Holy Spirit, a divine presence that understands us, teaches us, and genuinely loves us. Jesus, the lover of our souls, has given us the Spirit of Truth to guide our lives during this challenging time.

If you are uncertain whether the Spirit of Truth resides in you or if you feel burdened and have not allowed the Holy Spirit to lead you over the last few months, I urge you to pause for a moment. Reflect on this profound gift and open your heart to the guidance available to you.

***Do not become like the person in verse nine who does not believe in Jesus.***

Admit that you have sinned.

Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.

Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and you will be saved.

ASK for the Holy Spirit to make his home in you.

**Table Talk Questions**

1. Multiple faiths regard Jesus Christ as a prophet, teacher, and Rabbi. Why is it important to see Jesus as Lord in your spiritual journey with Him?
2. If you were having a conversation with a new convert and they inquired about the Holy Spirit, how would you explain His nature and highlight His key attributes?
3. Have you ever considered why Jesus took the time to prepare his disciples for his death, burial, and resurrection? Was this a wise choice? Explain.
4. What is the evil in standing for something right instead of standing for righteousness in Jesus Christ?

**Announcements**

**Offering**

**Closing Remarks**

**Prayer Request**

**References**

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Riggs, Ralph M. *The Spirit Himself*. Missouri: Gospel Publishing House, 2006.

Swindoll, Charles. *Insights on John.* Tennessee: Tyndale House of Publishers, 2014.

1. Charles Swindoll*, Insights on John* (Tennessee: Tyndale House of Publishers, 2014), 305. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Gospel of John: Chapters 13-2 (*Washington, D. C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2010), 165. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)