

The Gospel of John

The Revelation of Truth

John 16:12-15

INTRODUCTION:

For many weeks now, we have been experiencing the night before Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

In our scripture text this morning, Christ and His disciples are still on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane. During this journey, Jesus continues to prepare His disciples for what lay ahead of them.

Stand and Read Scripture

John 16:12-15 (NASB)

¹² “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* at the present time. ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

Prayer

Let me sort of sum it up where we are. Our Lord told the disciples and all who will believe through all of human history that the Holy Spirit will come to dwell in all believers. We all possess the Holy Spirit, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is in us to fulfill all the promises of Christ.

He is in us also to empower us for testimony and for witness. He also provides all the graces necessary to enjoy the fullness of a rich Christian life. And then reveals the scriptures to us so we can understand the truths of God. This enables us to preach the gospel to the world by His power.

The New Testament is critical. Where would we be without it? We have to have the record of Christ and the New Testament is that record. So here is our Lord telling His disciples, and us as well, that the writing of the New Testament will be inspired by the Holy Spirit who will insure that the writers recall all that Jesus did and taught them. It is all prepared by the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Now, I just want to give you **four things to think about**, all right?

Number One: The need for Holy Spirit revelation.

BODY:

I. THE NEED FOR HOLY SPIRIT REVELATION.

John 16:12a (NASB)

¹² "I have many more things to say to you,...

I think it would be pretty obvious to all of us that we would be in a dire situation if we did not have the New Testament. It would be a hopeless effort to search historical records to find out what Jesus did, what He said, what He accomplished, and what it meant apart from the New Testament. We would be helpless to know God's truth were it not for the Holy Spirit Who caused the truth of Christ to be preserved in scripture.

John 16:12b (NASB)

¹² "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* at the present time.

Not only did the Spirit preserve the words that Jesus taught and many of the miracles that He performed, but He also illuminated His words now that Jesus had been crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. These revelations would not have been understood by the eleven disciples prior to Christ's death because they could not wrap their heads around these events prior to them happening. They were still denying the fact that Jesus was going to die and leave them.

Remember one of the things that Jesus promised them?

John 16:5-7 (NASB)

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, grief has filled your heart. ⁷ But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

When the Holy Spirit comes, He will take all that Jesus promised the disciples and give it to them as well as everyone who believes. That is the internal work of the Spirit. And then externally, He will produce the Scripture through the writers of the New Testament. That Scripture will become our source for knowing the truth of God.

After Jesus left to go back to the Father, many false teachers sprang up who spread incorrect teachings and false representations concerning Jesus. Because of the Holy Spirit, we can measure all of them against the inspired Scriptures to ensure their accuracy. They will help us separate the lies of Satan from the truth of God. So, as you can see, **the need** for the recording and enlightening of the scripture is very obvious. The Bible contains the truths from God that was taught by Christ. The Holy Spirit allowed the disciples to remember all that Christ spoke as He heard it from God. So when you open your Bible, it is God speaking as it was taught by Christ and revealed by the Holy Spirit.

One of the promises that Jesus told the disciples was that when the Holy Spirit arrived He would dwell within every believer throughout history. Consider how wonderful it is to actually have the author of the scriptures dwelling within you as a teacher to help you to understand the truth of God!

John 16:12b (NASB)

...but you cannot bear *them* at the present time."

What was Jesus trying to tell them? Their judgment is completely clouded by sorrow because of His leaving. The disciples had been taught by the Jewish leaders, **prior** to Jesus, that the Messiah would come, conquer the Romans, throw them out, and establish an earthly kingdom that would elevate Israel to world supremacy. There would be a spiritual revival and salvation would come to the nation.

But Jesus had not overthrown the Romans. The leaders of Israel hated Him and there was no revival in the nation. And instead of setting up an earthly kingdom, He is now saying that He is about to be executed?

"Where's the kingdom? Where's the glory?"

It wasn't that Jesus had not told them that their understanding was wrong. It was that when Jesus spoke about His suffering, they didn't get it. They were not ready to hear.

Let's go all the way back to chapter 2 when Jesus talked about dying.

John 2:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and *yet* You will raise it up in three days?"

So Jesus was telling them about dying and rising from the dead very early in His ministry.

But look at the next verse:

John 2:21-22 (NASB)

²¹ But He was speaking about the temple of His body. ²² So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

This tells us that when Jesus told them, they didn't believe it. It was just not the plan. It wasn't what they expected or anticipated. And they never believed it until after the resurrection.

In John 20:6, we see this even after Christ dies. Simon Peter comes to the tomb, goes in, and sees that the Lord is not there.

John 20:8 (NASB)

⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb also entered then, and he saw and believed.

So even after Christ's death, the disciples had not fully believed what Jesus had told them. The fact that he was going to die and raise from the dead just was not in their thinking.

It wasn't until after the cross and after the resurrection that they actually began to grasp it. Jesus spent 40 days instructing them out of the Old Testament how He had fulfilled all of the scriptures concerning the Messiah and the kingdom that was to come.

Then the Holy Spirit came and really illuminated their minds." So He says, "Look, I have so much more to say, a whole New Testament worth, everything from Matthew to Revelation. But you can't handle it. I can't even get you up to where you should be, let alone the things that are beyond that." There is a profound need for the New Testament, the rest of the story, right? So that's the **need**.

Now let's look at the extent of this Holy Spirit revelation.

II. THE EXTENT OF THIS HOLY SPIRIT REVELATION.

John 16:13a (NASB)

¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into **all the truth**...

There it is: "**All the truth.**" You can underline that or remember it in your mind: not some of the truth, but all the truth.

Wow! All the truth is here. The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth. He will bring things to your remembrance. He will allow you supernaturally to remember everything Jesus did and everything Jesus said in order to write it down in the four gospels. The apostles and those who were associated with Him, who wrote the gospels, will have Holy Spirit-inspired remembrance. And then He will inspire the story of the church in the book of Acts. And then He will inspire the theology of the gospel in the Epistles. And then He will inspire the great book of Revelation. "**All the truth**": from the virgin birth to eternity; from Matthew, chapter 1 all the way to Revelation, chapter 22. The Holy Spirit will give you **all** the truth.

Listen to how Paul describes this phenomenon.

1 Corinthians 2:1 (NASB)

² And when I came to you, brothers *and sisters*, I did not come as *someone* superior in speaking ability or wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God.

Never forget that: the Bible is the **testimony of God**. It starts with the Father, to the Son, through the Spirit, to the writers of Scripture. It is the testimony of God.

1 Corinthians 2:4 (NASB)

⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

So because of the Spirit, your faith doesn't rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

This wisdom is from God. It is not understood by the world. If they had understood they would never have crucified Jesus.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 (NASB)

¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

Here is a simple analogy. It is your spirit in you that knows your thoughts. Your hand does not know your thoughts. Your feet do not know your thoughts. Even the tissue in your brain does not know your thoughts. It is the living spirit within you who knows your thoughts. And the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God and He reveals them- " as verse 12 says " – "*so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.*"

How has he revealed God's truth to us? Look at verse 13:

1 Corinthians 2:13b (NASB)

...not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

What is the Bible? Spiritual thoughts in spiritual words. The more you read God's Word, the more the Holy Spirit can make the scripture clear to you and direct you in your walk with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:16b (NASB)

But we have the mind of Christ.

All of this so you will have the mind of Christ! You know how Christ thinks, and that will be how God thinks because that is what the Holy Spirit has revealed. So when you pick up your Bible you are reading what was written by the Holy Spirit to basically reveal the mind of Christ, which is equal to the mind of God.

III. THE SOURCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT REVELATION.

Now let us look at the source of God's truth.. Where does this come from?

John 16:13b (NASB)

...He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

He is going to give you the rest of the revelation to come. He is going to enlighten the eleven disciples and everyone else who believes throughout mankind's remaining history. But He is not going to be the source of it. The source of it is God. He's going to speak what He hears from God. But not only from God, but from Christ as well. Listen to verse 15.

John 16:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

So this is the source: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, all saying the very same thing. The Spirit, just as Jesus, does not speak on His own initiative; He doesn't act independently. The disciples would understand that because that is exactly what Jesus taught them constantly when He was with them.

John 5:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way.

The word that is to come will not only be prophetic, but it will be revealing as well. And what is to come? The Gospels all the way to Revelation.

Concerning the revelation of the Holy Spirit we have seen: the **need for it**, there's much more to say; The **extent of it**, all the truth; and the **source of it**, the Father and the Son. Now let us look at the **purpose for it**.

IV. THE PURPOSE FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT REVELATION.

John 16:14a (NASB)

¹⁴ **He will glorify Me,...**

There it is! "**He will glorify Me**". When you get to the New Testament, Jesus is the main person. By sharing what Christ did for us and the significance of it, the Holy Spirit is glorifying Christ.

The gospels record His birth, His life, His ministry, His death, His ascension. The Acts record the preaching about His death and resurrection, suffering, and glory, and establishment of His church, which He is the head. The Epistles explain the doctrinal significance and application of His life and work. Revelation presents Him as the coming Judge who will set up His kingdom and rule forever in eternity.

John 16:14b (NASB)

... for He will take from Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

We preach the New Testament; it is about Christ. Then we go back and we compare it with the Old Testament.

CONCLUSION:

If you are going to demonstrate by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ, you have to have the record of Jesus and compare it with the Old Testament, right? That is exactly what we do. We compare the Old Testament prophecies of Christ with the New Testament revelation of Christ to demonstrate that He is the promised Messiah. So this is what the Holy Spirit is going to do: He is going to come and He's going to testify about Jesus. He is going to glorify Him!

Go Tell it on the Mountain.