

161. The Gospel of John—16:12-13

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit—Part 3

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(10/24/21)

Find this weeks' sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

In our study in John's Gospel, we are now less than 12 hours from the Cross (probably more like 9 or 10 hours).

Earlier in the evening Jesus dropped a bombshell on His disciples by telling them He was going away—and they couldn't go with Him. Even though the work He had begun they would have to continue in His absence—He promised He wasn't going to leave them alone and helpless like orphaned children.

The Lord promised them He would send them another Helper to come alongside of them, the Holy Spirit, Who would abide with them forever. (John 14:15-18)

John 16:5-7 (NKJV)

⁵ "But now I go away 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, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Based on this section of John's Gospel (16:5-15)—we began a series which I've entitled, "*The Ministry of the Holy Spirit*."

As we have already said, the ministry of the Holy Spirit to *unbelievers* is different from the ministry of the Holy Spirit to *believers* in Christ.

I. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Unbeliever (the World)—verses 8-11

John 16:8-11 (NKJV)

⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Believer—verses 12-15

For 3 ½ years Jesus had been teaching His disciples the things of God—

John 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ Then Jesus said to them... I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

John 16:12a (NKJV)

¹² I still have many things to say to you...

This refers to the spiritual truth which has to come from God who alone is the source of all spiritual truth.

John 16:12b (NKJV)

¹² I still have many things to say to you, **but you cannot bear *them* now.**

The disciples were too full of sorrow and selfishness for Jesus to say anymore to them in the way of spiritual truth. Also, the disciples at this point were still spiritual babies—Jesus knew that they were too immature spiritually to handle any more spiritual truth than what He had already given to them. (Hebrews 5:12-14)

He had given them spiritual *milk* (basic New Testament doctrine)—the deeper things of God (the meat) would have to wait till they were mature enough spiritually to handle it—and when would that be you ask?—

John 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³ **However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..**

In other words, ***“When the Holy Spirit comes, He will continue your training by giving you the spiritual truth you are not mature enough to receive at this point. He will pick up where I have left off and not only finish giving you New Testament doctrine but also reveal to you what’s coming in the future (prophecy).”***

This is where the ministry of the Holy Spirit comes in—to continue the work Jesus began (thru the lives of Jesus’ disciples), to give them the balance of New Testament revelation along with the grace to understand and apply all of God’s truth into their lives—so that they (we) might finish the work Jesus began on the earth when He was here physically:

Acts 1:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit...[Who came on the Day of Pentecost]

A. The Holy Spirit Will Expound and Expand the Teachings of Jesus—verses 12-13

John 16:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² **I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.** ¹³ **However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**

1. **“He will guide you into all truth”—verse 13a**
2. **“He will not speak on His own authority”—verse 13b**
3. **“He will tell you things to come”—verse 13c**

John 14:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

When you compare John 14:26 with 16:13—we can see the wonderful way that God arranged for the writing of the New Testament Scriptures.

- The Spirit would remind them of what Jesus had taught them—*this gives us the four Gospels.*
- The Spirit would also “guide” them into all the remaining New Testament truth—*this would result in the epistles.*
- He would reveal to them things to come—*this refers to the prophetic Scriptures, especially the Book of Revelation.*

1. **“He will guide you into all *truth*”—verse 13a**

The “**all truth**” of verse 13 is the total revelation of God that we call the New Testament canon of Scripture.

Let me stop and say this, back in the first century after Jesus ascended back to His Father in heaven—when the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost, He did give the Church the rest of God’s divine truth we call the New Testament.

Today God is not revealing any new doctrine—the New Testament canon of Scripture is complete.

➔ Listen—churches that claim the Holy Spirit has given them or is giving them “new revelations”—more New Testament doctrine.

“**[When the Holy Spirit comes] He will guide you into all truth**”—verse 13a

The Holy Spirit accomplishes this in 3 ways, through—*revelation; inspiration; and illumination*

a. Revelation

Christianity claims to be a **revealed truth**—a revelation is something that is made known to us by God.

It is something that would be impossible for us to know through our own human *logic* or *intelligence* or normal *thought processes*—it is knowledge that comes through divine input.

Man is locked (trapped) in a “box” called the *natural realm*—this 4-dimensional physical universe. Because of this, there is no way for the natural man to know anything about a supernatural God unless that God chose to reveal Himself to man.

There are many people who think that through meditation, visualization or some other spiritual technique they can poke a hole in this ‘box’ (the natural realm) climb out (into the spirit realm) and find God.

Many centuries ago, Job asked the question, “*Can a man by searching find God?*”

The answer of course is “NO”—there is no way the natural man could know a supernatural God thru an intellectual or even a spiritual quest.

No matter how sincere a person is and how hard he tries, he is incapable of reaching beyond the boundaries of the physical, *natural* realm he finds himself trapped in and therefore is incapable of knowing or understanding anything about the *supernatural* God.

The only way for the natural man to know the supernatural God is if that God condescended to make Himself known to man.

The word for this is “*revelation*”—revelation is where the supernatural God invades the ‘box’ of the natural realm with a divine message about Himself so that the natural man can know something about this supernatural God and His will for our lives.

Old Testament scholar Gleason Archer puts it this way:

“How then can we know God or His will for our lives? Only if He reveals Himself to us! Unless He Himself tells us, we can never know for sure the answers to those questions which matter most to us as human beings.

At this point it is important to observe that the Bible presents itself as the written revelation of God. This purports to be a Book in which God gives us the answers to the great questions which concern our soul, and which all the wisdom and science of man are powerless to solve with any degree of certainty.”

Francis Schaeffer, referring to God, wrote, “*He is there, and He is not silent.*”

Some of the ways God has revealed divine truth to us in the past include—angels, dreams, visions, prophets, theophanies (appearances of God in the Old Testament), and audibly from heaven.

Of course, the greatest *revelation* from God was the *incarnation*—where God Himself (by becoming a Man) entered into the ‘box’ (natural realm) and dwelt among us in the Person of Jesus Christ!

John 1:1-3, 14 (NKJV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 1:1-2a (NKJV)

¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*...

This is what Christianity is—a revealed truth.

In these last days, God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus Christ—and now through His Holy Spirit—

“[When the Holy Spirit comes] He will guide you into all truth”—verse 13a

b. Inspiration

In 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul said that all Scripture is given by *inspiration* of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

“Inspiration” is a translation of the Greek word *Theopneustos* which literally means “*God-breathed*.”

The idea is that God breathed “life” into the Scriptures in much the same way He breathed life into the first man He created—

Genesis 2:7 (NKJV)

⁷ And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Again, the idea is that God breathed life into the Scriptures that same way He breathed life into Adam—even as the book of Hebrews declares, “*The Word of God is living and powerful...*” (Hebrews 4:12)

Just as Adam was a direct creation of God—so too are the Scriptures which were written down by human instruments—but inspired by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21) Understand, when the Holy Spirit moved each writer of the Scriptures (Old and New Testaments)—**they didn’t just take ‘dictation’**.

The Holy Spirit allowed each writer’s personality and style to come through each book but made sure that the final product was absolutely error free in the original manuscripts.

The Bible is a composite of 66 books written by 40 different authors from all walks of life—for example:

- *Moses* was a political leader trained in the universities of Egypt.
 - Peter was a *fisherman*
 - Amos was a *herdsman*
 - Joshua was a *military leader*
 - Nehemiah was a *cupbearer*
 - Daniel was a *prime minister*
 - Luke was a *physician*
 - Solomon was a *king*
 - Matthew was a *tax collector*
 - Paul was a *rabbi*
- a. *It was written over 1600 years* (1500 B.C—100 A.D.)
 - b. *It was written on 3 different continents:* Asia, Africa and Europe.
 - c. *It was written in 3 different languages:* Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
 - d. *It was written at different times:* David wrote in times of war and adversity, Solomon in times of peace and prosperity. It was written in times of freedom and in times of slavery.
 - e. *It was written during different moods:* Some writing from the heights of joy while others wrote from the depths of sorrow and despair (which any writer will tell you has a great effect on the writings themselves).
 - f. *Its authors wrote on hundreds of controversial subjects.* A controversial subject is one that would create opposing opinions when brought up and discussed.
 - The biblical writers wrote about such things as the Person and nature of God, the origin of the universe and the fall and redemption of man.
 - They wrote about sin, eternity, heaven, hell and so on—all of these subjects when mentioned would be met with opposing views and opinions.

Go to any coffee shop or university campus and ask some of these questions and see if you don't get as many different opinions as there are people).

Think about it—here was one man on one continent in one society, one culture, one language, one walk of life, one mood writing about a controversial subject.

At the same time, you have another man, another culture, another continent, another society, another language, another walk of life, different mood writing about that same controversial subject and when the two are brought together **there is absolute harmony.**

In fact, that is one of the most powerful proofs of its divine inspiration.

The biblical writers wrote on literally hundreds of controversial subjects with absolute harmony and continuity from beginning to the end.

The Bible may have been written through 40 different penmen, but it had one Author—the Holy Spirit.

➔ Listen: Josh McDowell and Don Stewart and Great Books of the Western World

*It is a miracle—
one unfolding story from
Genesis to Revelation of God's
redemptive plan for mankind.*

In the Old Testament through the coming Messiah, in the New Testament through the Messiah that has come—and yet both the Old and New Testaments fit together perfectly and intricately from start to finish as one book written by a single author!

Geisler and Nix in their *General Introduction to the Bible* put it this way:

"In Genesis you have paradise lost and in Revelation you have paradise regained. You can't understand Revelation without Genesis and you can't understand Genesis without Revelation—it's all woven together so intricately it's like a beautiful tapestry. It actually becomes one book with 66 chapters—one unfolding story from beginning to the end."

F.F. Bruce, Christian scholar, professor and author—

"No part of the human body can be properly explained outside the context of the whole body—so no part of the Bible can be properly explained or understood outside the context of the Bible as a whole."

- The Bible is the only religious book in the world that speaks of the unknown with the same authority and confidence as it does the known things of history.
- The Bible speaks of future things with the same authority and confidence—and in the case of fulfilled prophecy—the same accuracy as it does of historical events.
- The Bible has no equal including the sacred writings of any other religion.

Professor M. Montiero-Williams, former Boden professor of Sanskrit who spent 42 years studying eastern books and sacred writings said in comparing them to the Bible:

"Pile them if you will on the left side of your table but place your own Holy Bible on the right side all by itself, all alone and with a wide gap between them.

For there is a gulf between the Bible and the so-called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly and forever...a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thought."

In other words, the Bible is unique and stands alone when compared to the sacred writings of the religions of the world.

"[When the Holy Spirit comes] He will guide you into all truth"—verse 13a

The Holy Spirit accomplishes this in 3 ways, through—*revelation; inspiration; and illumination*. We'll look at the third one next week.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#). | Want to know more? Click [here](#).