

162. The Gospel of John—16:12-15

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit—Part 4

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(10/31/21)

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

As we come to John Chapter 16, we are coming to the end of Jesus' farewell address to His disciples the night before His crucifixion—that address covers Chapters 13-16.

As we have said many times, Jesus has been with these men for 3 ½ years teaching and training them to take over for Him once He returned to His Father in heaven.

In that regard, **much if not most of His ministry was preparatory**. He was preparing them to carry on the work of the Kingdom in His absence by giving them Kingdom truth.

These teachings were simply New Testament (new covenant) principles and doctrines that the Father had sent the Son to teach His disciples—

John 15:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ **No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**

These Kingdom teachings were not only vital to their spiritual growth—they were also essential to the effectiveness of their ministries.

Kingdom principles like—the greatest in the Kingdom would be the servants of all (Matt. 20:25-28) etc. However, the length of Jesus' earthly ministry limited how much He could share with these men before He was taken from them.

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...**

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."*

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

This series has 2 main points—

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

II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Believer (in Christ)—verses 12-15

We've already looked at the first main point—and last week we started looking at the Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Believer.

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.

A. The Holy Spirit will expound and expand the teachings of Jesus—verses 12-13

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

The “**all truth**” of verses 13 is the *total* revelation of God that we call the New Testament Scriptures. Now, it is true that not all of this New Testament truth really got started in the New Testament with the ministry of Jesus.

Way back in the Old Testament we get a glimpse of New Testament truth in the Book of Genesis concerning Abraham's faith that—*“he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”* (Genesis 15:6)

But the Father sent the Son to expand and amplify this truth (the Gospels) and then He (Jesus) turned this responsibility over to the Holy Spirit Who Himself would expand further, explain deeper, and complete the transfer and dissemination of God's revelation to His Church thru the Book of Acts, the Epistles and culminating with the Book of Revelation.

Think of the Gospels as the “*elementary school*” (the teachings that Jesus gave His disciples when He was with them in Person during His earthly ministry).

On the night before His crucifixion, He said to His disciples, “*I still have many things to say to you, but you're not ready to receive them now.*” (John 16:12) He had given them spiritual “*milk*” (basic New Testament doctrine)—but the “*meat*” would have to wait till they were mature enough spiritually to handle it.

➤ **And when would that be you may ask?—**

“...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...” (verse 13)

In other words, all the remaining New Testament truth that Jesus couldn't give to them before His crucifixion—the Holy Spirit would guide them into when He came. It's what Paul the apostle referred to in 1Corinthians 2:10 as “*the deep things of God.*”

So, the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer in Christ is, first of all:

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

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

a. Revelation

Revelation is the act of revealing divine truth → It's supernatural information about God and His will for mankind that we could never know if God hadn't condescended to reveal this information to the human race.

Some of the ways God has revealed divine truth to us in the past would be thru—angels, dreams, visions, prophets—but by far the greatest revelation was the *incarnation*:

Hebrews 1:1-2 (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*...

God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus Christ and then through His Holy Spirit in giving us divine revelation (the balance of the New Testament).

b. Inspiration

Inspiration is the divine influence of God upon the writers of the Scriptures which allowed them to infallibly communicate God's truth on paper (the Scriptures). In 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul said that all Scripture is given by "*inspiration of God*".

"**Inspiration**" is the Greek word *theopneustos* which literally means "*God-breathed*."

The idea is that God breathed life into the Scriptures the same way He breathed life into Adam (Genesis 2:7)—even as Paul the apostle said, "*All Scripture is God-breathed*" (2 Timothy 3:16)—and then the book of Hebrews declares, "*The Word of God is living and powerful...*" (Hebrews 4:12)

That brings us to our study this morning—

c. Illumination

Illumination is the ability given to man by the Holy Spirit to *understand* God's truth as revealed in the Bible.

- *Revelation concerns the discovery of truth.*
- *Inspiration concerns the communication of truth.*
- *Illumination concerns the understanding of truth.*

Or think of it this way—

- Revelation is the *package* from heaven containing divine truth.
- Inspiration is the *vehicle* that God used to deliver the package to us (prophets, angels etc.)
- Illumination is the *opening* of the package and using its contents in our lives.

When we talk about the Holy Spirit *illuminating* the Scriptures to believers in Christ—we are not saying that unbelievers can't *know* or even *understand* some of the truth written in the Bible. There are many liberal theologians who have studied the Bible their whole lives—even memorizing large portions of it.

Yet they aren't born-again and as such they reject many fundamental and essential doctrines of the Christian faith—like the inerrancy of Scripture, the virgin birth, the blood atonement of Christ and even His bodily resurrection from the dead.

It's one thing to know the words of a passage on a page in the Bible—it's another thing to be able to interact with the words of Scripture so that they become "*living and powerful*" in the lives of believers in Christ to transform their lives.

The wisdom of the world produces *information*, the Word of God produces *transformation*.

So, the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer in Christ is, first of all:

1. **"He will guide you into all truth"** [i.e., 'finish giving you the complete New Testament cannon of Scripture] **(verse 13a)**

2. **"He will not speak on His own authority" (verse 13b)**

John 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³ ...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...

This is Jesus' way of saying that everything the Holy Spirit says and does will be consistent with what Jesus has already said and done.

The idea that Jesus is communicating here to His men is that the ministry of **the Holy Spirit would be a *continuance* of His own ministry—NOT something brand new and different.**

The fact that the third Person of the Trinity (Holy Spirit) ***would take over and continue the ministry of the Second Person of the Trinity (Jesus Christ)*** means there would be complete agreement, continuity and absolutely no contradictions between what the Spirit would say and do with what Jesus had said and done—because God never contradicts Himself!

First of all, people who claim that the Spirit of God led them to do things contrary to the *example* of Jesus—like living extravagant lifestyles (mansions, expensive cars and clothes even owning multiple jets)—are being deceived and led astray by the devil! Furthermore, **any** person claiming to represent Jesus that teaches doctrines (essential doctrines) contrary to the teachings of Jesus (with regard to Himself and salvation)—is being deceived and led astray by Satan!

Let me say it again, the Holy Spirit would never contradict anything Jesus said during His earthly ministry—or any of God's truth for that matter already revealed in the pages of Scripture.

The Holy Spirit has been blamed for a lot of things that clearly contradict what God has already revealed in His Word.

Some that I have heard over the years include:

- ❖ The Holy Spirit told them to divorce their spouse and marry someone else who is more spiritual.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit told them they could live together outside of marriage because—they don't need a piece of paper (marriage license) to prove their love for each other.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit told them it was okay to marry an unbeliever because He was going to use them to bring their unbelieving spouse to Jesus.

❖ The Holy Spirit told me He made me gay.

Not to mention all the other craziness which is not consistent with the already revealed Word of God ('holy laughter', people making animal noises, shaking violently, being 'slain in the Spirit'—or any other bizarre so-called manifestations attributed to the Spirit of God.

To these people I say, *"Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."* (Mark 8:33)

And so, under the first point of the Holy Spirit's ministry to the believer—

A. The Holy Spirit will expound and expand the teachings of Jesus—verse 12-13

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

We call this prophecy.

Why is *prophecy* so important in the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer (Church)?

Before I tell you why let me first just say that roughly 27% of the Bible is prophecy—so any church that refuses to teach prophecy is refusing to teach more than a quarter of God's Word to their people!

This was something that Paul had not and would not ever do—

Acts 20:26-27 (NKJV)

²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

So, why is **prophecy** so important (and I believe so vital) in the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer?

I'll give you 2 main reasons: *vigilance* and *validation*.

a. Vigilance

The dictionary defines '**vigilance**' as: *"to be on guard against, to be on the lookout for, to watch alertly and carefully for something—especially for coming danger."*

Now, with regard to Bible prophecy, the vigilance I have in mind is—vigilantly watching for the return of Jesus Christ!

Of course, we are commanded in Scripture to be vigilant against evil—

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

But over and over again Jesus commanded His Church to be vigilant in watching for His return—

Mark 13:32-37 (NKJV)

³² "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ³⁴ *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- ³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Let me just say that “*watching*” for Jesus’ return is different from “*waiting*” for Jesus’ return—a lot of Christians are *waiting* for the Lord’s return but they’re not *watching* for His return. (Explain)

The reason that God didn’t tell us the day and hour Jesus was coming back is because—we would no longer be vigilant in looking for His return and that would lead to laziness, carnality and a lot of sinful living knowing that His coming was still a long way off—

Luke 12:43-46 (NKJV)

⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. ⁴⁵ But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers.

Being vigilant in looking for the Lord’s return is important for a number of reasons—the main one being that it produces holy living:

1 John 3:3 (NKJV)

³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Now, being vigilant in watching for Jesus’ return wouldn’t be possible if He (and the Holy Spirit) hadn’t given us “**signs**” to be watching for.

In other words, we couldn’t watch for His Return if God in His Word hadn’t told us what was coming in the future to be on the lookout for that would indicate the Lord’s return was getting near—we call that prophecy!

What makes prophecy so important with regard to the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?—**we couldn’t be vigilant without it!**

Hold on to that thought—we’ll pick up this up next time as we continue to look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer in Christ.

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](#).