

## 163. The Gospel of John—16:12-15

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### *The Ministry of the Holy Spirit—Part 5*

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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.

Earlier in the evening He dropped a bombshell 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 told them He wasn't going to leave them alone and helpless like orphaned children.

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

#### **John 16:5-7 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> 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 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:

#### **II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Believer—verse 12-15**

#### **John 16:12-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. <sup>13</sup> 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"** [i.e., Finish giving them the complete New Testament cannon of Scripture]—**verse 13a**
2. **"He will not speak on His own authority"** [He would only expand and expound on what Jesus had

taught them]—**verse 13b**

3. **“He will tell you things to come”** [He would reveal prophecy to them]—**verse 13c**

Why is **prophecy** so important (and I believe so vital) in the ministry of the Holy Spirit to believers in Jesus?

As we said last week, it’s important for 2 main reasons: *vigilance* and *validation*.

a. **Vigilance**

The dictionary defines ‘**vigilance**’ basically as: “*to be on guard against, to be on the lookout for*” etc.

Now, with regard to Bible prophecy, the vigilance I have in mind is—vigilantly watching for the return of Jesus Christ! 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 the Lord’s Return if God hadn’t told us in His Word what was coming in the future—events to be on the lookout for that would indicate the Lord’s return was getting near (like Israel becoming a nation again)—we call that prophecy! This is what makes prophecy so important to us as Christians—we couldn’t be vigilant without it!

Now, as Christians the return of Jesus we are looking for—is Jesus’ return for His Church where He snatches us off the earth in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye to meet Him in the clouds before taking us to heaven (2 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58).

We call *this* return—the Rapture!

The problem with looking for the Rapture is that it’s imminent—which means it could happen at any moment—

**Luke 12:40 (NKJV)**

<sup>40</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

So how can we be vigilant in looking for Jesus’ coming for His Church at the Rapture if it is imminent which means—there are no signs for us to be on the lookout for indicating the Rapture is getting close?

Well, let me put it this way—have you been to the stores lately? If so, you’ve noticed that Christmas decorations are already on display. Now, I know that Thanksgiving comes *before* Christmas—so if the signs of Christmas are everywhere it means that Thanksgiving is getting very close indeed!

God didn’t give us any signs to be looking for that indicate the Rapture is getting close—it’s imminent.

But He did give us over 500 prophecies in the Bible to be on the lookout for that indicate Jesus’ Second Coming is getting near.

Now, we know the Rapture comes *before* the Second Coming of Christ—so if the signs of Jesus’ Second Coming are everywhere (and they certainly are!)—we know the Rapture is getting very close indeed!

So first of all, prophecy is vital when it comes to the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer because it allows us to remain **vigilant** and watchful for the Lord's coming for His Church—something Jesus stressed the importance of:

**Matthew 24:45-51 (NLT2)**

<sup>45</sup> “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. <sup>46</sup> If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. <sup>47</sup> I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. <sup>48</sup> But what if the servant is evil and thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ <sup>49</sup> and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? <sup>50</sup> The master will return unannounced and unexpected, <sup>51</sup> and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

But secondly, prophecy is vital to the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer in Jesus for:

**b. Validation**

The dictionary defines ‘validate’ as: *“to put a mark on (something) to show that it has been checked and is official or accepted (as when a Customs officer validates a passport); to show that something is real or correct.”*

In the Old Testament, God said, *“I’m telling you things before they happen so that when they do happen you will know (and believe) that I am God, and that this (the Bible) is My Word.”*

As Christians, how can we be dynamic in our lives and ministries for the Lord—without the assurance that the Bible is truly His Word?

This is another reason why prophecy is so important in the life of the believer in Christ—it validates that the Bible is truly His Word!

Let me stop here and say this—

Prophecy is the single greatest proof that the Bible  
is **in fact** the Word of the Living God!

**That is really the main purpose of prophecy**  
in the Bible—it is the strongest apologetic we have  
that the Bible is inspired by God.

How? Because it is proof that the God of the Bible is the transcendent God Who dwells outside of time and space (the physical universe) in the eternal, spiritual realm.

To prove this truth about Himself, that He is outside of time, and that His Word is *“an integrated message system that has come to us from outside our time domain”* as one of my all-time favorite Bible teachers, Chuck Missler, used to like to say—He has filled His Word with prophecy (27%).

Listen, because God is outside of time—He knows what is coming in the future and has revealed future events in the pages of Scripture to prove He is God, and the Bible is His Word—

**Isaiah 42:8-9 (NLT2)**

<sup>8</sup> “I am the LORD; that is my name!...<sup>9</sup> Everything I prophesied has come true, and now I will prophesy again. I will tell you the future before it happens.”

**Isaiah 46:9-10 (NLT2)**

<sup>9</sup> I am God, and there is none like me. <sup>10</sup> Only I can tell you the future before it even happens...

**Isaiah 41:23 (NLT2)**

<sup>22</sup> “Let them [lifeless idols]... tell us what will occur in the days ahead. Then we will know you are gods... [implying only the true God knows the future with 100% accuracy—see Deut.13:1-5]

➔ Give the illustration of God looking at all of human history like someone would look at a parade from a helicopter—while we see time like we’re looking at that parade from street level...

Prophecy is God’s “*seal of authenticity*” upon Scripture that the words of the Bible are in fact from Him (the One Who knows ‘the end from the beginning’).

But prophecy is not only designed to *validate* His Word—but also to *build* faith in Jesus.

Remember, what Jesus said to these very disciples earlier that evening in John 14:29—

**John 14:29 (NKJV)**

<sup>29</sup> **And now I have told you before it comes [prophecy], that when it does come to pass, you may believe.**

In this passage, the Lord Jesus was prophesying of His coming death, resurrection, and eventual ascension back to His Father in heaven—in that regard, Jesus was using prophecy in an ‘informational’ way.

But further, notice how the Lord connects fulfilled prophecy with the strengthening of their (or anyone’s) faith—and so in that regard, prophecy had a devotional element to it as well (it builds a person’s faith in Jesus—the Word of God)!

There are many prophecies in the Bible—but let’s just focus for a minute on those that have to do with Jesus Christ and His First Coming—“*For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*” (Revelation 19:10)

- **Isaiah 53** tells us He would lead a hard life, that He would be a Man acquainted with grief and suffering.
- **Psalms 41:9** says that someone close to Him—a dear and trusted friend would betray Him.
- **Zechariah 11:11-13** tells us that He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver and that His betrayer would throw the money down in the Temple and that it would be used to buy a potter’s field to bury the poor in.
- **Isaiah 50 & 52** foretell of the savage beating He would receive at the hands of His captors including the vicious scourging He would endure and ripping out of His beard.
- **Psalms 22** describes more vividly and graphically than the N.T. the way He would die (crucifixion) which was prophesied 500 years before crucifixion was invented and roughly 900 years before the Romans began to use it as a form of execution.
- **Psalms 16** and other passages speak of His resurrection from the dead.

Many other prophecies that give detailed aspects of His life and earthly ministry—over 300 in all that deal with just His First Coming alone. Now let me stop here and say that skeptics believe that Jesus simply read the prophecies in the Scriptures concerning the Messiah—and then went about trying to fulfill them so He could claim to be the Messiah.

Certainly, He *could* have done that with some of the Messianic prophecies—but with most of them that would be extremely difficult—like getting Judas to betray Him for exactly 30 pieces of silver or getting the Romans to cast lots for His cloak.

With others it would be absolutely impossible—like rising from the dead! But also, Jesus fulfilled 3 prophecies by just being born—He didn't do anything!

- **2 Samuel 7** tells us that Messiah would be a descendant of King David—as the old saying goes “*you can pick your friends but not your family.*”
- **Micah 5:2** tells us He would be born in Bethlehem in the region (county) of Ephrathah (there was another Bethlehem up in Galilee).
- **Daniel 9:24-27** tells us that Messiah would be born sometime before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple (which took place in 70 AD)—that eliminates every other *time* in the history of the world for the Messiah's birth.

There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Jesus' First Coming and 500 concerning His Second Coming (an overwhelming number of these have already come to pass).

Let me stop to say this—if *all* the prophecies of His First Coming and *many* concerning His Second Coming have been fulfilled with flawless accuracy—does anyone believe that the remainder of the Messianic prophecies concerning His Second Coming won't come to pass with that same flawless accuracy?

We all would do well to heed carefully the admonition of the apostle Peter concerning the soon return of Jesus to establish His Kingdom and judge those living in rebellion against His authority over their lives—

**1 Peter 4:1-5 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind... <sup>2</sup> that [we] no longer should live the rest of [our lives] in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. <sup>3</sup> For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. <sup>4</sup> In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*. <sup>5</sup> They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead [a prophetic warning of the Second Coming].

**2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

So once more, when it comes to the prophecies in God's Word—a person would do well to heed what God has said about the Second Coming of Christ and adjust their lives accordingly— get saved and start living for the Lord!

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

## B. The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus—verses 14-15

### John 16:14-15 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

We've already covered this but let me say it again—the Holy Spirit never draws attention to Himself—He always and only draws attention to Jesus—that is His ministry!

This principle is violated constantly by charismatic churches who make the Holy Spirit the center of attention and Jesus Christ seems to be relegated to a place of secondary importance—as He is cast more in a supporting role to the Spirit instead of as the main focus in these churches.

But Jesus said right here in John 16 verse 15—*"Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you."* (Amplified Bible)

In other words, He (the Holy Spirit) will receive from the Father the great truths that concern Jesus—these are the things He reveals to believers.

The Holy Spirit works to glorify Jesus (verse 14)—He does not draw attention to himself.

As Jesus said—**"He shall testify of Me" (John 15:26); "He shall glorify Me" (John 16:14).**

As one author put it—

*"By this we can test all teaching and preaching—if it has the effect of magnifying the Savior, then it is of the Holy Spirit".*

**The whole goal of our ministries are so that when people look at us—they see Jesus!**

### John 12:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

J. Vernon McGee—

*"On the back of the pulpit of the Church of the Open Door in downtown Los Angeles is placed the well-known scriptural injunction, 'Sir, we would see Jesus.' This familiar Scripture is found in many pulpits today as a constant and urgent reminder to the preacher of the primary purpose of the pulpit.*

*There is an added motto which might be placed helpfully alongside the scriptural injunction. It is not scriptural but is very familiar to our contemporary society. The motto is 'This Is Your Life.' Our lives are 'living pulpits' and with them we preach to this world everyday—what is your life saying to this world about Jesus?"*

One author summed up the ministry of the Holy Spirit toward the believer in Christ this way—

*"It is Christ's glory revealed on the pages of Scripture that the Holy Spirit uses to mold believers into the image of Jesus Christ: 'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit' (2 Cor. 3:18).*

*If it is the Spirit's purpose to glorify Christ in revelation, how can it be any less our purpose to glorify Christ in proclamation?*

*It is the witness of the Holy Spirit that ultimately testifies to the truthfulness of Scripture. Through the coherent unity, scientific accuracy, historical verifiability, and fulfilled prophecy of the Bible—altogether mark it as unique and divinely inspired of God. In the end, only the Holy Spirit can convince lost sinners of its divine inspiration. The Spirit therefore testifies to the truthfulness of Scripture in the hearts of men. Just as in regeneration (salvation), the Spirit must work in people's lives for them to change their views of both the Bible (the written Word) and Jesus Christ (the incarnate Word). That sovereign work in the heart and mind convinces men and women that the Bible is from God, that all its words are reliable, and that its message about Jesus Christ is indeed the good news of salvation.*

*The true believer loves the Word of God and believes it because of the work of the Spirit in their heart. That work evidences, confirms, and validates that the Bible is truly a divine gift from God—the God of glory Who dwells outside of time and speaks to us through prophecy telling us the end from the beginning and confirming that the Holy Scriptures are indeed the divinely inspired Word of God to mankind!”*

Folks, the main ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers is to draw us closer and closer to Jesus every day so that we become more and more like Him. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

This is accomplished primarily through the reading and studying of the Word of God—

#### **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

You might be thinking—“All of the Bible is inspired by God?”—Yes, all of it!

“Even the boring genealogies I skip over when I read the Bible in my devotions?”—Yes, even the ‘boring’ genealogies!

If you doubt that let me show you one of those boring genealogies in Genesis 5—

#### **Genesis 5:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

**Adam** literally means “*man*.”

#### **Genesis 5:3 (b)**

... and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

**Seth** literally means “*appointed*.”

#### **Genesis 5:6**

And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos...

**Enos** literally means “*subject to death*.”

#### **Genesis 5:9**

And Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan...

**Cainan** literally means *"sorrowful."*

**Genesis 5:12**

And Cainan lived seventy years, and begat Mahalaleel...

**Mahalaleel** literally means *"from the presence of God."*

**Genesis 5:15**

And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared...

**Jared** literally means *"one comes down."*

**Genesis 5:18–20**

And Jared lived a hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch...

**Enoch** literally means *"dedicated."*

**Genesis 5:21**

And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah...

**Methuselah** literally means *"dying He shall send"*

**Genesis 5:25**

And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech...

**Lamech** literally means *"to the poor and lowly."*

**Genesis 5:28**

And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: And he called his name Noah...

**Noah** literally means *"rest" and/or "comfort."*

Let's take the meaning of each of the names in this genealogy and put them together to see what the Holy Spirit is telling us:

***"Man, appointed to death, sorrowful. From the presence of God, One comes down, dedicated. Dying, He shall send to the poor and lowly, rest and comfort."***

**The entire Gospel message is hidden in this 'boring' genealogy!**

Such is the Word of God—every word and every part is inspired by God.

Jesus said— "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*' " (Matthew 4:4)

That dear brothers and sisters in Jesus, is the essence of the Holy Spirit's ministry to us who are children of God—to move in our hearts to fall in love with Jesus by falling in love with His Word!

To cherish every word, passage, picture, and prophesy!



They are all there for a reason—to lift up and exalt the name of Jesus, our Savior and our King!

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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](#).