

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

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John 16:4-15

Want to speak to you today about the MINISTRY of the HOLY SPIRIT. Regarding the Holy SPIRIT, there are two extremes:

- 1) *To misrepresent His Work*: To attribute to him all types of WEIRD characteristics; We see a LOT of this in the CHARISMATIC/PENTECOSTAL movement.
- 2) *To ignore His Ministry all Together*. Essentially focus entirely on Worship of the Father and the Son and to neglect the worship of the Holy Spirit.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHO THE HOLY SPIRIT is and WHAT HE DOES.

Jesus introduces Him in John 14:16 – [16] *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,*

A) The HOLY SPIRIT is a “PERSON, not a FORCE.”

- Jesus calls Him another “HELPER”
 - *Parakletos* – Helper; Advocate; Counselor; An Attorney; Someone who Represents you Legally.
 - Jesus is the original PARAKLETOS. 1 John 2:1 – [1] *But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*
- JESUS is the ORIGINAL ADVOCATE. The HOLY SPIRIT is sent as another ADVOCATE.
 - His ministry is so much an extension of JESUS... that Jesus equates the Spirit coming to the disciples with His coming. John 14:18 – [18] *“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*
 - John 14:20 – [20] *“In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.”*

B) This PERSON is worthy of WORSHIP... because He is GOD.

- Paul equates Him with the other two persons of the godhead. 2 Cor 13:14 – [14] *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
- SO THE HOLY SPIRIT is a PERSON in the GODHEAD.
- He is WORTHY of WORSHIP.

The CONTEXT of JOHN 16.

- John 16:4 – [4] *But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.*
 - Jesus is explaining truths to his disciples *because HE is going away.*

John 16:4b – [4b] *“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you [5] But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’*

- Now Peter had asked this QUESTION earlier: John 13:36 – [36] *Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”*
- At this POINT in the dialogue, quite a bit of time has elapsed. They are so UPSET by the FACT that JESUS is GOING that has overcrowded the FACT of WHERE JESUS is going.

John 16:6 – [6] *But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.*

- The grief is pushing out all possibility for theoretical comprehension.

The MINISTRY of the HOLY SPIRIT

John 16:7 – [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 go, I will send him to you.*

- Jesus says, If I do NOT go AWAY, the PARACLETE will NOT come. In this sense, it is our advantage...
- **Two QUESTIONS:**
 - 1) Why is the only way for the Holy Spirit to come if Jesus goes?
 - The HS is closely associated with the Inauguration of the Kingdom of God.
 - Isaiah 44:3 – [3] *For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*
 - Joel 2:28 – [28] *“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. [29] Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.*
 - Isaiah 32:15 – [15] *until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.*
 - 2) Why is it better for us to have the Holy Spirit and not Jesus’s Person?
 - *The Holy Spirit can be present all over the WORLD. There is no limit to His presence.*
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13 – [13] *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

The Ministry of Conviction (to the UNBELIEVER)

John 16:8 – [8] *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:*

- He will have a MINISTRY of CONVICTION.
- Elegcho – To expose, To convict, to cross-examine for the purpose of convincing or refuting an opponent in legal proceedings.
- To BRING a PERSON to the POINT of RECOGNIZING WRONGDOING.
 - The verb form is translated rebuke/reprove.
 - Titus 1:13 – [13] *Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.*
 - Jude 15 – [15] *when the Lord returns... “to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have*

committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

- Throughout JESUS’S MINISTRY, JESUS carried forth a MINISTRY of CONVICTION.
 - John 7:7 – [7] *The world cannot hat you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.*
 - In a similar way the Holy Spirit works this ministry of CONVICTION.
 - Pentecost... Acts 2:37 – [37] *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”*
 - THE TRUTHS that are PRESSED UPON the WORLD by the SPIRIT.
 - SIN – The reality that we are GUILTY LAW-BREAKERS.
 - RIGHTEOUSNESS – The reality of God’s righteous CHARACTER.
 - JUDGMENT – The reality of the 2nd COMING of CHRIST @ the END of HISTORY.

This MINISTRY of CONVICTION is SIMILAR to a PROSECUTING ATTORNEY. With the Believer, He is our ADVOCATE.

John 16:9 – [9] *concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;*

- When PEOPLE do not see their SIN, they come under conviction and realize their NEED for a SAVIOR.

[10] *concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;*

- Righteousness – refers to the GREAT MORAL JUSTICE of GOD. The RIGHTNESS of GOD.
- When JESUS was on the EARTH, He was the REVELATION of the FATHER.
- NOW the HOLY SPIRIT proclaims to the WORLD this PERFECT RIGHTOUSNESS of GOD.

[11] *concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

- John 12:31 – [31] *Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.*
 - Satan was decisively defeated at the CROSS.
 - Christ has established His KINGDOM and VICTORY over SATAN.
 - The CROSS is the PRELIMINARY of the FINAL JUDGMENT.

John 16:12 – [12] *“I still have many things to say to you. but you cannot bear them now.*

- The disciples were NOT in a place mentally, emotionally, or spiritually to be taught the TRUTH that they would need to know for their MISSION.

The Ministry of Inspiration/Illumination (to the BELIEVER)

John 16:13 – [13] *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

- The HOLY SPIRIT will lead the apostles into the TRUTH.
- This will be done according to the AUTHORITY of the SON AND THE FATHER.
- AND HE WILL DECLARE to the APOSTLES the THINGS to COME.

This is the SOURCE of the NT.

- The TRUTH regarding the PAST. That is the GOSPELS.
- The TRUTH regarding the PRESENT. That is the EPISTLES.

- The TRUTH regarding the FUTURE. That is the REVELATION of John.

John 16:14 – [14] *He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

- The HOLY SPIRIT will bring to mind to the APOSTLES the TRUTH concerning CHRIST. And He will uplift Christ's HOLY CHARACTER. CHRIST will be GLORIFIED.
- The APOSTLES were inspired by the HOLY SPIRIT as they wrote.
- 2 Peter 1:21 – [21] *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
- This is HOW the HOLY SPIRIT works in terms of the INSPIRATION of the BIBLICAL TEXT.

Now the HOLY SPIRIT does not INSPIRE next TEXTS but HE leads believers FACE-to-FACE with the WORD of GOD.

- He helps us UNDERSTAND the TRUTH.
- Psalm 119:18 – [18] *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.*
- Psalm 119:33 – [33] *Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.*
- Psalm 119:34 – [34] *Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.*
- Psalm 119:35 – [35] *Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.*
- The HOLY SPIRIT still works today in terms of the illumination of the biblical Text.
- R. C. Sproul on the illumination of the Holy Spirit – “Reformed Christianity emphatically denies that God is giving new normative revelation today. The Spirit is still working to illumine what is revealed in Scripture. The Spirit helps us to understand the Bible, to convict us of the truth of the Bible, and to apply that truth to our lives. He works with the Word and through the Word. His task is never to teach against the Word. It is therefore always necessary to test what we hear by the teaching of Scripture. Scripture is the Spirit's book.”

John 16:15 – [15] *All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

The SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN is a BIBLE-FILLED CHRISTIAN.

- The REVELATION that GOD wanted us to have us PERFECT and is DECLARED to us in the WORD of GOD.