

The Holy Spirit (Part 3) – John 16:7-15

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John 16:7-15. This is the third and final part of a miniseries on the Holy Spirit, and I trust that God is using it in your life. If we're honest, the Holy Spirit gets a cold shoulder at times, and few things are more tragic.

Because as we saw in Part 1 . . .

The Spirit was sent by both the Father and the Son (John 16:7b; 15:26)

• It implies that the Holy Spirit is not only from God but fully God

The third person of the Trinity, equal in essence, and one with the Father and Son.

We also found that . . .

• It's a doctrine that split the church

And serves as . . .

• It's a reminder to think biblically

To make sure your beliefs and practices in life match the Scriptures. From your doctrine to your disciplines; your spiritual disciplines. The things you say to the things you watch.

The things you think to the things you do. How you live and how you give. How you love and how you lead. What you're devoted to and what you avoid. Think biblically.

Then, last week, from v8-11, we found that . . .

The Spirit came to convict and convince (v8-11)

From the inside out. Because his power and presence is that strong.

• Convict and convince us of sin and unbelief (9)

• Convict and convince us of the need for righteousness (10)

• Convict and convince us of the certainty of judgment (11)

All, so that we would . . .

• Repent and believe

The purpose of John's entire gospel. Repent of our sin and sinfulness, and turn to Jesus as our Lord and Savior. And praise God, 17 people did last week. And we've prayed for you.

Outline

That brings us to Part 3 then, and two more thoughts about the Holy Spirit. From v12-15.

Jesus is still speaking, and says – [12] *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. [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.*

[14] *He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.* (ESV)

The first thought we find in these verses, and third overall, is that . . .

The Spirit works to reveal and guide (v12-13)

Not only does the Spirit convict and convince for the purpose of salvation and life, but he reveals and guides as we *walk* through life.

V12 – *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.* Implying that they would be revealed later. Revealed. And sure enough – *When the Spirit of truth comes* [last part of v13] . . . *he will declare to you the things that are to come.* He'll reveal them. And does. The Spirit works to reveal.

And, guide. *When the Spirit of truth comes* [v13], *he will guide you into all the truth.* (13a) Or *lead* us into all the truth.

Like David prayed in **Psalm 143:10b** – *Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!*

Same word. *Let your good Spirit* [guide] *me* in the best way possible. And a thousand years later, Jesus promised that he would. And 3000 years later he still is. Guiding *and* revealing.

And he does so in three different ways from this passage. First . . .

• **By disclosing what Jesus couldn't**

The Spirit works to reveal and guide by disclosing what Jesus couldn't. Not because of *him*, not because of Jesus himself, but them. The disciples. V12 again – *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

It's not like Jesus wasn't *able* to tell the disciples certain things – like he was tongue-tied, or didn't know – but that they couldn't handle it. Not at that point. Not all at once.

They needed to see the power of the resurrection first. They needed to witness the glory of the ascension. They needed to feel the heat of the fiery tongues at Pentecost. They needed to experience the power of the Gospel among the Gentiles. They needed the confidence and hope of all *those* things before they could handle even more.

And eventually the Spirit gave it to them. He *gave* them more. Revealing and disclosing where they should go and when. What they should do and why. Who they should reach and how. What they should write and to whom.

The Holy Spirit disclosed it all – step by step, impulse by impulse, and thought by thought – and then guided them to do it.

Just like he does now. Disclosing what Jesus *couldn't* at the time, because there wasn't *enough* time. Not to reveal and guide all *we* need to think and say and do.

But the Holy Spirit can. Because he's not limited to time and space. He's everywhere present at the *same* time. And uniquely reveals all that we need for life and godliness to every single one of us.

That's the first way the Spirit works to reveal and guide: by disclosing what Jesus couldn't.

Second . . .

• **By leading us to the truth**

Look at v13 again. [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.* Whatever he hears from the Father; the source of truth. And whatever he hears from Jesus; the embodiment of truth. He'll lead us to that. To *all* the truth. All. What a word.

But that's not to say he will lead and guide us into every single truth that exists. Rather, he will lead us to *all the truth*. All the truth the Father deems necessary. All the truth needed to free us. All the truth to spur us on. All the truth to live by and convey to others. All *that* truth.

It's something I depend on every single week. As I open up the Word and prepare to preach. Praying **the prayer on the wall** of my office over and over – *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.* (Psalm 119:18) Or in John 16 terms, "Holy Spirit, lead me to the truth. Lead me to all you want me to know and convey."

And he does. Every single week. Just like he first did with the Disciples to preach and write it. Not only recording the words and works of Jesus in the Gospels, but what it means and how to apply it in the Epistles. The *rest* of the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit works to reveal and guide by leading us to the truth. Truth for life and truth for godliness. Truth *of* God and truth *from* God. *For he will not speak on his own authority* [v13], *but whatever* [the Holy Spirit] *hears* *he will speak*. Whatever he hears from the Father and Son. He hears and speaks. Hears and conveys. Hears and inspires.

Just like he inspired the Prophets to write the Old Testament. And the Apostles to write the New. And now speaks to us to believe it and live it. Know it and speak it ourselves. Bear witness today.

Like the young adult we heard in the waters of baptism recently. Who put down the gun with which he intended to commit suicide, and picked up the Bible to know the truth. Led by the Spirit. Because that's what he does.

Or the 50-year-old who struggled with drug addiction his entire life, until the Holy Spirit convicted him and gave him a hunger for *truth*.

And the high school student who pretty much stopped living for the Lord during sports season, until the Spirit led him to Matthew 7:21. Where Jesus said – "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*" It woke him up.

Because that's what the Spirit does. He works to reveal and guide by leading us to the truth. Truth to believe and live by. Truth to know and study. Truth to love and speak.

That's the second way the Spirit reveals and guides.

Third, is . . .

• **By declaring the future**

V13b again. *[13] When the Spirit of truth comes . . . he will declare to you the things that are to come.* The things of the future.

Now, does that mean we all have a crystal ball? That every follower of Christ has the ability to foreknow and foretell the future? That a supposed "word from the Lord" is going to come true? No.

We have supernatural insight. We have Spirit-infused wisdom. We have God-given discernment. Enabling us to connect dots and *extrapolate* into the future sometimes. But we're not fortune tellers. And neither were the Apostles.

But they *were* given special insight into the things of God's kingdom. They *were* given a heads-up about the *completion* of his work. And the *consummation* of our salvation.

And a few were given crystal clear *visions* of the future. Like the Apostle John who recorded the trials and events of The Great Tribulation. (**Timeline**) That time at the end of the Church Age when a series of natural disasters will ravage the world, and lead to the persecution of the church at the hands of the Anti-Christ. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John saw it. He *saw* the future.

Including the return of Christ, the resurrection of the saints, the Battle of Armageddon, and the Millennium. Followed by the Great White Throne Judgment. the new heavens and new earth, and the Eternal State in the New Jerusalem. All declared by the Holy Spirit. The most stunning and *comprehensive* example of Jesus' promise here. *He will declare to you the things that are to come.*

But it's not the only example. The Spirit also declared the future to the Apostle Peter. Saying in 2 Peter 3 that *the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire. And the day of the Lord will come like a thief*; not unexpectedly, but suddenly. And *we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells*. Just like John said. Same Spirit same truth. Declaring the future.

And before him was the Apostle Paul. Saying in 1 Corinthians 15 that when Jesus returns *we shall all be changed*. From perishable to imperishable. *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.* (51-53) When Jesus will descend *with the sound of the trumpet of God*, 1 Thessalonians 4, and we will meet him in the air to forever be with him.

It was all declared by the Holy Spirit to the very men Jesus was talking to here in John 16, on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane. Disclosing what Jesus couldn't at the time, leading us to the truth at the present time, and declaring the future at the right time.

So whatever you do . . .

• **Lean in and listen up**

Be an *active* hearer of the Holy Spirit instead of a passive one. Like some of you are active listeners and hearers in here. You lean in to make sure you hear and understand. You lean in and focus. You lean in and nod. You lean in and think. Because you don't want to miss a single thing that the Holy Spirit might be saying to you.

And I'll tell you, there are few things that fuel me more. Few things that fire me up and spur me on, than to see and sense your active hearing. Your eager desire to receive the Word. Your obvious longing to hear the Spirit. Your intense hunger for the truth. Bless you.

But this isn't the only time to lean in and listen up to the Holy Spirit. You should do the same in your Bible reading. You should be an active reader. Reading and studying. Meditating and memorizing. Discerning and understanding. After all, it's the very truth that the Holy Spirit *revealed* to the Prophets and Apostles.

Lean in and listen up by being an active hearer, an active reader, and an active listener.

About a 6 months ago I added another heading to my prayer list. I already have 23 of them. From God, and Becky, our marriage, our kids, our grandkids; to myself and Sin, myself and godliness, our Church, our Neighbors, our Country, you name it. 23 different headings with anywhere from a dozen to three dozen different prayer requests under each.

But my last heading, that I just added, is probably the most important. The word **Quiet**. Just quiet. Followed by one thought – “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.” A reminder to lean in and listen up. Stop talking and be still. Stop thinking and start listening.

That’s the first thought from these verses. And the third overall. The Spirit works to reveal and guide. So make sure you lean in and listen up.

And then last is the thought from v14-15:
The Spirit serves to glorify Jesus (v14-15)

He was sent by both the Father and Son, he came to convict and convince, he works to reveal and guide, and he serves to glorify Jesus.

*[14] He will glorify me [Jesus said], for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
[15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

What the Father has the Son has, and what the Son has the Spirit has. That’s the idea. They’re one. And Jesus promised that the Spirit would glorify him by declaring it. Not just the future, but all of it. *Everything* we need for life and godliness.

But before we get there, make sure you’re tracking with the word *glorify*. It means exalt and magnify. Or lift high and make much of. “*He will [exalt and magnify] me,*” Jesus said. “*He will [lift me high and make much of] me.*”

So one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to draw attention to Jesus, put him on the pedestal he deserves, and make him look every bit as good as he is. Exalt him and magnify him for everyone to see and everyone to worship.

That’s how the Spirit serves. That’s why he does what he does. To *glorify* the Son.

And he does so especially . . .

• **By declaring all that Jesus knows**

All that Jesus has. V14 again – *He will glorify me [Jesus said], for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.* Referring to all that Jesus knows about the Father, his Kingdom, and the Gospel. The Spirit declares those things especially.

All that Jesus knows about the Father’s goodness and greatness. All that Jesus knows about the Father’s work to establish his Kingdom. All that Jesus knows about the Good News of his death and resurrection.

The Spirit serves to glorify the Son by declaring all that and more, to our hearts. All that and more, to our minds. All that and more, to our lives.

Declaring it, and impressing it, and applying it.

How so? By convicting us of sin, convincing us of truth, awakening us to faith, leading us to repentance, and sanctifying our lives. All of which serves to *glorify* Jesus by exalting him as the *payment* for our sin, the *embodiment* of truth, the *focus* of faith, and the example for our life. The *perfect* example.

Bottom line? The Spirit serves to glorify the one we love. So whatever you do . . .

• **Lean in and do the same**

Lean in to the Holy Spirit and glorify the Son just like he does. Magnify Christ just like he does. Exalt him in your heart just like he does. Serve him with your life just like he does. Lift him high just like he does. And make much of Jesus just like the he does.

Lean in and glorify Jesus just like the Holy Spirit.

Sing this with me as a prayer. “*Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.*”

Prayer – Please Lord. Fill us with your Spirit and change us. Convict us and move us. Awaken us and mold us. Teach us and lead us. For your glory – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – for your glory, we pray. In Jesus’ name, amen.

You Are Loved