

Lean in and Listen. Jesus has a Message for you.

Week 6 notes

John 16:5-15

A Message of Hope (Part 1)

Intro

Biblical Hope is the confident expectation that we will receive all that God has promised based on the Word of God and the character of God.

In the English language “hope” almost always means *wishful thinking*. But Biblical hope is based on God’s word to us. Anything that God has already said to us in His Word—He will do. That is our hope.

When Jesus is speaking to His disciples in these final moments before His crucifixion, sorrow has filled their hearts. They understand that Jesus is going away. The once boastful disciples are now dumbstruck at the reality before them. They love Jesus, and for all of their shortcomings, they really want to serve Him. Their hearts are so burdened with all Jesus has told them, they cannot take in much more information. Jesus knows their state of mind and He comforts them with a message of hope.

He gives hope in four areas in John 16

1. The Holy Spirit
2. Sorrow will become joy
3. Prayer
4. Peace

The first area of hope is the coming of the Holy Spirit. Up until Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has not indwelt believers. This would be a whole new concept for followers of Christ. We have 2000 of hindsight. The disciples, at that moment, did not have the information we have —so Jesus speaks in very general terms about the Holy Spirit. They would learn much more after the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.

Jesus assures them, the Holy Spirit is at work in the world and the Holy Spirit is at work in believers.

I. The Holy Spirit is at Work in the World.

John 15 contains a dire warning—*the world will hate you and even persecute you.*

But Jesus is not throwing his followers to the wolves and just wishing them well in the process. He says we have hope and that hope is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Christ is at work in the very world that hates us.

The Holy Spirit convicts. The word *convict* means *to reprove, to bring to light, to expose, to refute, to convince.* But since John 16:7 says the Spirit convicts the world, what does Jesus mean by *the world*?

Certainly, the Holy Spirit is at work in a society apart from and opposed to God. But the Holy Spirit is also at work in the people of the world—unbelievers who do not yet know Christ.

1. He is convicting of sin (vs 8-9)

Unbelief is what keeps people from Jesus. The Holy Spirit is at work, taking the blinders off so that people can understand their spiritual condition apart from Christ. The Holy Spirit is not convicting of individual sins at this point. Instead, He is convicting of spiritual deadness, separation from God, and the need for a Savior.

You and I as believers in Christ cannot bring conviction to the life of anyone else. We cannot open eyes that are spiritually blind. We cannot MAKE anyone see their need for Christ. This is the job of the Holy Spirit. Certainly, we can cooperate with the Spirit by living a godly life, being a witness, praying for spiritually blind eyes to see, and speaking truth in love—but we cannot bring conviction—only He can do that.

2. He convicts concerning righteousness (vs 9)

Righteousness is God's perfect standard of rightness. No one, by their own good works, can attain God's perfect standard. Only Jesus met the standard of righteousness but since He is going back to the Father, people will not be able to see with their eyes the example of God's righteousness. The Holy Spirit must bear witness of the righteousness of God.

Believers in Christ are declared righteous. When we come to Christ, we are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom light (Colossians 1:13). God exchanges our unrighteousness for the righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). Righteousness is imputed---or put to the account of the believer. When God sees us, He sees the righteousness of Christ.

But as believers we are also equipped to live right—to live righteously. Righteousness is not imputed to the believer, it is imparted to the believer (1 John 2:29). The Holy Spirit is the one who empowers the believer to live in such a way as to please God (Philippians 2:13).

Unbelievers may attempt to create their own standard of righteousness. Religion, morality, doing good works, are all an attempt to meet the righteous standard of God—but they cannot meet it. In fact, our righteous efforts are comparable to dirty rags. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can open their eyes to the truth of God’s unattainable righteousness and Christ’s ability to meet that righteousness for us.

3. He convicts of judgement

We don’t often talk about judgement. And yet, judgement has been pronounced on Satan. At Calvary, sin and death were defeated. Satan was judged. The sentenced was pronounced—eternal doom. That sentence will be carried out when Christ returns.

But there is judgment for sin too. Romans 6:23 says, “the wages of sin is death...” When sin entered the world through Adam (Genesis 3), death came as well. There is a price for sin. BUT GOD.... The second phrase of Romans 6:23 says but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” God stepped into the hopelessness of sin, giving Christ as a substitute, paying the wages for sin, and offering us eternal, abundant life. (Ephesians 2:4-5)

The work of the Holy Spirit in the world is merciful. It is not a “stick it to them” mentality. It is the loving, pursuing, mercy of God—opening blinded eyes to see the truth of God’s love.

Jesus says in John 16:7 that the Holy Spirit has come to you! **You** means the church or believers in Christ. We work with, cooperate with, the Spirit as He works in the world. We are the witnesses Jesus talks about in John 15:27. We cannot bring a person to repentance. WE cannot bring conviction. But we are responsible to give an account of the hope within us (1 Peter 3:15) Paul writes in Romans 10:13-17 that salvation comes as unbelievers hear the Word of God from the witness of the child of God.

Any unbelieving person who responds to the work of the Holy Spirit in their life will always be given more light, more truth, through the witness of a believer and the Word of God.

II. The Holy Spirit at work in the Believer

Remember the mindset of the disciples at this point. They are so overcome with sorrow they cannot take in much new information. There is so much Jesus could tell them about the Holy Spirit but they are unable to receive at that very moment. But eventually they will!

Jesus tells them three concise things about the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer

1. He will guide you into all truth (John 16:13)

The Holy Spirit leads the way---He is the guide into truth. He will remind them of all that Jesus has taught and He will complete their understanding after Jesus leaves the earth.

For us, the Holy Spirit always uses the Word of God—Scripture—to teach us the ways of God. He does not work separately from the Bible. Everything He does, everything He teaches us, everything He shows us can be measured by the plumb line of Scripture.

2. The Holy Spirit will show what is to come (Vs 13)

There is a historical context here. Jesus is speaking directly to the disciples He is telling them they will understand the complete revelation—the entirety of what God wants us to know—when the Holy Spirit comes. At the moment, the disciples certainly could not have understood the mystery of the church, the gifts of the

Spirit, the process of sanctification, and eschatology (the end times). But after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2), they will gain understanding. God will give understanding of these things to the disciples and other writers of the New Testament, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

But for you and me—THERE IS NO NEW REVELATION. Scripture is complete. There is no new truth God wants us to know. Any person who claims to have a new revelation that either usurps Scripture, or is viewed as equal to Scripture, or redefines Scripture-is FALSE. They are false prophets proclaiming a false gospel. Paul say they are accursed (Galatians 1:8).

3. The Holy Spirit will glorify Christ (John 16:14-15)

The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus. He does not do or say anything that is opposed to Christ or diminishes Christ. If any person claims to be speaking or working on behalf of the Holy Spirit and they do not glorify Christ—they are not speaking truth.

As believers, we tend to operate in extremes when it comes to the Holy Spirit. Either we are afraid of the Holy Spirit--- thinking He will make us look foolish or do foolish things--- so we ignore Him. Or we operate in the opposite extreme of doing foolish things in the flesh and claiming it to be the Holy Spirit when actually is overactive emotions.

We must operate in truth—not emotions or fear. The Spirit of God will always use the Word of God to lead us, convict us, and empower us. The question is, “Does it honor Christ or does it honor self?”