



# JOHN 16:12-15

The ministry of the Spirit of God for the people of God

The Lord is aware of the limitations of His followers (16:12)

<sup>12</sup> *“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”*

- Jesus is ministering to His disciples, teaching and training them in many things
- There is so much more His disciples need to learn
  - *“but you cannot bear them now.”* – carry, bear, accept – implying something difficult to comprehend and obey
  - Their understanding and preparation are lacking
- The work of Jesus and the coming ministry of the Holy Spirit will be provided to carry them along

The Lord is aware of the limitations of His followers (16:12)

- We all have much to learn and much work to do
- God calls us to love and serve Him and others, and He is fully aware and understanding of our weaknesses and needs
  - Psalm 103:13–14
- Our weaknesses are not an excuse for apathy and inactivity; they are an opportunity for God's grace to God's glory!
- *“The plan of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot provide for you!”*

The Spirit of God guides the people of God with the truth of God (16:13)

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,*

- The disciple's ability to bear up and be productive in New Covenant ministry will be by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit
- We are promised the provision of guidance as we seek to learn God's truth and walk in God's truth
- The Spirit of God provides inspiration, illumination and power to obey
  - Psalm 25:4–5
  - Psalm 143:10
  - 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- The Spirit of God equips us for understanding and for obedience

# The Spirit of God guides the people of God with the truth of God (16:13)

*for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak,*

- This truth is not some new and disconnected truth from what Jesus is teaching from the Father
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to carry on what Jesus initiated
- This is the fulfillment of God's eternal decree to provide gospel grace for gospel ministry

*and he will declare to you things that are to come.*

- After the departure of Jesus, the disciples are not going to be on their own
- The Spirit of God will call to mind, and empower the work of gospel grace, that will be done in the disciples and through the disciples
  - With God-given hearts of humility and teachableness, New Covenant followers of Jesus understand the truth, submit to the truth, and encourage others to welcome the truth
  - This is what you are inspired and empowered to do, even in the face of pressure, pain, and opposition
    - Romans 8:26–28
- We are to trust the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth regardless the circumstances we face

## The Spirit of God brings to light the work of Christ (16:14)

*<sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you*

- The saving work of Jesus is the focal point of all redemptive history
- The light of the Holy Spirit shines bright on gospel grace in Jesus
- “*He will glorify me*” - the masculine pronoun is used to refer to the Holy Spirit indicating that this Person of the Godhead is not an impersonal force or a gender neutral being
- As the mission of Jesus is to glorify the Father, so the mission of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus
  - The Holy Spirit illuminates and empowers the work of Jesus Christ in His church
  - It is the Holy Spirit’s passion is to make much of Jesus as Savior and Lord
  - It is to be our passion to make much of Jesus as Savior and Lord by the strength He provides

# The truth of the New Covenant is filled with the Triune grace of God (16:15)

*<sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

- The function and power of the Trinity are evident in this instruction from Jesus
- In Jesus we see who He is and what He has as God
- The ministry of the Spirit is to open our eyes to the greatness of God's power and glory for us in Jesus
  - 1 Corinthians 2:6–10

# Questions to Consider

- In what ways is it helpful for you to know that the Lord is aware of your weaknesses and limitations, and will work in your life accordingly?
- What areas of your life is God revealing as weak and needy, and how can you respond to that awareness with humility and teachableness?
- How is God guiding you into truth and how can you humbly share these lessons with others?
- What are you learning about the Trinity through New Covenant gospel truth?



# JOHN 16:12-15

The ministry of the Spirit of God for the people of God