

Title: The Spirit of Truth Has Come

Text: John 16:1-15 (7-15)

Would you take your Bibles, please, and open them to John chapter 16. There are notes in your bulletin and I trust you will follow along with me as we study the Word of God together. John chapter 16 on the subject: THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH HAS COME.

In our study of John we are in this section dealing with the personal ministry of Jesus with his disciples. And there is much here that we can learn concerning discipleship. What it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

And one of the great subjects of discipleship is the subject of the Holy Spirit. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

(7-15)
(Read chapter 16:1-15)

LET US PRAY

(1) As Christ begins to deal with the character of the Spirit's work, He opens by giving us a prediction of suffering for the believer. In the last part of chapter 15, we learn that believers will face conflicts in the world. The world is going to hate our witness because it hated Christ. We will be persecuted just like Christ was persecuted. The world does not respond to the message that we wholeheartedly concern ourselves with concerning Jesus Christ. The world does not respond to the beauty of Christ's life in us.

And of course the average Christian cop-out is that we don't become committed to Christ. We keep silent, we try to act like we are the world, in order to avoid the conflict that is predicted of those who manifest Jesus Christ in their lives.

(1) There is a prediction here about this suffering in the first 6 verses. And there are three things that I want you to notice.

(1) First of all, the reason. The reason of Christ in Vs 1. He says, "These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling."

This word "stumbling" has the idea of a "stumbling block." And the point is: that Christ does not want the believer to stumble.

There must be the tendency for believers to stumble, or He would not have made the remark..In other words, it is normal to ~~except~~ except that the believer might stumble over the fact that He receives conflict in the world. That is true of many new beleivers in Jesus Christ. When new believers experience the conflict of an ungodly world in terms of witnessing to them, they often stumble. And they do not want to stand against the pressure.

And all it takes is a simple witness. Whether it is in the market palce, at schol, or in your place of business, a simple little witness for Christ and to have a few people put you down, and that is about all you are going to witness. In less you understand, that God has given you the Hbly Spirit to sustain you and to speak through your life.

If you are not depending upon the Holy Spirit's ministry, then you will back away when you experience the hostility of the world. And you will fail to witness. That is why you find it hard to witness. You don't want people to put you donw. You don't want the world's disapproval.

God gave us the Holy Spirit so that we wouldn/t stumble. So that we would be strong in that moment of witness.

(2) Secondly, I would like you to notice the reactions that Jesus said they would experience. Vs 2-3.. It says they will cast you out-off the synagoue. Now, this simple means that you would not be able to buy or sell or ~~participet~~ participate in the theocrisy of Israel in any way, shape, or form. You would be put out. Completely cut-off from society. And history records that fact.

He also ~~stated~~ stated that when the time came that people killed you they would believe that they were doing God's service.

Now, let me comment on that. A commeent that history has proven to be true. I believe that so called christians and believers through church history have been quality of Vs 2 in relationship to the Jews.....Our Lord predicted ^{that} to the disicples and uniquely the Jewish nation, would be hated of all nations. And one of the strange paradoxs of church history is that the time did come when even so-called christians began to kill Jews thinking they were doing service.

And the Jews, today, still recoil when they think about that. And Jesus told those disciples in that upper room that the time would come when men would kill you and do it in the name of God. And they will believe that they are doing God's service. History proves that what Christ said was really true. And why did He teach them what He taught them on that night? Least they stumble. Think of those disciples. All of them, except John, died a martyr's death. Everyone of them saw in their own life and in their own time, the prophecy fulfilled as Jesus predicted that night.

Many of us have never experienced that. And maybe the day will come when we will. It is important that we plant the Word of God in our lives so that, if the day should come, we will not stumble. But we would be strong. And we would be of good courage. That we would not faint in our witness, nor grow weary or get discouraged and back away from sharing the Good news. And certainly in freedom we ought to be more faithful in our witness. We ought to be daily sharing the good news.

(3) The third thing that I would like you to notice is the responses that these men felt, Vs 4-6. They were really upset. And sorrow had felled their hearts according to Vs 6. They were just over whelmed.

If you had walked with Jesus Christ for three years, and had come to know him well, and had seen the miracles he performed, and you had enjoyed that so much for three years, then to have Him say that He was going to leave you. SORROW WOULD FELL YOUR HEART ALSO.

Listen, friends, these men were committed to Christ in the sense of a Messiah-believer. Oh, they did not understand that he had to go to the cross and die. But they were committed to him in the human sense. And their hearts were full of sorrow when they learned that He had to depart.

And when ever sorrow fells our hearts when we look upon a world that is without the presence of Christ in His bodily form, as we sometimes wish that He would now return and solve all these problems, YET, LET "S NOT LET SORROW AND DISCOURAGEMENT FELL OUR HEARTS, BUT RATHER REMAIND OURSELVES OF WHAT Jesus taught the ministry of the Holy Spirit. And that He has prolonged the time of his return for a definite reason.

And that is to use us to get the gospel to the people of this world. And for us that means Taft. So, don't grow weary, don't get discouraged, don't get defeated, don't let sorrow fell your heart. Because another ~~comfor~~ comforter just like Jesus is here. The Holy Spirit is in our midst. And the Holy Spirit is in your life if you are a believer. And He has been given unto you to strengthen you in your hour of need. And especially at the time of your witness.

There is one thing you should remember. The Holy Spirit has been given not only to comforter you when the world criticizes you for your witness, but the Holy Spirit also gives you the boldness to keep on even though they continue to criticizes..

The Bible says that when the Holy Spirit comes we would receive power to witness. And in Acts chapter 4 it tells us that when the H.S. had filled the believers that they spoke the World of God with boldness. And the exact content of that passage is that they spoke with boldness while they were being persucted.

The Holy Spirit not only encourages you. But he also gives you boldness. And that is a wonderful thing to remember next time you have the opportunity to witness.

(6B) Now, beginning with Vs 7, our Lord outlines for us in beautiful form the purpose of the H.S. coming into the world. This is Vs 7-15. The purpose of the H.S. coming into the world. ^{And I want to} ~~We are going to~~ look at it in two simple ways. First, towards the world. Secondly, towards the believer.

(1C) Now, what was the purpose of the H.S. coming in terms of the world? In Vs 8-11 three things are given as to His purupose in coming into the world. ^{The General Reason} ~~His purpose~~ is stated in Vs 8. "When he comes, he will convict."

The word "convict" is a legal term. The Holy Spirit will bring conviction into the world. And there are three areas in which the H.S. is ^{Bringing} ~~bring~~ this conviction into the world.

First, There is the conviction concerning sin.

Secondly, there is the conviction concerning righteousness.

And third, a conviction concerning judgment.

Now, in what way is the H.S. convicting the world of sin, righteous, and judgment?

(1) First of all, conviction concerning sin, Vs 9. *Jesus* says, "concerning sin, because they do not believe in me."

There is a little construction in the Greek, here, that means "on the one hand concerning sin"...."on the other hand concerning righteousness"....on the other hand, concerning judgment."

And it is putting the three together. Meaning: that there is one conviction. But it is found in three areas. And all three areas are related to one method of conviction. Now, what is the method of conviction of the HOLY Spirit in these three areas? ANSWER: IT IS BY HIS WORK IN THE BELIEVER. *Not in the unbeliever, but the Believer -*

Notice, Jesus says at the end of Vs 7, "I will send the H.S. to you." And when He has come. Meaning: COME UNTO YOU. He will ^{then} convict the world. You see, the way the HOLY Spirit is reaching the world with the good news ^{ad friends} is through believers. God has no other plan. God is trying to use believers in whom the H.S. is indwelling to reach ^{the} non-believers with the Godspel of Christ. { And the way the H.S. is convicting the world is not by making the non-believer feel guilty...NO...HE IS PROVING THEIR GUILT BY WORKING IN BELIEVERS LIVES PRODUCING CONVICTION IN THREE AREAS: sin..righteousness, and judgement. It is important for you to understand that as you go to the ^{application} ~~interpretation~~. The H.S. is working toward the world in believers, or by means of believers. He uses us.

OK First of all
Now, in what sense are ^{is the world} they convicted of sin? Well, because they do not believe in Jesus. Literally, ^{the world is} they are not believing as a habit of life.

In what sense, then, does the world sense that guilt? Answer: because the believer, himself, demonstrates the confidence in Jesus Christ as the only way possible of salvation. *That is what we do.*

If there is one thing ^a true believer manifest that the world does not like, it is that Jesus is the only way.....

People of the world would have us believe that there are many roads to heaven. But the very fact that we say and preach that Jesus is the only way, that the real issue is not how many sins you have committed, but notice the conviction is concerning sin, (singluar.) And the sin is not believeing in Jesus Christ. ^{Thru} The believer is the tool that the H.S. uses to proof to Non-believers that there is only one way that anybody is going to be saved. And that is Jesus Christ.

Now, here is the application...When you go to work tomorrow or to shool, remember that the H.S. ~~is going~~ ^{wants} to use your witness to convict those around you ~~of~~ of their sin and that Christ is the only way...WHY?...Because you are saying that He is. You are saying that there isn't anyother way. Jesus is the only way. Do you understand. *Very important*

God wants to use you, ~~the H.S.~~ ^{Dear friend} to convict a non-believer that the only way a person can be saved is through Jesus Christ. And their greatest sin is that they don't believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

(2nd) SEcondly, ^{The H.S.} he brings conviction ^{through the Believer} concerning righteousness. Vs 10 says: "Concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold me."

Now, what does that mean?...Remember that when Jesus was on the earth he convicted everybody that He ran into of righteousness..WHY? ..Because of all men who has ever lived, Jesus was ^{perfect} perfect righteousness!

Righteousness is the standard of what is right in contrast to what is wrong. It is God's wonderful Holy character. *God is Righteous*

Now, Jesus when he assended into heaven, THE STANDARD of righteouness departed....So....how will the world be convicted about righteousness?

ANSWER: through the H.S. ministry in the life of the believer. The standard of righteousness which God has now left in the world is BELIEVERS... Believers who have been indwelt by the H.S. And God is manifesting the ~~righteousness~~ righteousness of Christ in our lives. And that in turn brings conviction to the world. *That is why it is important to live Christ-Like lives*

One thing that makes a person uncomtable is when he runs into a believer ^{one who practices integrity - honest. truthful} who is really living for Christ,

Because the standard of righteousness is so obvious. It is the ministry of the H.S. ^{That} cause; the believer to do right.

Have you ever noticed, christian, how hard it is to do right when the Spirit of God is not ^{controlling your life} ~~doing it~~?...I find in my life that ^{it} ~~is~~ not programmed to do right. ^{It} ~~is~~ programmed to do wrong. And I find that the H.S. ^{has} ~~been~~ given to me so that the programs that I have in my life through the old sin nature to do wrong has now ^{received} a strong counter force. The privilege and responsibility of ^{doing} ~~do~~ right is impressed upon my new nature in Christ. And what happens is that my new nature is in conflict with my old ^{sin} nature. I want to do wrong. But the Spirit wants to do right.

That is why it is important to understand the ministry of the H.S. in the believer. If you are not controlled by the H.S. right now, you are really a hinderance to the manifestation of Gospel to the World...YOU ARE!....

It is not super-saints who are Billed by the Spirit. It is all believers. And if you are setting there and you ~~are~~ not permitting the H.S. to control your life, you are ^{then} letting your old sin nature take charge, you are hindering the manifestation of the Gospel to a lost world. You are standing in the way of the H.S. convicting the world of righteousness ^{and sin.}

^{you see,} God wants you and me to practice what we preach. He wants us to live for Jesus. So that the non-believer will see Christ in our lives, and in our attitudes, and in our motives ^{and in the things we do and say}

^{and} It is the H.S. who changes your attitudes. He changes the things you do or you don't do. And it is convicting the world of righteousness. Because Christ now is gone. ^{So} But the presence of Christ is now in the lives of the believers through the ministry of the HOLY Spirit.

(3) And third, the Bible says in Vs 11: "that the world will be convicted of Judgement, because the ruler of this world has been judged."

In other words, the world has been judged just as surely as Satan has been judged. And Satan ~~is~~ was judged by the cross ^{of} Jesus christ.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF ALL OF THIS? You may not see it if you don't look carefully. Satan could not defeat Christ at the moment that He thought He had gained his greatest victory. ^{at the death of Christ, Satan thought he had won.}

Back in Genesis chapter 3 verse 15 when God was putting his judgments upon the man and woman and the serpent. He said to the serpent "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head." In other words, destroy you..."And you shall bruise Him (that is the seed of the woman) on the heel."

And the point is: as the Gospel story is told right there in Gen 3:15, is that when the cross occurred, when Christ died, Satan really thought he had victory. He had bitten the heel of the seed of the woman, the Messiah. But at that moment in what Satan thought was victory was in reality his crowning defeat. He was crushed and he was defeated by the cross of Christ.

But the proof of that happen three days later, Christ arose from the dead. And proved that Satan's act was not victory but in truth defeat.

Now, what does that mean? (to our passage in John?) The world is judged by the fact of the Spirit's presents in the life of the believers. Proving that Christ really did arise from the dead. And Satan is thus judged. And therefore, because of ^{a Non Believers} their refusal to believe in ^{Jesus Christ} the same Christ you and I believe in, they also will be judged. *IF YOU are here this morning, and you have not received Christ as Saviour, you are judged By God, already*

That is exactly how the world is convicted. They are convicted again by the Spirit's ministry in the life of the believers. The fact that something really did happen. That we are new creatures in Christ. That it proves that Christ is alive. That I have been spiritual resurrected from the dead. That I am not talking myself into this. You see, people don't plan 36 ways to become saved. God, wonderously and mariculously came into your life and captured you. God loved you before you ever loved Him. And it is tremendous to realize that the fact of the Spirits presents in the life of the believer is the guarantee that Satan was judged by the resurrection of Christ. That Jesus is alive. And he is alive in the hearts of thousands and millions of ^{Christians} Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit. And the Spirit is ^{Holy} using your life to convict the world that unless they believe in Christ they are going to face judgement. Just as sure as Satan was judged by the ^{death} and resurrection of Jesus Christ... *So, any refusal to accept Jesus Saviour will face the judgement of God.*

Now, that is the ^{Holy} spirits ministry towards the world in the life of the ^{Believer} Believer.

The Holy Sp purpose
(20) Now, secondly, towards the disciples...Vs 12. These are wonderful verses. There are three things here that I hope you will take to heart. Three things about the *purpose* spirits ministry towards *the* disciples.

(1) One, is the promise of guidance...I don't believe there is a person here who is a believer who doesn't want to be guided by the Holy Spirit. And I don't know of anything more precious about the Holy Spirit than his desire to guide us. All the way through the *Bible* Word, God promises to guide us. And the way in which He does that is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life and in mine.

Now, Follow This Carefully
~~However, once again,~~ the spirits work in guiding you and me is not ~~subject~~ subjective, but it is objective. *Let me illustrate*

Have you ever said to somebody, "Well, I know what I am doing is right because I am guided by the Holy Spirit."

Now, you may not have any facts by which you can prove that. But you are simply saying, subjectively, inside of me, I feel that what I am doing ~~is what the Holy Spirit wants me to do.~~

Dear
Now, what happens, friends, when two christians who both have the H.S dwelling in them, one says: "I am guided by the H.S. to do so and so." And the other says, "I am guided to do just the opposite."

What happens then to our *believe* believe in the guidance of the Holy Spirit when two christians indwelt by the Spirit take opposite courses of action and testify that the Spirit guided them? *What Happens - We have doubts about God's leading*
You see ~~the~~: the spirits guidance is not subjective. It is not inside of me independent of objective facts. The Word of God teaches that the Spirit guides me by objective facts that are listed and recorded.

And here is one of the most familiar verses in all of the Bible to teach this principle. *especially when we come to church Assembly meet* Vs 13 says "But when He, the Spirit of the truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth,"

Notice..."all the truth, not some of it." All the truth...And it is the Spirit who will guide you into all the truth. Whatever the truth is... The Spirit will guide you into all that truth... And this is not referring to truth "in general." It is talking about "THE TRUTH"... *Which is The Bible*

And I believe that here is the one passage clearly taught by Jesus Christ guaranting the inspiration, authority, and realibility of ~~the~~ sacred scripture, the Bible itself.

Christ told these men who would soon be used of the Holy Spirit to write what they had seen and heard as eye witnesses. Christ told them that the HOLY Spirit, who is the sprit of the truth, would guide them into all the truth. So that not a thing that they would ever write would not be the truth.

And I ~~believe~~, also, by application, that I as a believe^{Living Testim} and indwelt by the Holy Spirit can not say to you as anoather believer, that I am guided by the Holy Spirit, unless the truth of what I have said is supported by God's Word. Don't tell me that you are gudied by the Holy Spirit unless the Word of God supports your actions. Because the realm and the sphere in which the H.S. is working and revealing the truth to you and to me is the realm of God's own Word. ^{For} That is the truth.

In John 17:17 Jesus said "thy word is truth." The word ^{of God} is the truth. And the H.S. has been given to believers to guide us into all the truth. ^{all TRUTH of the Word}

So my responsibility when I want to know what to do, how to be guided, is to find out what the Spirit has to say. And He has recorded it. It is now witten for me to examine. ^{That is why Bible study is so important}

^{Dear Friends, if you are not in the Bible, How can H.S. guide you}
(2D) Secondly, not only is the promise of gudiance here, but also the ~~the~~
PROPHECY OF THE FUTURE. Vs 13 the middle of the verse says: "He will not speakon his own initiative"

^{Do you understand}
^{By the way,} it is not the Spirits ministry to exalt himself. We teach the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We believe in the ministry of the H.S. ^{So also the Father} But we do not believe in teaching that we are to worship, pray to, honor and exalt the Holy Spirit above Jesus Christ. Because the Bible doesn't teach that. It doesn't maan that the H.S. isn't God. He is God. But when you place the HOLY Spirit as more important then Jesus, you have violated the Word of God. Because both the Father who honors the Son and wants all people to honor Jesus, so the Spirit, also, wants all people to glorify J.S.

When I was preaching through Matthew a ^{few years ago} year or so ago, someone stopped me after the service and said: "Pastor, aren't you talking a little too much about Jesus? Why don't you talk about the HOLY Spirit?"

Now, I don't believe you can talk too much about Jesus. I think that is an impossibility. Those Greeks who came to Jerusalem looking for Jesus had the correct idea. "Sirs, we would see Jesus..." ^{Not just God, but Jesus}

And I don't believe we can say too much about Jesus. I also believe that if you are ^{being controlled by} filled with the Holy Spirit there is going to be one thing true about your life, and that is you are going to glorify Jesus. He is going to be that name above every name.

'Oh, how I love Jesus.....The sweetest name I have ever heard....That is going to be true of the Spirit filled Christian. You are going to be in love with ^{Dear} Jesus. Friends, you cannot speak too much about Jesus..

So, the Spirit shall not speak on his own initiative, says ^{Jesus} Vs 13, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and HE WILL DISCLOSE TO YOU WHAT IS TO COME.

Now, these disciples were to write about the future. How were they to do that? They had no experience in that realm. Take the example of the Apostle John who wrote the ^{Book of} Revelation.

That Now, I believe, and ~~I know that all do not agree with me. But I believe~~ John actually saw the events of Revelation. I don't believe that He was a dictating machine. When it says that he was caught up in the Spirit. I believe it actually happened. That God somehow transferred him and he actually saw all those things recorded in the book of Revelation. ^{But} Now, John's problem was understanding all that he saw and then putting it on paper for others to understand.

^{So} Now, how did John understand and see that prophecy? Again, by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Friends ^{People}, that is a wonderful statement there in Vs 13: "He will disclose to you what is to come."

And this prophecy ~~which~~ is now recorded and written,... It was written by the Apostles based upon the authority given them by Jesus Christ. All the prophecy that we need for our lives is now recorded in the Bible.

And that is why in Revelation 22 it says that if anyone shall add to, or take away from the prophecy of this book, God will add to him the plagues that were recorded in that book.

The prophecy is through. It is complete. And these verses of scripture in John 16 are guaranteeing that the Spirit has guided into all the truth.

Now, friends, this is very important in terms of application. Let me show you what I mean. Some Christians in certain churches believe in the continuing ministry of Revelation. That is, they believe that new truth can be communicated by the Christian who is under the control of the Holy Spirit.

And friends, that is a misapplication of what ~~Christ~~ ^{Jesus} said. But if that were true, then ~~Christ~~ ^{Jesus} would have had to say, here, in John 16:13 "the H.S. will guide you into truth as it is continuing to develop."

But, That is not what Jesus said. He promised to guide them into ALL THE TRUTH. Either He did it...or, he didn't.

Do you believe that the Apostles who heard Jesus speak these words, that it actually happened to them?....Or, was Jesus just kidding them?....

"You men will know some things, but Christians ¹⁹⁶¹ 1900 years from now are going to know a lot more."

OH, NO... ~~They~~ ^{Now there is} The H.S. guided them into all the truth. ~~It is just as true of them as it is of us today.~~ ^{is} All the truth that God wants you to know is recorded here in the scriptures.

You may come and say, "Hay, God just gave me a ~~new~~ revelation." Forget it brother. If it is not in the word, it is not new....No way....

That is the guarantee of the H.S. ministry in the life of the believer.

(30) Now, third, in Vs 14-15, we find the purpose of the ministry of the H.S.

(Read Vs 14-15)

And I just remind you from these verses that God's H.S. has been given to you and to me to glorify Jesus.

I Corinthians 10:31 says that whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Christian, are you glorifying Jesus in your life? Is He number one in your life? If He is not, my I urge you to understand the ministry of the H.S.....
I Trust He IS? (Prayer)

Are you still trying to run your own life? Are you still trying to do what you think God wants you to do? And it is all in the energy of the flesh? And you have not understood the power of the Holy Spirit?

When you are being controlled by the Holy Spirit, Christ is seen in your life. And the decisions you make, the things you say, the places you go, reflect whether or not Christ is Lord of Your life.

Are you glorifying Jesus? If not....Why Not?.....

Let us close in prayer