

**John 16:4b-7**

*Unexpected Advantages of King Jesus' Unexpected Departure*

INTRO: For believers, apparent setbacks are often God's blessings in disguise!

*“I tell you the truth guys, it is actually advantageous for you for Me to go, that He should come, in all of His \_\_\_\_\_.”*

5 Ways the Spirit “Helps” Christ’s Church and New Covenant Saints

1) **The Helper Empowers and \_\_\_\_\_ God’s People.**

(Acts 1:8; 4:31, etc.)

2) **The Helper \_\_\_\_\_ and Leads Jesus’ People.** Don’t misapply this point!

(Ephesians 5:18-21; Acts 8:29; 10:19-20; 16:16-20)

3) **The Helper Supplies God’s People with a Diversity of Spiritual Gifts for the Unity and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body of Christ.**

(1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4:11-16)

4) **The Helper Liberates Us from the \_\_\_\_\_ and Law of Sin and Death.**

(Romans 7-8; 2 Corinthians 3; Galatians 5)

5) **The Helper and our Great High Priest \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of God’s people.**

(Romans 8:26-34; Hebrews 7:23-26; 8:1-2)

**For Further Reflection/Application:** *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

In what sense is it to our spiritual “advantage” that our fearless Leader (King Jesus) might leave us and ascend to the right hand of the Father? See page 1 notes and John 16:7. Note also previous sermons from John 14-15 that highlighted the New Covenant ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Think about and perhaps memorize John 16:7; Romans 8:11; and/or Galatians 5:22-23, 25.

What did the preacher mean when he said, “Apparent setbacks are often God’s blessings in disguise!” Provide some examples that illustrate how this has been the case in your own unique life experiences.

Review the 5 Ways our Helper (the Holy Spirit) personally aids you (as a disciple of Jesus) and us (the Church/Body of Christ). “Thank you oh our Father, for giving us Your Son (John 3:16) and leaving Your Spirit, until the work on earth is done.”

How do you know if someone who professes to be a Christian (has the Spirit) and that they are “walking in the Spirit?” (note passages listed on pp/ 1-2 and Gal. 5:13-6:4; Ephesians 5:18-20; Romans 8:1-13).

As you consider the great Trinitarian works of creation, revelation, and redemption highlight the Holy Spirit’s ‘role’ in these mighty acts. As always, provide Scripture proof texts to support your answer(s).

*Arianism* is an ancient heresy that erroneously taught that God created Jesus as the highest of creatures and that the Holy Spirit is divine energy. Some cults today basically teach that Jesus is a demigod. The entire Gospel of John provides a mountain of evidence that proves that Jesus is the Divine Messiah, the eternal Son of God (note John 1:1-4; John 20:30-31; note also Romans 10:9; Colossians 2:9-10).

*Cessationism* is the theological position that the SIGN gifts of the Spirit were for the formative period of the church. The apostolic sign gifts (2 Cor. 12:12) ceased after the New Testament Scripture were written by the Apostles and the Canon of Scripture was completed. We have everything we need for life and godliness in Christ and in the sufficient Word of God. See John MacArthur’s related books, “Strange Fire” and “Charismatic Chaos.”

*Filioque*; from the Latin meaning “and from the Son.” This teaching refers to the procession of the Spirit within the Triune Godhead. Added to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. From the Father and the Son from all eternity (John 15:26; Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9; John 20:22; Luke 24:49).

*Illumination*: The idea that the Spirit has a special work of enlightening the believer so that he or she understands true meaning of the God-breathed Scriptures.

*Pentecostalism*: “A movement beginning in the early 1900s which erroneously teaches that Christians need a second work of grace (the baptism of the Spirit) beyond regeneration to be holy and/or to have power for Christian service. For many Pentecostals, “speaking in tongues” provides initial evidence that this has taken place.

*Third Wave*: A relatively recent movement that began in the 1980’s after the Pentecostal movement (first wave) and charismatic movement (second wave). The *third wave* movement often promotes (counterfeit) miracles believing that evangelism today should be accompanied by “signs, wonders, and miracles.” Much confusion and harm has come as a result of the third wave movement. See biblical apologist Justin Peters for helpful critiques concerning the third wave and modern charismatic movements.

*Positional Sanctification* and *Progressive Sanctification*: “Positional sanctification is the monergistic act of God whereby believers are set apart for God’s good pleasure.” “Progressive sanctification is the process whereby the Spirit (progressively) transforms the believer into the likeness of Christ the Son.

The process of biblical change is synergistic, with both God the Spirit and the believer “at work” (note Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Timothy 4:7b-8; 1 Cor. 15:10; Col. 1:28-29). Those who truly love Christ will strive to obey Him. The grace that mightily justifies, powerfully sanctifies us.

*Regeneration.* The new birth (second birth) miracle of salvation. Jesus highlights this doctrine with Nicodemus in John 3. “Yes, You (too) must be born again.” See related sermon series from John 3:1-10.

*Witness of the Spirit-* “May refer to Paul’s teaching in Romans 8 that the Spirit bears witness with the human spirit to the believer’s status as an adopted child of God. (Note also Gal. 4:4f) Or it may refer to the idea that the Spirit has a secret inward ministry of persuading the believer that the Scripture is the authentic and hence authoritative/sufficient/infallible Word of God.

In effort to help us walk by faith and not by sight here are 5 *simple prayer petitions to bring before the Lord each day:* 1) *Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!* The flesh, the lost world, and the Deceiver want us to doubt everything in Scripture, including Jesus’ comforting word in John 16:7. 2) *Lord, increase my faith! (Luke 17:5)* When you sincerely and humbly make this request you’re basically accepting tailor made trials- Per James 1:2-4; Romans 5:1-5; Recall the Master Gardner’s pruning knife and how it’s used on fruit-bearing branches-John 15:1-8). 3) *Lord, help me to (by faith) rest in the promises of your Word.* Promises like Philippians 1:6; 4:19. Romans 8:28-29. John 14:1-6, 12-14, 16-18; John 16:7. 4) *Lord, help me know you are near and that I am Yours.* Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 13:5-6; Joshua 1:9. In what sense is the risen and ascended Savior both *near* and *far*? “The choice is not between Christ present and Christ absent but between Christ present *in His body* and Christ present *in the Holy Spirit.*” Richard Phillips commenting on John 16. Finally, 5) *Lord, remind me that You have given Your people everything they need for life and godliness.* “The Spirit and the gifts are ours/ through Him who with us sideth!”

In light of these blessings, may the prayers of the saints culminate in praise, as we echo the words of the hymnist- *Oh, spread the tidings ’round, wherever man is found/ Wherever human hearts and human woes abound/Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound: The Comforter has come!*

*Lo, the great King of kings, with healing in His wings/To every captive soul a full deliverance brings; And through the vacant cells the song of triumph rings- The Comforter has come!*

*The Comforter has come, the Comforter has come!/ The Holy Spirit from Heaven, the Savior’s promise given/ Oh, spread the tidings ’round, wherever man is found—The Comforter has come!*

Related Songs: Hymns- *Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken. How Firm a Foundation. A Mighty Fortress is our God. Sovereign Grace Music-* *How Long, O Lord. Come For Us. How Long, O Lord, How Long (Psalm 13). When We See Your Face. Getty-* *He Will Hold Me Fast. O Church Arise. The Lord is My Salvation. Matt Boswell-* *God the Spirit. Steven Curtis Chapman-* *For the Sake of the Call.*

## 2 Major Takeaways from last week’s exposition of John 15:26-16:4a

1) Christ Abundantly Aids His People, Especially Faithful Disciples who are Persecuted for Righteousness Sake. (*John 15:26-27; 14:16-18; Acts 1:3-11*)

2) Christ Forewarns His Disciples to Forearm Them For the Coming Conflict with the Hostile World. (*John 15:28-16:4a; 15:18-25; Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-14*)

Thanks to some amazing volunteers, all sermons are posted online via our LCBC YouTube Page (video format) and on our LCBC website (audio). <https://www.lakecountrybible.org/>