

**Subject: *When the Holy Spirit Comes***

**Scripture: *John 16:1-15***

This part of John deals with Jesus and His disciples in the Upper Room. It was His last night with the disciples before His arrest and crucifixion. Jesus is obviously teaching some of the most important things the disciples would need to know before He leaves them.

Two themes are prominent in John 14-16. Jesus predicts that the world will oppose and persecute the church, and He predicts the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower the church to work in the world. Jesus tells them that He is leaving and going back to the Father in heaven, but He then says that the Holy Spirit is coming to be with them and guide them. He even says it will be to their advantage for Him to leave so the Holy Spirit can come.

### **CONFLICT WITH THE WORLD (vs. 1-6)**

- The description of this conflict

“These things” in vs. 1 refers back to the Lord’s warning in John 15:18-25. The world hated Christ and the world hates Christians. Jesus prepares them for the conflict so they won’t be surprised and “offended” or stumble. This carries the idea of being caught in a trap. They need to be prepared for what they will face. The main conflict with the Christian faith would come from religious people (the Jews). Jesus predicts that they will be put out of the synagogues. Being excommunicated was much worse than just being thrown out of church. It meant that a person was no longer considered part of the community and they were shunned in every way. Some of them will be killed. They will be considered as enemies of God, and so whoever kills them will think they are serving God. These words were used of the priest offering sacrifice in the temple. This describes a man named Saul before he was saved and became the apostle Paul.

- The reason for this conflict

The world will persecute and kill Christians because they don’t know God the Father or His Son Jesus. They know about God, but they don’t know Him personally (Jn. 15:21). Jesus said: “If they persecute and hate me, they will persecute and hate you also.”

- The warning of this conflict

Jesus wants the disciples to be ready for persecution when it happens, so He tells them ahead of time. He had always protected them from attack, but He was going to leave them and told them what to expect. When He was gone they would remember this warning. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. When William Tyndale was being persecuted and his enemies were out to kill him because he wanted to give the Scriptures to the people in the English language, he said calmly: “I never expected anything else.”

### **COMFORT OF THE DISCIPLES (vs. 7)**

“Nevertheless” Jesus tells them something much better, something that will help them weather the storms that are sure to come. Verse 7 is one of the most surprising statements Jesus ever made: “It is to your advantage that I go away.” Can you imagine what they thought when He said that? He explains that He must leave for the Holy Spirit to come.

In John 14-16 Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit in two ways. He is the Comforter and the Spirit of truth. The Comforter means one who is called alongside to help. He is our advocate, our encourager, our helper who does for us what Christ did for His disciples while He was here on earth. Jesus said He was “another Comforter” (Jn. 14:16, another just like me). Spurgeon said: “What a mercy for us that one person of the Sacred Trinity should become our Comforter!”

We should notice that the Spirit is personal, not a thing or an influence. The Spirit is spoken of as he and him, not it. It is important to note that the Holy Spirit comes to the disciples and not to the world. His ministry will be to the church and through the church (vs. 7).

### **CONVICTION BY THE SPIRIT (vs. 8-11)**

The Comforter is also the Convicter. The word “reprove” may be translated convict. It is a courtroom term that means to convince someone beyond any doubt, to confirm something as a fact. Although it can be used in terms of convicting someone of guilt and a sentence of condemnation, here it means convicting someone of truth so as to lead them to repentance and justification. The Spirit works through believers to convict the unsaved world in three ways:

- **Conviction of sin** – Although we are guilty of many sins, the one sin in mind here is the sin of unbelief and rejecting Jesus as Lord and Savior. God’s moral law, the Ten Commandments, convinces us that we are guilty of sin. Our conscience convinces us that we have done wrong and are guilty of sin. But all sins can be forgiven if we repent and receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior by faith. If we reject Christ there is no forgiveness and no hope. ***John 3:18*** *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* The Holy Spirit convinces us to place our faith where God placed our sins, in the person of Jesus Christ.
- **Conviction of righteousness** – Jesus is the perfect standard of God’s righteousness. All other righteousness falls short. ***Romans 3:10*** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.* The Holy Spirit convinces us to reject any method of self-righteousness and to submit to Christ and the righteousness God credits to our account when we believe in Him. ***Romans 10:3-4***<sup>3</sup> *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*<sup>4</sup> *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*
- **Conviction of judgment** – The Holy Spirit convinces us that we are caught up in a world controlled by Satan, the prince of this world, and he has been judged already and is awaiting his eternal punishment. The Spirit convinces us that we will suffer the same judgment unless we believe in Christ and are delivered from his power. The Holy Spirit convinces us to flee from the wrath to come.

Any preacher or teacher can only preach and teach the truth. The Holy Spirit is the only One who can convince you to believe and act on the truth. When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, he told the crowd that they had crucified God’s Son, the Lord of glory. The Holy Spirit was at work. The people were pricked in their heart and they cried out, “What shall we do?” Peter told them to repent and be baptized, and they all did exactly what he told them.

They didn't argue or complain. They surrendered their hearts to God's will and obeyed the Gospel. Peter didn't convince them to do that. The Holy Spirit did.

The Holy Spirit working in and through believers does the work of convincing the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment. This is the same world that hates and persecutes believers. What seems to be an impossible mission is only possible because God is at work. By the Holy Spirit the impossible becomes possible.

### **COMMUNICATION OF THE TRUTH (vs. 12-15)**

As the Spirit of truth He is the one who reveals truth and guides us into all truth. He is the one who reminds us of who Jesus is and what He taught (Jn. 14:26). The Holy Spirit is our teacher. At this moment in time the disciples were not ready for more truth (vs. 12). But the time would come when they would be teachable and the Holy Spirit would teach them.

- The Spirit would reveal all truth – This would include the things that Jesus taught them when He was with them. ***John 14:26*** *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* It would also include all things He wanted them to know but had not yet taught them. This would become the basis of all teaching in the church. ***Acts 2:42*** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.* It would be recorded in the four Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament as they were written over time.
- The Spirit would reveal things to come – This would include all the truth of prophecy in the NT Epistles and Book of Revelation.
- The Spirit would reveal truth that glorifies Christ – The spotlight would be on Christ, the perfect Son of God who died for our sins, rose again, ascended, and is coming again. The Holy Spirit works in perfect unity with the Father and the Son to reveal the truth we need for salvation and the Christian life.

Did you notice that when Jesus spoke about the coming of the Holy Spirit He said nothing about charismatic gifts, speaking in tongues or anything like that? He spoke of the coming of the Comforter to help us, to convict the unsaved world, and the Spirit of truth to guide us into all truth about Christ. How thankful we should be for the presence of the Holy Spirit.