

**JOHN 16:12-15**  
August 19, 1989  
**ROME GEORGIA**  
**January 24, 2016**

I read about a boy living in New Jersey who "waits expectantly every year for the postman to deliver a special letter to him on his birthday."

When his father was dying of a terminal disease, he knew the youngster would not have the benefit of his personal guidance and help as he grew into manhood. **So he wrote him a letter for each year, and left instructions for them to be sent so that they would arrive annually on the proper date.** A final envelope containing words of fatherly direction and advice will also be given to the son on his wedding day. db 3-16-76.

When Jesus lived on earth, his disciples were **too spiritually immature** to understand all the things that he had to say to them. They were steeped in the culture and traditions of the Jews of Jesus' day.

Their understanding – having only the **SHADOW of the Old Testament** – is imperfect at the time that Jesus has this little supper date with them.

The disciples were too preoccupied with their own preeminence to fully grasp the true preeminence of Christ. They had just participated in the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and had shared in the glory of the one who was **heralded as:**

**"THE KING OF ISRAEL THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."** John 12:13

And now, just a few short hours after their moment of glory,

Jesus tells them THAT HE IS GOING AWAY AND **THEY CANNOT GO WITH HIM**

ONE OF THE 12 WILL **BETRAY HIM**

ANOTHER OF THEIR NUMBER WILL **DENY HIM**

And now He is telling them THAT **THEY WILL ALL SHARE IN HIS SUFFERINGS** AND THE **HATRED OF THE WORLD,** **INSTEAD OF IN THE GLORY THAT THEY SO LONGED FOR.**

THIS WAS A BUNCH OF CONFUSED AND BEWILDERED MEN TO WHOM CHRIST ADDRESSED THESE WORDS:

**John 16:1-2** I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them **NOW.**

At the time that Jesus spoke these words. The disciples were like disillusioned children who had had their trip to **Disney World** cancelled. It would take time for them to be able to adjust their thoughts and expectations.

**IT WOULD TAKE TIME - AND HELP IN THE FORM OF THE DIVINE ADVOCATE - THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**John 16:13** Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth,** is come, **he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you **things to come.**

CF. **John 15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the SPIRIT OF TRUTH, which procedeth from the Father, HE SHALL TESTIFY OF ME:

CF. "WHEN HE IS COME" V. 13 - WITH "WHEN HE IS COME" V. 8.

Just as the preceding passage dealing with the **Spirit's ministry to the unsaved** was defined by "WHEN HE IS COME" so likewise is the **ministry of the Spirit to the church** defined as beginning "**WHEN HE IS COME.**"

The coming of the **Holy Spirit** to the 120 disciples on the **day of Pentecost** marked a new era in the relationship of man to God. **The believer now has the SPIRIT of TRUTH.**

This is not some impersonal, whimsical force of nature or human conscience, but rather, as the **demonstrative pronoun "HE"** (ἐκεῖνος *ekeinos ek-i'-nos*) indicates, it is the coming of the **Third Person Of The Godhead - into the life of the believer.**

**The disciples had devoted years of their lives to walk with Jesus and learn from Him.**

They had accepted the invitation of Christ when he said:  
**Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; Matthew 11:29**

Yet their ability to learn was hindered by their **human limitations.** Their introduction to the "truths" of Christ was **colored** by their **Kingdom expectations.**

They had looked for and found the Messiah that would rule, not only Israel, but the world.

They hoped to be seated on either side of him in the throne room,

They desired to see the days of glory that the prophets had foretold.

NOW - **JUST HOURS AFTER THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY** - JESUS TELLS THEM THAT THERE IS YET A LARGE BODY OF TRUTH THAT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO KNOW UNTIL THE "SPIRIT OF TRUTH" COMES AND REVEALS IT TO THEM.

**Up to this time the apostles had no expectation that Christ would ever die or rise from the dead!**

THEIR viewpoint could not accommodate the awesome events that loomed in the coming dawn.

**It would have been impossible for them to comprehend any "truths" that dealt with the "death" or "resurrection" of Jesus nor most certainly, of the results of such events.**

IF YOU GO BACK, AND REMOVE ALL DOCTRINE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT DEALS WITH THE DEATH OR RESURRECTION OF CHRIST - YOU WILL FIND COMPARATIVELY LITTLE INDEED THAT IS IN THE EXACT SENSE "**CHRISTIAN.**" CF. LSC vol. V.P. 155

A study of the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, will reveal that the ministry of Jesus dealt largely with those features which belong to **Israel's earthly kingdom.**

**It was imperative therefore, for the disciples to see both the death and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and then, to have the Spirit of God come and reveal to them the truths connected with the work of Jesus Christ.**

*(Also, we need to bear in mind that neither **Luke**, who wrote the Gospel of **Luke** and **Acts**, nor **Paul** who **wrote roughly half of what we have in the NT** was present in the upper room for this period of instruction. Understanding **on the part of the Apostles** is somewhat **limited to their expectations for the Kingdom of God** as it related to the **nation of Israel**. This is based on the **promises of God from the OT period**. Even though Jesus has repeatedly told them of **His pending Death and Resurrection**, it is not something that they can get a real handle on – **it does not fit with their expectations.**)*

*This is not unique to the days of the apostles! Think of our "Name it Claim it" movement in the church in America today. All the **expectations** of the people in these churches is focused on seeing **signs and wonders** demonstrated weekly in their fellowship. They are perpetually looking for the bounty of Heaven to be poured out on them – after all this is what they have been lead to expect! But Jesus did not leave His disciples with this **expectation** – John 15-16 make it clear that **suffering and hatred and persecution will be their lot!***

**CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS NOT GIVEN SO THAT HE COULD GLORIFY HIMSELF AND HIS GIFTS!**

**HE CAME INSTEAD TO GLORIFY THE SON - AND TEACH OF HIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE ON HIM!**

HE CAME TO:

**REPROVE THE WORLD OF SIN, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF JUDGMENT:**

**AND TO GLORIFY CHRIST for: "HE SHALL RECEIVE OF MINE, AND SHALL SHEW IT UNTO YOU. "**

NOT TOO MANY DAYS BEFORE THE CRUCIFIXION, PETER HAD REBUKED JESUS FOR PREDICTING HIS DEATH.

**Matthew 16:21** From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, **and BE KILLED, AND BE RAISED AGAIN THE THIRD DAY. THEN PETER TOOK HIM, AND BEGAN TO REBUKE HIM**, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

**BUT JUST 50 DAYS AFTER THE RESURRECTION, PETER PREACHED** one of the greatest sermons ever delivered and 3,000 were added unto the church! (NOTE: Many evangelist “**claim**” that thousands get saved at their rallies – but here, the Word of God “**confirms**” the numbers.

**HOW COULD IT BE THAT THIS ONE, PETER, WHO WALKED DAILY WITH CHRIST FOR THREE YEARS, THIS ONE WHO HAD:**

1. REBUKED THE LORD, **Matt. 16:21**
2. REFUSED THE LORD **John. 13**
3. DENIED THE LORD **Matt. 26**

**COULD SO SUDDENLY HAVE UNDERSTOOD SO MUCH?**

**BECAUSE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH HAD COME! AND IN HIS COMING, HE REVEALED THE MIND OF GOD TO MAN!**

**John 16:12 I HAVE YET MANY THINGS TO SAY UNTO YOU, but ye cannot bear them now.**

v. **14 "HE SHALL RECEIVE OF MINE AND SHALL SHOW IT UNTO YOU"**

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT THE ORIGINATOR OF THE MESSAGE HE GIVES, IT IS CHRIST WHO MINISTERS THROUGH THIS ONE WHO WAS CALLED "ANOTHER COMFORTER." ( **I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.**

The **Holy Spirit** may employ many different methods to fulfill His ministry to us;  
**human teachers, the printed page, psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, etc.**

but **He** controls our understanding of the message He sends.

**THIS IS A PHENOMENAL "NEW TRUTH" THAT JOHN IS UNFOLDING HERE! IT IS NOW POSSIBLE FOR BELIEVERS TO MAKE "UNINTERRUPTED, MEASURELESS PROGRESS IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD!" LSC. v. V p. 156.**

THINK ABOUT THIS:

1. THE SPIRIT IS EVER PRESENT - EVEN WITH THE LEAST OF THE SAINTS. CF. **I Cor. 12:13.** “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

**Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

2. JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF IS OUR TEACHER! HE MAKES THE LESSON PLAN, HE SETS THE CLASSES ETC. ( **I have yet many things to say unto you. 16:12**)

3. THE SPIRIT IS AN INCOMPARABLE POSITION OF ADVANTAGE TO TEACH US THOSE THINGS WHICH GOD WANTS AT THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES.

**John 16:14-15** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

## BECAUSE JESUS IS THE LOGOS

"WHO IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD. . ." Col. 1:15

. . . THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY, AND THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON, HEB. 1:3

"all things that the father hath" - BELONG ALSO TO THE SON!

**AND THE SON HAS SEEN TO IT THAT THE SPIRIT HAS COME TO THE CHURCH TO REVEAL UNTO US THOSE DEEP THINGS OF GOD.**

"TAKING FROM WHAT IS MINE AND MAKING IT KNOWN UNTO YOU." NIV.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS TO US THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS.

Addison Leitch in his book "*Interpreting Basic Theology*" has this to say:

"Since He is the **Spirit Of Truth**, then any truth we have concerning Him must come from Him as the source; but in giving us truth in obedience to the requirements of His office, He keeps pointing in that other direction. The Holy Spirit takes of the **things of Christ** and shows them unto us. "**Over there**" He says, "**is what you are really looking for. If I can get you to see Christ, I can get you to see God.** It is **like the experience of looking at the sun**; the sun blinds us by its own light because we are not rightly equipped to look directly at it. **But in the light of the sun we can look at other things.**"

THE **HOLY SPIRIT** ENABLES US TO SEE CHRIST FOR WHO HE REALLY IS! ( CF. **John 16:7-11**)

But beyond that introduction, for those who believe, Jesus promises us that the **Holy Spirit** will

"GUIDE US INTO ALL TRUTH" **John 16:13**

**IT IS SIGNIFICANT, IN THIS CONTEXT, THAT THE "ALL TRUTH" IS FIRST DEFINED AS "THINGS TO COME"! **PROPHECY!****

SCARCELY THE FIRST PLACE THAT A HUMAN TEACHER WOULD BEGIN - YET - THIS IS PRECISELY WHERE THE SPIRIT BEGINS!

"What relation to the Holy Spirit is sustained by those in the Christian profession who confess **no interest in the prophetic Scriptures** must be determined by others." *LSC v. V p. 157.*

**John 16:14** **HE SHALL GLORIFY ME:** for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

**THOSE 4 LITTLE WORDS ENCOMPASS ALL THE TRUTHS OF THEOLOGY. THEY ARE OUR TOUCHSTONE OF PROGRESS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. **HE SHALL GLORIFY ME:****

HE HAS SAID THAT THE SPIRIT WILL "GUIDE YOU IN "ALL TRUTH" AND THIS HE WILL DO!

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(Note to self – tread lightly with this illustration – don't push it too far. NOT cf. Jesus to a dog – but rather the longings the disciples felt knowing that Jesus was no longer going to be their constant companion.)

A **Dear Abby** headline grabbed my attention this week: (*the story isn't much but the headline is a grabber*)

### **Travelers Want To Be Greeted By Best Friend At Trip's End**

By Abigail Van Buren 10 hours ago [Dear Abby](#) 1/22/2016

DEAR ABBY: We recently lost our dog, a 13-year-old springer spaniel, to old age. His passing has left a huge hole in our hearts and lives. **We miss his companionship, his personality and the structure that caring for him brought to our lives.** We're 51 and 60, own our home and are financially secure. . . .

People miss the things that they love when they are taken away. Granted, these people are missing a dog – but for some people – the love of a dog is the closest thing to “underserved” love and acceptance that they will know in this life.

See below – I believe I will break this out into a different follow-up message for the next week. It would allow for a fuller explanation of the HS in relation to all of mankind – and in particular to believers – both spiritual and carnal. The crux of the section is in LSC v. 5, p. 157.

**PAUL, IN I COR. 2:9-3:3** elaborates on the teaching ministry of the believer here, after distinguishing that the Spirit Is The Master Teacher, Paul divides mankind into three classes.

**1Cor. 2:9** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

**10** But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

**11** For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

**12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

**13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

**:14** But the **natural man** receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

**15** But he that is **spiritual** judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

**16** For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

**1Cor. 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto **carnal**, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

**2** I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

**3** For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

1. THE UNREGENERATE **2:14** ψυχικός psuchikos *psoo-khee-kos'*

2. THE SPIRITUAL **2:15** πνευματικός pneumatikos *phyoo-mat-ik-os'*

3. THE CARNAL (FLESHLY) **3:1-3** σαρκικός sarkikos *sar-kee-kos'*

FROM THIS WE MAY KNOW THAT THE "**TEACHING MINISTRY**" OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS:

1. **IMPOSSIBLE IN THE UNSAVED**
2. **UNHINDERED IN THOSE WHO ARE IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP TO HIM**
3. **GREATLY HINDERED IN THE "CARNAL" CHRISTIAN.**

THE TRUTHS THAT JESUS WANTED THE DISCIPLES OF HIS DAY TO UNDERSTAND ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN THE TRUTHS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND TODAY.

WHEN JESUS SAID:

"I HAVE YET MANY THINGS TO SAY UNTO YOU, BUT YE CANNOT BEAR THEM NOW."

HE HAD DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE DISCIPLES BUT THERE IS YET A GREAT APPLICATION TO US TODAY.

THERE ARE "YET MANY THINGS" THAT JESUS HAS TO TEACH YOU AND I IN OUR LIVES.

**John 17:20** Neither pray I for these alone, **but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;**

So, what exactly is it that Jesus wants us to know?

**"THINGS TO COME" AND "THE GLORY OF THE GODHEAD."**