

## **The Work of the Holy Spirit**

### **John 15:26-16:15**

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

16:1 "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. 3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. 4 But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

"And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. NKJV

- I. The Holy Spirit will be their helper in persecution. V-26-16:4
  - A. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.
    - 1. The word martyr comes from the Gr. word NT:3144 μάρτυς **martus** (mar'-toos)
    - 2. Being a witness in those first centuries was so closely connected with persecution and death, that the word witness μάρτυς took on a new meaning, today what we call martyr.
  - B. If you read the accounts of the martyrs down through the centuries you will find constantly the presence of the Holy Spirit.
    - 1. From the first one in Acts 6 & 7.
    - 2. The longest discourse in Acts is that of Stephen in Acts 6.

3. And when they stoned him to death he forgave them just as his Lord had done on the cross.
  4. And at the end he sees a heavenly vision of Jesus waiting for him, just before he dies.
- C. And there is no other explanation for the change in the apostles who had forsaken him and fled to a few weeks later.
1. Acts 5:29-32 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him." NKJV
  2. Acts 5:40-42 and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. NKJV
- D. In 1949 when the Western Missionaries were forced out of China there were about 400,000 Christians.
1. But after years of relentless persecution by the Communist government estimates run as high as 130 million today.
- II. The danger is that they will be ensnared. V-1-4
- A. The word stumble comes from the word:
1. NT:4625 σκάνδαλον **skandalon** (skan'-dal-on) ("scandal"); probably from a derivative of NT:2578; a trap-stick (bent sapling), i.e. snare (figuratively, cause of displeasure or sin):
  2. The word indicates the part of the trap where the bat was put or what we might call the trigger for the trap.
- B. He wants them to be aware of their future since it will try them.
1. They were not going to set on thrones, but be nailed to crosses.
  2. They are not going to be adored by the multitudes but be stoned with stones.
  3. And although many will accept their witness, the nation as a whole will reject them and persecute all who follow them.

4. But they will not be forsaken by God.
5. He will send the Holy Spirit to give them not an outward power by which they might destroy their persecutors, but an inward power to keep them faithful.

III. It is for their advantage that He go back to the Father. V-5-11

A. They do not understand the plan of God.

1. Some of His plan He has revealed to them but they are dull in receiving it.
2. Other parts of God's plan he had not yet revealed to them, they were going to just have to trust Him.

B. But God's plan was for Jesus to die for their sins and be raised from the dead on the third day.

IV. There are many more things they must learn. V-12-15

A. The Holy Spirit would be their teacher.