

## The Holy Spirit Makes a World of Difference

### John 16:7-15

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

For Christians, the Holy Spirit is like water. It is something that we cannot live without but it is also something that we always have. The Spirit is the same for the Christian, we always have Him and His influence in our lives. But we also need Him desperately. But since we always have Him we usually do not appreciate what life and the world would be without Him. It is like that old saying, you don't miss the water until the well runs dry.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was not like He is in the New Testament. There was no sweeping ministry of the Holy Spirit as Jesus describes it here. There were certain individuals who received a special ministry of the Holy Spirit on special occasions. But there were also times when God would remove the Holy Spirit from one who had once been blessed by that indwelling. Sampson and King Saul were good examples of this.

- I. 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.
  - A. The work of God takes the power of God.
  - B. Church leaders are always trying to find the newest method, some trick that will accomplish the work of God.
    1. But God must do the work of God.
    2. The things spoken of here can only be done by God.
  - C. Even they needed the power of the Holy Spirit to preach, teach and minister.
  - D. It is very similar to what we find in the life of Samson.
    1. There is no doubt that Samson was a fine specimen of a man.
    2. But when he went to battle it was the Spirit of the Lord that made him successful.

3. Judg 13:24-25 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol. NKJV
4. Judg 14:19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, NKJV
5. Judg 15:14-16 Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. 15 He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it. NKJV
6. So went the life of Sampson until the day that God was no longer with him.
7. Judg 16:19-22 19 Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. 20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him. 21 Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. NKJV
8. This is what Jesus had said in John 15, Without Me you can do nothing.

II. And when He has come, He will convict the world

A. Of sin, - of sin, because they do not believe in Me

1. The word rendered 'reprove' [elengxei] means more than that. Reproof is indeed implied, and doubtless the work begins with it. But 'convict,' or, as in the margin, 'convince,' is the thing intended: and as the one word expresses the work of the Spirit on the unbelieving portion of mankind, and the other on the believing, it is better not to restrict the term to either. JFB
2. Sin is any falling short of what God requires in any area of life.
3. The first place we see this is in Acts 2 just minutes after the time of the sending of the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" NKJV

B. And of righteousness, - of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more

1. Righteousness is the opposite of sin.

- C. and of judgment: - of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
  - 1. If Satan himself is to be judged and face justice then what man can hope to escape God's judgement day.
  - 2. There is something in us, I think the Holy Spirit, tells us there has to be a final judgment where those who have avoided judgment in this life will not avoid it in the next.
  
- III. He will guide you into all truth
  - A. I think this was primarily for the apostles.
  - B. He had said that the Holy Spirit would bring things to their remembrance and allow them to give a perfect record of His life and ministry.
  - C. It is true though that the Holy Spirit will only guide in to all truth for He is the Spirit of truth.
  - D. But many who have claimed to be operating under the leadership of the Holy Spirit have made shipwreck of their lives and the lives of many others. They were not lead by the Holy Spirit.
  
- IV. For He will not speak on His own authority
  - A. In the same way that Jesus did not act independently of the Father so the Spirit will not act independently of the Son.
  - B. But whatever He hears He will speak
  
- V. And He will tell you things to come.
  
- VI. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
  - A. John 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. NKJV
  - B. The Holy Spirit will not glorify Himself, but brings glory to the Son.
    - 1. That might be an indicator of trying to determine the work of the Holy Spirit.
    - 2. If someone claims to speaking from the Holy Spirit and that message neglects the Son and is more about the Holy Spirit than the Son you might want to be suspicious.
    - 3. Remember that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is essential to a godly life and ministry, but it is only because the Spirit will keep us on track, He will not speak of Himself but will bring glory to the Father and the Son.
  
- VII. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and

declare it to you.

- A. There is unity in the Godhead.
- B. They are united in purpose and action.
- C. They are united in message and goals.
  - 1. It is kind of interesting that our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit has in the last 100 years become one of the most decisive subjects among evangelical Christians.
  - 2. Even among those who lay great emphasis upon the work of the Holy Spirit there seems to be a constant splintering as even more and more sometimes bizarre interpretations are given to the work of the Holy Spirit.

We should not run away from the teachings concerning the Holy Spirit for without Him we can do nothing.

But neither should we be lead astray from sound doctrine by someone who claims that they have a special revelation. If you can't find it in the Book plainly then you need to be a good Berean.

If you have grieved the Holy Spirit with your life then you repent and surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.