

**“The Holy Spirit’s Work”  
John 15:26 – 16:11**

**Big Idea – Jesus promised His followers a Helper in witnessing for Him.**

John 15:26 “I will send you the Helper from the Father; he is the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father. When he comes, he will tell about me,  
27 and you also must tell people about me, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:1 “I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith.  
2 People will put you out of their synagogues. Yes, the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are offering service to God.  
3 They will do this because they have not known the Father and they have not known me.  
4 I have told you these things now so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. “I did not tell you these things at the beginning, because I was with you then.  
5 Now I am going back to the One who sent me. But none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’  
6 Your hearts are filled with sadness because I have told you these things.  
7 But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away. When I go away, I will send the Helper to you. If I do not go away, the Helper will not come.  
8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.  
9 The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me.  
10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more.  
11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

**1. Christian witness comes from the Father – vs. 26, 27**

Christ tells them God the Father will send the Helper, the Spirit of Truth or Holy Spirit to testify about Jesus – see the Trinity here (Father, Holy Spirit & Son, Jesus)

The Helper was coming to testify about Jesus and His followers were promised His help to do the same (here in this verse, and later in Acts 1:8).

**2. Warnings about persecution to come 16:1 – 4**

The disciples were forewarned and forearmed, but still were offended. In John 16:1 He tells them not to be offended, but in Matthew 26:31 He says they will be offended. What gives? God knows everything, but man still has personal responsibility. A person has their own personal will as to whether they apply the truth and promises of God in their life. Don't blame God!

### **3. Words of comfort to the disciples by the Lord vs. 5 – 7**

The selfishness of the disciples – vs. 5, 6

The Selflessness of Jesus Christ – vs. 7

If He did not die, their sins would not be forgiven  
If He did not rise, they couldn't/wouldn't have eternal life  
If He did not leave them/ascend to Heaven, they would not receive  
the Helper, the Holy Spirit

John 14:16 “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever—

17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and he will be in you.

18 “I will not leave you all alone like orphans; I will come back to you.”

### **4. Convicting of the world by the Spirit – vs. 8 - 11**

His ministry is to convince and convict

To convince us that only Jesus Christ can save and preserve us  
Because He is God incarnate  
Because He died for our sins to reverse the sin problem

To convict us that we need Christ – why?

Because of Adam's fall all of us are sinners (Romans 3:10-19)

Men are hostile to God – that hostility created willful ignorance of  
God and His nature. Why people today reject God

Men fell under the control of Satan – it's God's loving nature to set  
men free from the power of Satan, so Christ had to break the power of sin

(rebellion against God), so the Holy Spirit reaches down to expose his sin and show him he needs Jesus Christ.

If he rejects the Holy Spirit and refuses to accept Christ, he condemns himself to hell. John 3:17, 18

The material the Spirit uses:

Sin – greatest sin is rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord – John 3:18

Righteousness – in contrast to man's sin, how perfect and righteous Jesus Christ is – 2 Corinthians 5:21

Judgment – Satan was judged on the cross when Christ defeated sin and death by rising from the dead – He defeated the one who had the power of death

Hebrews 2:14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

When a lost sinner is truly under conviction, he will see the folly and evil of unbelief; he will confess that he does not measure up to the righteousness of Christ; and he will realize that he is under condemnation because he belongs to the world and the devil (Eph. 2:1-3).

The only person who can rescue him from such a horrible situation is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There can be no conversion without conviction, and there can be no conviction apart from the Spirit of God using the Word of God and the witness of the child of God.

Witnessing is a great privilege, but it is also a serious responsibility. It is a matter of life or death! How we need to depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us to the right persons, give us the right words, and enable us patiently to glorify Jesus Christ.