

“The Holy Spirit’s Work” – Pt. 2
John 16:8 – 15

Big Idea – The Holy Spirit of God can help you understand the Bible.

John 16:7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

The major reason Jesus had to leave was so Holy Spirit might come to empower the church for life and witness. Also, the ascended Savior would be able to intercede for His people at the heavenly throne of grace. With all of their faults, the disciples dearly loved their Master; and it was difficult for them to grasp these new truths.

Note that the Spirit comes *to the church* and not to the world. This means that He works in and through the church. The Holy Spirit does not minister in a vacuum.

Just as the Son of God had to have a body in order to do His work on earth, so the Spirit of God needs a body to accomplish His ministries - that body is the church.

Our bodies are His tools and temples, and He wants to use us to glorify Christ and to witness to a lost world.

John 16:8 when he comes, he will convict (reprove) 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.

The Spirit of Truth as Advocate convicts the world – vs. 8 - 11

His ministry is to **convince** and **convict**.

The key word here is “reprove” – a legal word that means "to bring to light, to expose, to refute, to convict and convince." could be translated "pronounce the verdict." The world may think that it is judging Christians, but it is the Christians who are passing judgment on the world as they witness to Jesus Christ!

Believers are the witnesses, the Holy Spirit is the "prosecuting attorney," and the unsaved are the guilty prisoners.

But the purpose of this indictment is not to condemn but to bring salvation. "God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world..."

To convince us that only Jesus Christ can save and preserve us

Because He is God incarnate – John 1:1, 10:30, 14:7 – 11;
Because He died for our sins to reverse the sin problem – Romans

5:12

To convict us that we need Christ – why?

Because of Adam's fall all of us are sinners (Romans 3:10-12, 18, 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 man's sin and show him he needs Jesus Christ.

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

The material the Spirit uses:

Sin – greatest sin is rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of one particular sin, the sin of unbelief.

The law of God and the conscience of man will convict the sinner of his sins (plural) specifically; but it is the work of the Spirit, through the witness of the believers, to expose the unbelief of the lost world.

it is unbelief that condemns the lost sinner (John 3:18-21), not the committing of individual sins. A person could "clean up his life" and quit his or her bad habits and still be lost and go to hell.

John 3:18 People who believe in God's Son are not judged guilty. Those who do not believe have already been judged guilty, because they have not believed in God's one and only Son.

19 They are judged by this fact: The Light has come into the world, but they did not want light. They wanted darkness, because they were doing evil things.

20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.

21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

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

Turn to Romans 5:9 – 20 and please note the words "much more"

Judgment – Jesus was referring to His judgment of Satan that was effected by His death on the cross (John 12:31).

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Satan is the prince of this world, but he is a defeated prince. Satan has already been judged and the verdict announced. All that must take place is the executing of the sentence, and that will occur when Jesus returns.

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 convicted, he will see the folly and evil of unbelief; he will confess that he does not measure up to the righteousness of Christ (Romans 3:23); and he will realize that he is under condemnation because he belongs to the world and the devil

Ephesians 2:1 "Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.

2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else."

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.

The Spirit of Truth as Teacher Guides the Church vs. 12 - 15

John 16:13 But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come.

14 The Spirit of truth will bring glory to me, because he will take what I have to say and tell it to you.

15 All that the Father has is mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take what I have to say and tell it to you.

Jesus was always careful to give His disciples the right amount of truth at the best time. This is always the mark of a great teacher. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher today, and He follows that same principle: He teaches us the truths we need to know, when we need them, and when we are ready to receive them.

Psalm 86:11 "Teach me Your way O Lord, I will walk in your truth..."

He wrote the Bible, the written Word

If you compare John 14:26 with 16:13, you see the wonderful way that God arranged for the writing of the New Testament Scriptures. The Spirit would remind them of what Jesus had taught them; this gives us the four Gospels. The Spirit would also "guide" them into all truth; and this would result in the epistles. "He will show you things to come" refers to the prophetic Scriptures, especially the Book of Revelation.

It is essential that we see that the work of the Spirit of God is never separated from Jesus Christ or the Word of God. "He shall testify of Me" (John 15:26); "He shall glorify Me" (John 16:14). People who claim that the Spirit of God led them to do things contrary to the example of Christ or the teaching of the Word are mistaken and are being led astray by Satan. Jesus is the truth (John 14:6), and the Word is truth (John 17:17), and the Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of Truth." Where the Holy Spirit is at work, there must be truth.

He Testifies about Jesus Christ, the Living Word

The phrase "He [the Spirit] shall not speak of Himself" (John 16:13) does not mean that the Spirit never refers to Himself, for when He wrote the Bible, the Spirit often mentioned Himself. Rather, it means that He does not speak apart from the Father and the Son; He does not "manufacture" a different message. You have the entire Godhead mentioned in John 16:13, because the Spirit of God does not ignore either the Father or the Son. They work harmoniously together.

The teaching of the Spirit through the Apostles was not different from the teaching of the Spirit through Jesus Christ. Some theologians like to contrast the "Christianity of Christ" with the "Christianity of Paul." They claim that Paul "ruined" Christianity by making it so theological and complicating the "simple message" of Jesus Christ. What a sad interpretation this is. What Jesus said in John 14:26 and 16:13 completely refutes this false teaching.

The same Holy Spirit communicated the truths found in the four Gospels, the epistles, and the Book of Revelation; and He also wrote the history and doctrine found in Acts.

It is the ministry of the Spirit to enrich us with the treasures of God's truth. He enlightens us with God's truth and enriches us with God's treasures. The Word of God is a rich mine of gold, silver, and precious jewels (Prov. 3:13-15; 8:10-21).

He Illumines the Word of God to us

What a joy it is to have the Spirit illumine His Word. 2 Timothy 3:17

2 Timothy 3:14 But you should continue following the teachings you learned. You know they are true, because you trust those who taught you.

15 Since you were a child you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people

*what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right.
17 Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all
that is needed to do every good work.*

*Psalm 143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good;
lead me into the land of uprightness.*

We do not study the Word of God in order to "argue religion" with people, or to show off our grasp of spiritual things. We study the Word to see Jesus Christ, to know God better, to glorify Him in our lives.

As we witness in this hostile world, the Spirit uses the Word He has taught us; and we share Jesus Christ with the lost. It is our job to witness; it is the Spirit's job to convict.

Perhaps we need to quit acting like prosecuting attorneys—or judges—so that the Spirit can use us as faithful witnesses.