

## The Spirit of Truth

*Gospel of John, Part LVI*

John 16:4b-16

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### I. Final Discourses

- 15:1-11 – The Relationship of Believers to Christ
- 15:12-17 – The Rel. of Believers to One Another
- 15:18-16:4 – The Rel. of Believers to the World
- 16:5-16 – The Rel. of Believers to the Holy Spirit

### II. The Work of the Spirit

A. Introduction: Where are you going? (4b-5 cf. 18:8)

B. The Spirit as Comforter (6-7 cf. 14:16-18)

It is to our advantage that Jesus has departed. While Jesus was present on earth, prior to His departure, He could be present corporeally, bodily, in only one place at any given time; however, now by the Spirit, He is present with us in all places at all times.

C. The Spirit as Convicter (8-11 cf. 15:26)

The Spirit will empower the advance of the Gospel and bring light to a dark world. While we are to *"bear witness"* to the world (15:27), it is the Spirit who must \_\_\_\_\_, who must lead the world into a genuine knowledge of and belief in Jesus.

1. Of Sin (cf. 1:10-13)

When the Spirit *testifies of Jesus*, He convicts the world of its \_\_\_\_\_. Though Jesus *"was in the world, and the world was made through Him, ...the world did not know Him"* (1:10); and it continues to refuse to acknowledge Him as God's King. From that unbelief, from that rebellion, all other sins proceed.

2. Of Righteousness (cf. 20:17, 21-23; Rom 3:24-26)

The Spirit holds before the world Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension as the only source of acceptance with God, the only source of \_\_\_\_\_. He declares that all other attempts at righteousness are empty and vacuous; the only source of righteousness is Jesus Christ crucified, dead, raised, and ascended.

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified [declared righteous] freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation in His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness... that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus"* (Rom 3:24-26).

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
  - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
  - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
  - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
  - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
  - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
  - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
  - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

### 3. Of Judgment (cf. 12:31-32)

The \_\_\_\_\_ enables us to know who won in the great contest between good and evil – and who will win. The Spirit declares that the decisive battle in the contest between good and evil has already been fought. The day Jesus was crucified is the day of His victory over the kingdom of darkness and its ruler, Satan. As Paul writes to the Colossians, “*Having disarmed principalities and powers, [Jesus] made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in [the cross]*” (Col 2:15).

#### D. The Spirit as Instructor (12-15 cf. 14:26)

Jesus will reveal the fullness of His will to the apostles by the Spirit. The Spirit will explain the significance of Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, and enable the apostles to understand how Jesus’ life and teaching affect the various issues which they will face. Jesus’ words imply that, by the \_\_\_\_\_, the faith will be “*once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3). Once the church is established on the foundation of the apostles’ teaching, there will be no need for further revelation.

#### E. Conclusion: I go to the Father (16)

## III. The Person of the Spirit

### A. The Personality of the Spirit

Jesus’ words reveal that the Spirit is a Person not a \_\_\_\_\_. When Jesus introduces the Spirit in 14:16, He speaks of Him as *another Helper*. In other words, the Spirit is like Jesus and Jesus is a Person not just a force or an idea.

### B. The Divinity of the Spirit

The Spirit is one with the Father and the Son; He is the Third Person of the Trinity. First, Jesus tells us that the Spirit is *another Helper*, like unto Himself (14:16). Second, Jesus routinely calls the Holy Spirit the *Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_* (14:17; 15:26; 16:13). In other words, He is the Spirit of Jesus. But He is also the Spirit of the Father, *the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father* (15:26). Even as Jesus is eternal God (1:1), so too the Spirit is eternal God: *in the beginning was the Spirit and the Spirit was with God and the Spirit was God*. The Spirit is divine.

### C. The Christocentricity of the Spirit

The Spirit is centered on \_\_\_\_\_. He delights to point the Church and the world to Christ. He is the *Spirit of Truth*, the *Spirit of Christ*, and so He *testifies of Christ*. Hence, the way that the Spirit will reveal Himself in our lives is by focusing us increasingly on the Person and Work of Christ.

## IV. Conclusion