

**Holy Spirit - John 16:5-15**  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

This was a rough night. The evening began with the celebration of the Passover meal, in which Jesus reinterpreted the meal to be a reference to his own body and blood. This was a prediction of His own death which He told them would happen the next day. Over and over Jesus has told His closest followers that He is about to leave them, but it came with some cryptic promises that they did not understand at the time. He would go prepare a place for them, and someday He was going to return to them. I have to imagine at the time those promises were pretty much missed in the darkness of the moment. Furthermore, Jesus predicted that one of the men in the room would flat out sell Jesus out, that Peter would curse and deny Jesus, and that all of them would scatter when Jesus was arrested. In other words, by the next morning they would all be failures, be lonely having lost their leader and best friend. This would lead to hopelessness because Jesus had been their Messianic hope, and they had left everything to follow Him. And finally, Jesus warned them that the world will hate them and intentionally persecute them, fully believing that killing the disciples will be an act of worship to God. An awful night of suffering and failure.

So it should amaze us that a mere fifty days later this band of uneducated misfits proclaim the Gospel boldly in Jerusalem and start a movement that will ever change the world. How could this happen? The answer, according to Jesus is the promise of the Helper. Our passage for this week is the third time Jesus has referred to the sending of the Spirit as the hope for the disciples to live in power and accomplish God's purpose. This entire time of teaching Jesus has been investing in His disciples the essence of discipleship, what it means to be a true follower of Jesus. And the key to unlocking all that Jesus says is to realize that we never do this alone, in fact, it is the Holy Spirit at work within us that allows us to do anything.

Throughout John 14-16 Jesus has given the Holy Spirit three titles or names. The first is just that, the Holy Spirit, which is a reference to Him as a person of the Trinity. God in three persons, co-eternal, co-equal, but different in roles. The Father initiated creation and salvation, the Son was sent into the world to secure our salvation as redeemer. Jesus also calls the Holy Spirit the Helper. This is a translation of the Greek word *parakletos*. Other translations use the words comforter, or advocate. To be honest, to get at the word we need all of these. The idea of this word is one who comes alongside as the advocate, much like a defense attorney, but also is present and powerful for the person. The Holy Spirit as our Helper is not our sidekick, come to give us warm fuzzies and make us happy. He is the presence of God who stands with us defending and empowering us to live as missionaries in our world. Jesus also calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth, referring to the reality that the work of the Spirit is connected to the truth of the Gospel as revealed in the Scriptures and in Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes God and the Gospel known in the world, and we get to be a part of that mission.

In this passage Jesus is teaching His disciples how the Holy Spirit will work in their lives and what He will mean to their ministry. In John 15:26-27 we are told that the work of the Spirit is connected to the purpose of witness, making Christ known. The Holy Spirit is a witness and so are His disciples. In Acts 1:8, after His resurrection Jesus echoes these words when He tells His disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses." The Holy Spirit is a missionary, sent by God and Christ into the world to empower the church to accomplish

the mission of God, taking the Gospel to every tribe and nation.

So Jesus also tells His disciples how the Spirit will work through them and in them. He will work through them in the world as they proclaim Christ by convicting people of their sin, lack of righteousness, and coming judgment. The Spirit will open eyes so people will believe if they just work as witnesses. The Holy Spirit will work in them by being present and powerful in their lives. The Spirit will be a guide, leading Christ's followers to all truth and bring glory to Christ.

My experience is that we are a bit afraid of the Holy Spirit, and not really sure what to do with Him. But Jesus has made it clear that we are to long for the work of the Holy Spirit, to be filled with the Spirit, and to seek the power of the Spirit in our lives. Without the Spirit the disciples were failures. Fifty days later, empowered by the Holy Spirit they boldly proclaimed the glory of the Gospel in Jerusalem and 3,000 people experienced the conviction spoken of by Jesus and put their faith in Christ. May we seek the Spirit together, and pray that God will send the gifts of the Spirit, a boldness in the Gospel, and the fruit of the Spirit to our church as well.

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Genesis 44	Genesis 45	Genesis 46	Genesis 47	Genesis 48	Genesis 49	Genesis 50

Reading from this past week: John 16:5-15

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Romans 10:8-17

### **Family Worship**

*God Made Low* - Sovereign Grace version here

<https://youtu.be/6aHuihJE82g>

#### Gospel Project Main Point and Big Picture Question

Story: the Holy Spirit Came

Main Point: The Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost.

Big Picture Question: What does the Holy Spirit do?

Answer: The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.

Scripture: Acts 2:1-4, 22-42

#### Scripture

John 15:26-27, 16:5-15

#### Prayer

\*Pray for the families we will be serving this Saturday at our Gift of Love Christmas Store.

\*Pray for the Genesis Family Christmas Celebration this Friday night.