

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

39) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

'These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you'

(John 16:1-4)

✓ **Note the predictive nature, 'if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you... And when He has come, He will convict the world... 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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you'.**
This continues to the end of the chapter

✓ **In chapter 15 they were told what they needed to do, e.g. abide in Him, keep His commandments**

✓ **Now they are told what their enemies will do, but more importantly what God will do**

- ✓ **'Stumble'** - Gk. *skandalethron* was a baitstick, a trap with a spring which might go off when least expected
- ✓ He didn't warn them before, because He was with them and was able to deflect the attention to Himself. But now they would be the frontline targets
- ✓ When William Tyndale was persecuted, he said, 'I never expected anything else'
- ✓ In warning them of what is ahead He assures them that He has the reins
- ✓ They will be excommunicated

- ✓ **They will be killed by the religious hierarchy, thinking that this is doing service to God, e.g.,**
'Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities' **(Acts 26:9-11)**

- ✓ **Opposition comes mainly from religious people and reveals that the persecutors do not know the Son, nor the Father who sent the Son. They worship a god of their own image**
- ✓ **They think they are serving God when they persecute those who are serving Him. *'But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!'* (Matt.6:23)**
- ✓ **If the 'light' within a person leads them to attacking Christ's body, how great is that darkness**

'But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 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'

(John 16:5-7)

- ✓ **When Jesus told them He was going away, and they would face opposition, their hearts were filled with sorrow. They weren't concerned about *His* future ('where are you going?') but *their* future – 'we will be left alone'**
- ✓ **But it was in their best interest that He was going away, because He would send the Holy Spirit. See Matt.18:20; Lk.24:50-53**
- ✓ **Though Jesus is in heaven, the Holy Spirit is with us on earth. He gives life to us (John 5:21), indwells us (1 Cor.6:19), loves us (Rom.15:7), leads us (Rom.8:14), assures us of our sonship (Rom.8:16), helps us in our prayers (Rom.8:26), and seals us unto the day of redemption (Eph.4:30)**

'And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged'

(John 16:8-11)

- ✓ **There will be two major aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit: 1) To the world. He will convict the world of...**
- ✓ **A) Sin. The word translated 'convict', *elencho*, is a very strong word. Stronger than 'reprove' (KJV). It means He will convince the world of sin. He will undeceive the world**
- ✓ **Only the Holy Spirit can convince of sin. Arguments, and even preaching alone, cannot**
- ✓ **How people respond is a matter of personal decision, e.g. Acts 2; 7:51-57; 9:1-6. It is a serious thing to resist and reject this work of the Holy Spirit**
- ✓ **The essence of sin in unbelief in Jesus**

***B) Righteousness. Righteousness must not be understood in terms of precepts, but as a Person. (Rom.10:3-4; 1 Cor.1:30). The Holy Spirit enables people to have a changed mindset about righteousness**

***This was confirmed by the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. *'...therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."* Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification (Rom.4:22-25)**

***C) Judgment. Normally conviction of sin is followed by judgment. But the Holy Spirit bears witness that there is an in-between step: the revelation of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which delivers from judgment**

***It's better to have the Spirit of God to justify us rather than to convict us**

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you'

(John 16:12-15)

***2) To the disciples. Jesus said that there were many things they still had to be taught, but at that time they were incapable of understanding them without the Holy Spirit who would come to guide them into all truth**

***E.g. They were prejudiced; their hearts were set on the establishment of the Messianic kingdom; God's temporary rejection of Israel and His turning unto the Gentiles; the abolishing of the old covenant, and the introduction of the new; the bringing in of another order of priesthood, etc.**

***Paul's thorn in the flesh was given to him, lest he be exalted above measure through 'the abundance of the revelations'**

**Before we can see, we need both sight and light.
Eyes cannot see in the darkness, and light shows
nothing to the blind**

**So, we need both the truth of God's Word and
illumination from the Holy Spirit**

***'All Scripture is given by inspiration of
God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction in righteousness, that
the man of God may be complete, thoroughly
equipped for every good work'
(2 Tim.3:16-17)***

'But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God'

(1 Cor.2:9-12)

***In John 14:26 Jesus said the Spirit would recall to them the past: '...the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you'**

***In John 15:26, He said the Spirit would testify of the present glory of Christ, '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'**

***But here, in John 16:13, He promised He would show them *things to come*, i.e. things concerning the future**

***Christ is the Center of the Spirit's testimony. 'He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.'**
This uncovers every lying spirit

***He would get them to focus on Jesus by declaring truth about Him. He will take of the things of Jesus – His Person and work – and reveal these to us**

***The Holy Spirit takes what was given to the apostles and opens our eyes to see it also**

***The Holy Spirit will not speak on His own initiative but will reveal what the Father gave to the Son, and which He taught**