

Light In The Darkness
“The Helper”

John 16:1-15

The greatest privilege a person can ever enjoy is to be a true follower of Jesus Christ, spiritually born by the grace of God, the work of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. There is no greater status in this life or the next than to be called a son or daughter of the living God.

The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit helps us to understand the depth of God’s Word, guiding us into its truth, and He is the one who brings us out of darkness into the light of Christ. Once the Church begins to fully grasp His magnificent ministry, then and only then will they know the power of God in their lives.

For far too long the role and ministry of the Holy Spirit has been at best a confusion to God’s people and at worst, a complete misguided and false teaching that leads to an abuse of His nature and purpose.

In John 16:1-15, Jesus gives a clear presentation of the true ministry of the Holy Spirit as our Helper and Counselor. Jesus also explains the relationship the Spirit has toward the unbelieving world.

In **16:7-15**, Jesus teaches two main things about the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit’s relationship to the unbeliever. (John 16:8-11)

The sin Jesus is referring to is the ultimate **sin** of rejecting Christ. That is why the first and most important work of the Spirit toward the unbeliever is to convict them of their separation from God relationally because of their sin. He doesn’t convict them of any sin other than their rebellion toward God that, if unconfessed in repentance, will lead them to eternal punishment in hell.

The Spirit convicts the world of **righteousness**. The **righteousness** referred to here is that which belongs to Jesus Christ by nature as the Holy Son of God. The Spirit convicts unbelievers of their sin and of the necessity of having the perfect righteousness of Christ applied to them. This is why it is an utter waste of time for unbelievers to attempt to impress God with religious acts.

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of **judgment**. This brings a conviction on the erroneous thought process the world has toward Jesus Christ. The world is incapable of judging righteously, and there is no better example of that than the arrest, trial, and murder of Jesus Christ at the hands of the Jewish and Roman authorities. And while it was all part of the Father’s redemptive plan, those who executed Jesus are not without guilt and accountability.

There are only two possible responses to the convicting work of the Spirit: repentance or rejection.

The Holy Spirit's relationship to the believer. (John 16:12-15)

First, the Holy Spirit is the **Spirit of truth** who **guides** believers **into all truth**. In terms of the disciples, Jesus was referring to the fact that the Holy Spirit would guide them into understanding the supernatural revelation concerning the person and teaching of Jesus. This promise also extends in a secondary sense, to the Holy Spirit's work of illumination. **(cf. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 John 2:20-27)**

Second, the Holy Spirit will only speak that which the Father gives Him to speak. Just like Jesus did while He was present on earth, so the Holy Spirit does likewise. Thus, the Holy Spirit's leading will always be consistent with God's revealed will in the Scripture.

Third, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ by disclosing the truth about Him, just as Jesus glorified the Father by revealing Him.

Fourth, the Holy Spirit testifies to the truthfulness and reliability of the Scripture. Through the coherent unity, scientific accuracy, historical verifiability and fulfilled prophecy of God's Word all mark it as unique. In the end only the Holy Spirit can convince lost sinners of its divine inspiration and believers of its power to change their lives.

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Upcoming Events

Men's Bible Study. 9/25. 6:30 PM @ Kevin Hector's home.
See Scott Meredith if you have questions.

Ladies' Bible Study. Hebrews. Thursday **9/26.** Every other Thursday.
7 PM @ C.A.S.T. See Dawn Fitzpatrick if you have questions.

Monthly Ladies' Fellowship, first Wednesdays of the month. **10/2.** 6:30 PM @ Angela Morris' home. See Suze Meredith if you have questions.