

John 16:5-15 – Jesus’ Substitution: Co-laboring with the Holy the Spirit

I. Recap

During His last night with them, Jesus loved his disciples to the end by preparing them for life without Him. As they walked east through the moonlit streets of Jerusalem, past the temple where Judas was betraying Jesus’ location, and toward the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus continued to give comfort and instruction to His disciples. These followers have been charged with the daunting task of taking His message of reconciliation with God to a world that hates Him. Just as the world will greet Jesus with malice and murder Him, so also will they turn that hatred upon His followers. After a frank discussion about the promise of persecution, Jesus once again comforts His beloved disciples with the promised ministry of the Holy Spirit.

II. Introduction

Confusion over the Holy Spirit reigns in many protestant evangelical churches. Like many other doctrines, churches tend to swing on pendulum. One church can known for rambunctiously being “slain in the Spirit” while the church down the street can be known as “the frozen chosen.” Rather than finding and maintaining the biblical balance, they tend to swing too far to one side - either give too much attention or too little attention to the person and ministry of the Spirit.

1. Why do you think the experiential emphasis and focus of the Holy Spirit is so luring?
2. Why do you think churches struggle to maintain a proper balance?
3. What is the solution to maintaining a proper balance?

III. The Need for the Holy Spirit

a. Text

“5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 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 go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

(John 16:5–11 [ESV](#))

4. In John 13:33 Jesus told the disciples ***“Where I am going, you cannot come”*** to which Peter immediately asked ***“Lord, where are You going?”*** Thomas asked in 14:5 ***“We do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”*** How does Jesus’ statement in 16:5 that none of the disciples asked “where are you going?” harmonize with these verses?
5. According to verse 6, what emotion was at work behind the disciples’ questions?

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“A little boy, disappointed that his father is suddenly called away for an emergency meeting when both the boy and his Dad had expected to go fishing together, says, ‘Aw, Dad, where are you going?’, but cares nothing at all to learn the destination. The question is a protest; the unspoken question is ‘Why are you leaving me?’ The disciples have been asking several questions of that sort; they have not *really* asked thoughtful questions about where Jesus is going and what it means for them.”¹

6. What was caused sorrow in the disciples’ hearts? (v. 2-4)
7. In 16:1 Jesus said **“these things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.”** What threat is Jesus protecting the disciples from?
8. John 14:28 says **“You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father...”** What should have been the proper response of the disciples and why didn’t they respond this way? (cf. John 14:18; 20, 23)

“We should do well to mark how mischievous overmuch sorrow is, and to seek grace to keep it in proper control. No affection, if uncontrolled, so disarranges the order of men’s minds, and unfits them for the duties of their calling.”²

IV. The Holy Spirit’s Ministry

9. According to the following passages, what are the various ministries of the Spirit?

<p>“1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1–2 <u>ESV</u>)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ the heavens and the earth.</p>
<p>“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,” (Titus 3:5 <u>ESV</u>)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ sinners.</p>
<p>“12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:12–14 <u>ESV</u>)³</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ the mind of believers.</p>

¹ Carson, 533.

²J.C. Ryle, 103.

³ Ps. 119:18

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<p><i>“And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”</i> (Acts 5:32 ESV)</p> <p><i>“And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.”</i> (1 John 5:6 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ to believers that God’s Word is true.</p>
<p><i>“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”</i> (Galatians 5:22–23 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ believers to be more like Christ.</p>
<p><i>“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,”</i> (Ephesians 5:18 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ believers to obey.</p>
<p><i>“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”</i> (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ gifts to believers to build up the church.</p>
<p><i>“12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”</i> (1 Corinthians 12:12–13 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ all believers into the body of Christ.</p>
<p><i>“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,”</i> (Ephesians 1:13 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ the believer’s salvation.</p>
<p><i>“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”</i> (Romans 8:26 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ for believers.</p>
<p><i>“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”</i> (Romans 8:16 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ our hearts of salvation.</p>
<p><i>“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”</i> (Acts 9:31 ESV)</p>	<p>The Spirit _____ believers.</p>

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10. According to the following verses in John, how has Jesus described the ministries of the Holy Spirit?

<p>“5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”” (John 3:5–8 <u>ESV</u>)</p>	<p>He is the divine agent of _____ (i.e. new life).</p>
<p>“It is the Spirit who gives <u>life</u>; the flesh is no help at all.” (John 6:63 <u>ESV</u>)</p> <p>“37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of <u>living water</u>.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:37–39 <u>ESV</u>)</p>	<p>He is the Spirit of _____.</p>
<p>“16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you [plural] another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you [plural] and will be in you.” (John 14:16–17 <u>ESV</u>)</p>	<p>He _____ the church (i.e. His abiding presence).</p> <p>What bound the nation of Israel together in the OT? What binds the church together?</p>
<p>“But 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 that I have said to you.” (John 14:26 <u>ESV</u>)</p>	<p>He is the _____ of Scripture.</p>
<p>“26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.” (John 15:26–27 <u>ESV</u>)</p>	<p>He _____ to the unbelieving world (i.e. evangelizes).</p>

11. In 16:8 Jesus says **“And He, when He comes will convict the world.”** What kind of ministry is Jesus describing here? How does the disciples mission help us understand the meaning?

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Convicts the world = shaming and convincing the world of its guilt therefore calling repentance	
Concerning sin	Because they do not believe in Jesus and his statements about sin
Concerning righteousness	Even though Jesus is gone, empty righteousness will be exposed ⁴
Concerning judgment	Because Satan is condemned, so will the world be proved wrong ⁵

“Just as Jesus forced a division in the world (15:20) by showing that what it does is evil (7:7; 15:22), so the Paraclete continues this world. Indeed, he most commonly does so through the witness of disciples (15:26, 27); he always does so in connection with the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, since his whole purpose is to bring glory to him (16:14). By his ‘departure’, his death/exaltation, Jesus fulfils the conditions that must be met before he can send the Paraclete; and the gift of the Paraclete is so great that Jesus’ ‘departure’ must be seen as for the disciples’ good (vv. 6, 7). When the Paraclete comes, he extends the ministry of Jesus in ways the disciples could not have foreseen. In particular, he convicts the world of its sin, its righteousness, and its judgment.”⁶

12. How will the Holy spirit convict the world of these things? (cf. John 13:35; Acts 2:37-42)

13. Why is this part of the Holy Spirit’s ministry encouraging to believers as they carry out their mission?

“17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:17–18 [ESV](#))

“1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:1–5 [ESV](#))

“24 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.” (2 Timothy 2:24–26 [ESV](#))

⁴ Is. 64:6, John 5:16; 7:1; 16:2

⁵ John 3:19-21; 15:21-24

⁶ Carson, 537.

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V. The Holy Spirit’s Revelation (12-15)

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:12-15 ESV)

14. When will the disciples be able to hear the truths promised? (cf. Acts 1:3; Lk. 24:13-50)

15. Why can’t the disciples bear to hear it now?

16. What ministry of the Holy Spirit does Jesus promise in verse 13?

17. What is the Spirit going to reveal to the disciples?

“...*what is yet to come* refers to all that transpires in consequence of the pivotal revelation bound up with Jesus’ person, ministry, death, resurrection and exaltation...All of this the Spirit of truth ‘announces’, yet in making it known he is doing little more than fleshing out the implications of God’s triumphant self-disclosure in the person and work of his Son.”⁷

18. In John 14:26 Jesus said “*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 that I have said to you.*” How does this verse work together with the promise of verse 13? (i.e. what’s different about the two promises and what is similar?)

19. Does this promise extend to all believers? Why or why not?

“But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge...But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.” (1 John 2:20, 27 ESV)

⁷ Carson, 540-41.

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“That does not, of course, eliminate the need for the diligent study that is a prerequisite for "accurately handling the word of truth" ([2 Tim. 2:15](#)), especially since there are things "hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort" ([2 Peter 3:16](#)). But studying the Bible apart from being filled with the Spirit ([Eph. 5:18](#)) and walking in the Spirit ([Gal. 5:16, 25](#)) is fruitless.”⁸

20. According to verse 14-15, what is the mission of the Holy Spirit?

21. How will He accomplish His mission?

22. What implication(s) does this have on our relationship with the Holy Spirit?

“One thing is very clear. The universal invisible presence of the Holy Ghost in the church, is better than the visible bodily presence of Christ with the church. Christ’s body could only be in one place. The Holy Ghost can be everywhere at one and the same time. Whatever the disciples might think, it was far better for Christ to go up to heaven, and sit at God’s right hand as their Priest, and send down the Holy Ghost to be with the church till he came again, than for Christ to tarry with them as he had done.”⁹

VI. Conclusion

With His departure at hand, Jesus unfolds the final aspect of the Helper’s ministry to the disciples. As the disciples confront a hostile world with the message of repentance and reconciliation, the Holy Spirit supernaturally provides and empowers their message. He provides the message through His ministry of revelation, where He discloses all things of Jesus and the Father. They, in turn, take the message provided and proclaim it to the world. Once proclaimed, the Holy Spirit uses the message to convict the slave of the Satanic system of their sin, righteousness, and judgment. The ultimate result, God the Father and Jesus Christ will be given full glory.

⁸ MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – John 12-21, (WordSearch 11), p. 208.

⁹ J.C. Ryle, 104.