



Summary

This powerful exploration of John 16 reveals a profound truth we often overlook: Jesus' departure wasn't a loss, but a strategic advantage for the entire world. As we journey through Jesus' final instructions to His disciples before the crucifixion, we discover the dual ministry of the Holy Spirit that transforms both how we share our faith and how we experience God's presence. The Holy Spirit works alongside unbelievers, convicting them of three essential truths: the sin of unbelief, the righteousness standard that only Jesus meets, and the reality of coming judgment. This isn't about cataloging someone's moral failures—it's about addressing the one sin that cannot be forgiven: refusing to believe in Christ as the remedy for our sin nature. For those of us who have believed, the Holy Spirit indwells us, guiding us into all truth, confirming God's prophetic word, and glorifying Jesus in everything. We see evidence of the Spirit's presence when we resonate with Scripture as truth, when prophecy confirms God's faithfulness, and when our lives point not to spectacular experiences but to Jesus Himself. This passage challenges us to examine ourselves: do we see these evidences in our own hearts? And when we share our faith, are we partnering with the Holy Spirit's convicting work, addressing unbelief rather than merely cataloging sins? The beauty is that we're not alone in this mission—the Spirit of truth works through us as branches connected to the vine.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Coming Persecution and Jesus' Departure

0:00 - 7:00

We learn about Jesus' final instructions to His disciples on Passover evening, warning them of coming persecution and the necessity of loving one another.

Chapter 2: The Holy Spirit's Ministry to Unbelievers

7:00 - 21:00

We discover how the Holy Spirit works alongside unbelievers to convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgment, preparing them for salvation.

Chapter 3: The Holy Spirit's Ministry to Believers

21:00 - 33:00

We explore the three ways the Holy Spirit works within born-again believers, guiding us into truth, confirming prophecy, and glorifying Jesus.

Chapter 4: Avoiding Extremes Regarding the Holy Spirit

33:00 - 39:00

We are warned about two dangerous extremes: teaching that the Holy Spirit's gifts have ceased, and promoting bizarre behavior as manifestations of the Spirit.



Points

Title: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: Conviction, Truth, and Glorifying Jesus

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores Jesus' teaching in John 16 about the dual ministry of the Holy Spirit—working alongside unbelievers to convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and indwelling believers to guide them into truth and glorify Christ. The pastor emphasizes that the Holy Spirit convicts the world specifically of the sin of unbelief, reveals that only Jesus' perfect righteousness meets God's standard, and warns of coming judgment. For believers, the Holy Spirit confirms God's truth, validates prophecy, and always points to Jesus rather than drawing attention to Himself. The message addresses both the cessationist view that spiritual gifts have ended and the charismatic excess of bizarre behavior, arguing that neither reflects the true work of the Spirit who operates consistently with Jesus' character and always glorifies Christ.

Key Points:

- Jesus prepared His disciples for persecution and hatred they would face after His departure, commanding them to love one another to withstand opposition
- The Holy Spirit has two distinct relationships: "with you" (para—alongside unbelievers) and "in you" (en—indwelling believers)
- The Holy Spirit convicts unbelievers of three things: sin (specifically unbelief in Christ), righteousness (only Jesus' perfection meets God's standard), and judgment (Satan is judged, and unbelievers face the same condemnation)
- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit means calling Him a liar by refusing to believe the truth about one's sinful condition and need for salvation
- For believers, the Holy Spirit guides into all truth, confirming that Scripture is God's Word and resonating "amen" in believers' hearts
- The Holy Spirit confirms God's prophetic word—80% of the 1,817 biblical prophecies have been fulfilled with 100% accuracy
- The chief aim of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus, not to draw attention to Himself or produce bizarre behavior



- The Holy Spirit's work always aligns with Jesus' character—He never embarrasses, confuses, or induces fear
- Believers work in partnership with the Holy Spirit for the salvation of lost souls, functioning as branches connected to the vine

Scripture Reference:

- John 16:1-15 (primary passage)
- John 13:34 (command to love one another)
- John 14:12, 15-18, 24 (Jesus' promises about the Holy Spirit and greater works)
- John 15:12, 17-18 (love one another; the world's hatred)
- 1 Peter 3:13-17; 4:12-19 (suffering for righteousness)
- Matthew 12:31 (blasphemy against the Holy Spirit)
- Hebrews 6:13-20 (God cannot lie)
- John 8:44 (Satan as father of lies)
- 2 Peter 1:16-21 (prophetic word confirmed)

Stories:

- Historical account of the disciples' martyrdom—Peter crucified upside down, Paul beheaded, John placed in boiling oil and exiled to Patmos, all other disciples killed for their faith
- Contemporary persecution of Christians in Nigeria, Congo, and Mozambique by Islamic forces
- Personal anecdote about visiting churches in Meridian where bizarre behavior (people jumping on pews, running in aisles, multiple collections while counting money publicly) was presented as manifestations of the Holy Spirit
- Illustration of a baby crying during the sermon as an example of the innate sin nature present from birth
- Reference to Hitler's suicide as an example of humanity's innate sense that evil deserves eternal judgment, contrasting with atheism's inadequate answer



Scripture References

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **John 16:1-15** (Main passage)
2. **John 13:34** - New commandment to love one another
3. **John 15:12** - Love one another as I have loved you
4. **John 15:17** - These things I command you that you love one another
5. **John 15:18** - If the world hates you
6. **1 Peter 3:13-17** - Suffering for righteousness' sake
7. **1 Peter 4:12-19** - Do not think it strange concerning fiery trials
8. **Proverbs 11:31** - If the righteous one is scarcely saved
9. **John 14:18** - I will not leave you orphans
10. **John 14:15-17** - The Helper/Comforter
11. **John 14:12** - Greater works than these
12. **Zechariah 12:10** - They will mourn over the one they pierced
13. **Galatians 5** (general reference) - Works of the flesh
14. **Matthew 12:31** - Blasphemy against the Spirit
15. **John 14:24** - The word which you hear is not mine
16. **John 12:49-50** - I have not spoken on my own authority
17. **John 14:6** - I am the way, the truth, and the life
18. **Hebrews 6:13-20** - God cannot lie
19. **Titus 1:1-2** - God, who cannot lie
20. **John 8:44** - You are of your father the devil
21. **John 20** (general reference) - Jesus breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit
22. **2 Peter 1:16-21** - No prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation
23. **2 Corinthians 13** (general reference) - Examine yourselves



24. ****Ecclesiastes**** (general reference) - Sense of eternity

Alluded to but Not Explicitly Cited:

1. ****Revelation**** (general references) - Lake of fire, great white throne judgment
2. ****1 John 4:19**** - We love because He first loved us (alluded to in opening prayer)
3. ****Hebrews 4:15**** - Tempted in all ways yet without sin

Relevant Verses for Main Themes:

For the theme of ****the Holy Spirit's convicting work****:

- John 16:8-11

- Acts 2:37-38

For the theme of **persecution of believers:**

- 2 Timothy 3:12

- John 15:20

For the theme of **the Holy Spirit as guide:**

- Romans 8:14

- Galatians 5:18

For the theme of **truth and God's nature:**

- Numbers 23:19

- Psalm 119:160

For the theme of **born in sin:**

- Psalm 51:5

- Romans 5:12



Quotes

The Holy Spirit will never do anything bizarre because Jesus never did anything bizarre. The Holy Spirit will never do anything to embarrass you because Jesus never did anything to embarrass you.

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.

When the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. The sin of unbelief is the only sin that cannot and will not be forgiven because it is the refusal to believe in Jesus Christ who is the only remedy for the sin nature of all mankind.

The Godhead is the only source of truth. God is truth. There is absolute truth, and the Holy Spirit informs us of this.

The chief aim of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus. The ways and the words of Jesus are identical to the ways and the words of the Holy Spirit.

We work in partnership with God's Holy Spirit for the salvation of lost souls. The church, the body of Christ, can accomplish greater works than Jesus, not necessarily qualitatively, but certainly quantitatively.

Righteous works can never accomplish anything to overcome our imperfections. Only Jesus' singular perfect work on the cross could and did accomplish this for all mankind.

The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. As you read your Bible as one who is indwelt by God's Holy Spirit, it is the Holy Spirit who confirms in your heart this word is truth.



Discussion Questions

- How does understanding the Holy Spirit's role in convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment change the way you approach sharing your faith with unbelievers?
- In what ways have you personally experienced the Holy Spirit confirming God's truth in your heart as you read Scripture, and how has this shaped your confidence in the Bible?
- Jesus says it was to the disciples' advantage that He leave so the Holy Spirit could come. Why might the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit be more beneficial than Jesus' physical presence?
- What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit by refusing to believe in your need for salvation, and how does this differ from other sins?
- How can we discern between genuine manifestations of the Holy Spirit and bizarre or unbiblical behavior that claims to be Spirit-led?
- Jesus emphasizes that the Holy Spirit's chief aim is to glorify Him, not draw attention to Himself. How should this truth shape our expectations of the Spirit's work in worship and ministry?
- Why do you think Satan works both to convince churches that spiritual gifts have ceased and to promote bizarre behavior attributed to the Spirit?
- How does recognizing that you were born with a sin nature, rather than just committing individual sins, impact your understanding of your need for Christ?
- What evidence from your own life confirms that the Holy Spirit dwells within you and is guiding you into truth?
- How does the reality that 80% of biblical prophecies have been fulfilled with 100% accuracy strengthen your faith in the remaining prophetic promises yet to come?



Small Group Guide:

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit **Based on John 16:1-15**

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to illuminate His Word through the Holy Spirit and to guide your discussion time together.

Ice Breaker Question

Before we knew Christ, what were some misconceptions we had about being "a pretty good person"?

Key Scripture Passages

- **Primary Text:** John 16:1-15
- **Supporting Texts:** John 14:15-18, 1 Peter 3:13-17, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Matthew 12:31

Summary of Main Points

1. **The Holy Spirit's Ministry to Unbelievers (Alongside - "Para")**

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of three things:

- **Sin** - specifically the sin of unbelief (v. 9)
- **Righteousness** - revealing Jesus' perfect standard (v. 10)
- **Judgment** - warning that Satan is judged and unbelievers will share his fate (v. 11)

2. **The Holy Spirit's Ministry to Believers (Indwelling - "En")**

The Holy Spirit accomplishes three things in born-again believers:

- **Guides us into all truth** (v. 13)
- **Confirms God's sure word of prophecy** - tells us of things to come (v. 13)
- **Glorifies Jesus** - makes Jesus known, not Himself (vv. 14-15)



Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. ****Why did Jesus say "it is to your advantage that I go away" (v. 7)?**** How would the disciples' ministry be more effective with the Holy Spirit than with Jesus physically present?
2. ****What does it mean that the Holy Spirit convicts of "sin" (singular) rather than "sins" (plural)?**** Why is the sin of unbelief the only unforgivable sin?
3. ****Read verse 13 and count how many times Jesus uses the personal pronoun "He" for the Holy Spirit in verses 13-15.**** Why is it important that the Holy Spirit is a person, not just a force?

Personal Reflection

4. ****Examine yourself (2 Corinthians 13:5): Which of the three evidences of the Holy Spirit's indwelling do you most clearly see in your life?****
 - Does the Holy Spirit confirm God's truth when you read Scripture?
 - Does the Holy Spirit affirm biblical prophecy in your heart?
 - Does your life glorify Jesus?
5. ****Think back to your conversion: How did the Holy Spirit convict you of sin, righteousness, and judgment?**** Share your testimony with the group.
6. ****The sermon mentioned that when we read God's Word as Spirit-filled believers, the Holy Spirit confirms "this word is truth." Have you experienced this?**** What happens when we read Scripture without the Holy Spirit's illumination?

Application to Life

7. ****When sharing the gospel with unbelievers, how should understanding the Holy Spirit's convicting work change our approach?**** Should we focus on their specific sins or on their unbelief in Jesus?



8. ****The sermon warned against two extremes regarding the Holy Spirit:****

- Teaching that the gifts of the Spirit have ceased
- Exhibiting bizarre behavior attributed to the Spirit

****How do we stay balanced, welcoming the Spirit's genuine work while avoiding these extremes?**** What's the test for authentic Holy Spirit activity? (Hint: Does it glorify Jesus and align with Scripture?)

9. ****Jesus warned the disciples they would face persecution, excommunication, and even martyrdom (vv. 2-4). How does Jesus' command to "love one another" (repeated three times in chapters 13-15) prepare believers for persecution?****

10. ****In what practical ways can we partner with the Holy Spirit this week to:****

- Share the gospel with an unbeliever?
- Grow in understanding God's truth?
- Glorify Jesus in our daily lives?

Key Takeaways

✓ ****The Holy Spirit works alongside unbelievers**** to convict them of sin (unbelief), righteousness (Jesus' perfect standard), and judgment (Satan's condemnation).

✓ ****The Holy Spirit indwells believers**** to guide us into truth, confirm prophecy, and glorify Jesus—these are evidences we are truly born again.

✓ ****The Holy Spirit never contradicts Jesus**** because He speaks only what He hears from the Father and the Son. Whatever we see in Jesus, we will see in the Holy Spirit.

✓ ****We work in partnership with the Holy Spirit**** for the salvation of lost souls. As branches connected to the Vine, the Spirit flows through us to reach the world.

✓ ****Truth has one source: God.**** The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all truth. Satan is the father of lies. When we lie, we align with Satan; when we speak truth, we align with the Spirit.



✓ **27% of Scripture is prophetic,** and 80% of biblical prophecy has already been fulfilled with 100% accuracy—the Holy Spirit confirms this sure word of prophecy in our hearts.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to put into practice:

****For Evangelism:****

- Pray for one unbeliever by name, asking the Holy Spirit to convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgment
- Share the gospel with someone this week, focusing on their need for Jesus (unbelief) rather than their specific sins
- Ask God for an opportunity to explain why Jesus is the only way to heaven (the righteousness standard)

****For Personal Growth:****

- Read Scripture daily and pause to let the Holy Spirit confirm truth in your heart—journal when you sense Him saying "Amen"
- Study one fulfilled prophecy about Jesus and thank the Holy Spirit for confirming God's Word
- Examine your life: Does it glorify Jesus? Ask the Spirit to reveal one area where you can better reflect Christ

****For Community:****

- Practice loving one another sacrificially this week—Jesus commanded this three times because we need it to withstand the world's hatred
- Encourage a fellow believer who may be facing opposition for their faith
- Share with someone how the Holy Spirit has guided you into truth recently

Memory Verse

****John 16:13-14****



"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."

Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit as our Helper and Comforter
- Ask the Holy Spirit to make us effective witnesses who partner with Him in convicting the lost
- Pray for boldness to speak truth in love, even when facing opposition
- Ask the Spirit to guide us into deeper truth this week
- Pray that our lives would glorify Jesus in all we do

Leader Notes

- ****Be sensitive:**** Some group members may be unsure of their salvation. Use the three evidences (truth confirmation, prophecy affirmation, glorifying Jesus) as gentle indicators, not harsh tests.
- ****Avoid controversy:**** The sermon briefly mentions cessationism and charismatic excesses. Keep discussion focused on Scripture and Jesus-centered Spirit ministry rather than debating denominations.
- ****Encourage testimony:**** Allow time for people to share how the Holy Spirit convicted them of sin before salvation—these stories glorify God and encourage others.
- ****Emphasize grace:**** The Holy Spirit's convicting work can sound harsh, but remember it's motivated by love—God desires all to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).



5-Day Devotional: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Day 1: The Helper Who Comes Alongside

****Reading:**** John 14:15-18, 25-27

****Devotional:****

Jesus promised His disciples, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." This profound promise reveals God's heart—He never intended for us to navigate life alone. The Holy Spirit is not merely a distant force but a personal Helper, a Comforter who comes alongside us in our weakness. When Jesus physically departed, He sent another Helper "of the same kind"—equally divine, equally committed to our spiritual well-being. Today, reflect on areas where you feel spiritually orphaned or alone. The Spirit's presence means you have constant companionship, guidance, and comfort. He abides with you and in you, transforming your isolation into intimate fellowship with God Himself.

****Application:**** Identify one situation where you feel alone or overwhelmed. Pause and invite the Holy Spirit to make His presence known to you in that specific circumstance today.

Day 2: Conviction That Leads to Life

****Reading:**** John 16:5-11

****Devotional:****

The Holy Spirit's convicting work is not condemnation but invitation. He convicts the world of sin—specifically the sin of unbelief—because refusing Christ is refusing the only remedy for our fallen nature. He convicts of righteousness, showing us that Jesus' perfection is the standard, not our religious efforts. He convicts of judgment, warning that Satan's destiny awaits all who reject grace. This conviction may feel uncomfortable, even painful, but it's the most loving thing God could do. Like a surgeon's scalpel that cuts to heal, the Spirit's conviction exposes our true condition so we might embrace the cure. Without this work, we would remain comfortable in our lostness, perishing while thinking ourselves whole.



****Application:**** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of unbelief in your life. Are you trusting in your own goodness rather than Christ's perfection? Confess and surrender that area to Him today.

Day 3: Guided Into All Truth

****Reading:**** John 16:12-15; 2 Peter 1:16-21

****Devotional:****

In a world of competing voices and relative truth, the Holy Spirit anchors us to absolute reality. He guides us into all truth because He proceeds from the Father and the Son, who are Truth itself. When you read Scripture and sense that inner "yes and amen," that's the Spirit confirming God's Word in your heart. He doesn't speak on His own authority but declares what He hears from the Father and the Son. This means every truth the Spirit teaches aligns perfectly with Scripture and glorifies Jesus. The Spirit never contradicts God's written Word; He illuminates it. As believers, we have the incredible privilege of divine tutoring—the very Spirit of Truth dwelling within us, making God's wisdom accessible and transforming our minds.

****Application:**** As you read your Bible today, consciously invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate the text. Note where you sense His confirmation and ask Him to correct any misunderstandings you may have.

Day 4: The Prophetic Word Confirmed

****Reading:**** 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:19-21

****Devotional:****

Twenty-seven percent of Scripture is prophetic, and the Holy Spirit stands behind every word. Over 80% of biblical prophecies have already been fulfilled with 100% accuracy—including more than 300 specific prophecies about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This prophetic reliability isn't coincidental; it's the Spirit's signature on God's Word. The remaining prophecies about future events carry the same divine guarantee. When anxiety about the future grips your heart, remember that the Spirit who perfectly fulfilled past prophecies will faithfully bring about future promises. He tells us "things to come" not to satisfy curiosity but to anchor our hope. The prophetic word is "a light shining in a dark place" until Christ returns.



****Application:**** Choose one unfulfilled biblical prophecy about Christ's return or God's future kingdom. Meditate on how its certain fulfillment should shape your priorities and perspective today.

Day 5: Glorifying Jesus in All Things

****Reading:**** John 16:14-15; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7

****Devotional:****

The Holy Spirit's supreme mission is glorifying Jesus. He takes what belongs to Christ and declares it to us. He never draws attention to Himself but always points to the Son. This is the litmus test for genuine Spirit activity: Does it exalt Jesus? Does it align with His character as revealed in Scripture? The Spirit never produces bizarre behavior that embarrasses or confuses, because Jesus never did. He doesn't promote spiritual experiences that become ends in themselves. Instead, He produces Christlikeness—love, joy, peace, patience, and the fruit that mirrors Jesus' character. When the Spirit fills a church, people don't leave talking about spectacular manifestations; they leave transformed by an encounter with Jesus Himself, compelled to worship and serve Him more fully.

****Application:**** Examine your spiritual life. Are your prayers, worship, and ministry focused on glorifying Jesus, or have you become distracted by experiences or religious activity? Realign your focus today to honor Christ above all.