

## **Upper Room Discourse - The Teacher - the Spirit's Ministry to Believers a study for the College and Career Class at Gulf Coast Baptist Church by Steve Thomas 4-9-23**

### **Introduction**

As Christ spent some precious time with his disciples, He characterized the coming of another (*allos* - another of the same kind) Comforter. To the unbeliever, the Spirit was characterized as a convicter, or a convincer of unbelief, righteousness, and judgment. To the believer, Christ introduced the Spirit as a Teacher and a Guide (14:26; 2:22; 12:16; Acts 11:16; 20:35). The disciples were told that the Spirit would cause them to remember what Jesus was saying to them and this would bring them comfort and peace. This is an interesting contrast. As the Holy Spirit was placed in the believer, He would bring to remembrance and illuminate the Words of God. Without the active work of the Spirit, the believer cannot understand the things of God. These things must be revealed to the believer by the Spirit.

### **Teaching ministry of the Spirit**

1Co 2:10-13; Eph 1:17; 1Jn 2:20,27; Rev 2:11

These verses illustrate the teaching ministry that the Spirit has towards believers. There are things about God that are naturally hidden from beings. The Spirit reveals them to believers. These things are described as “deep things”. The Spirit knows all things about God and reveals those things that are “freely given” to the believer. God doesn't tell the believer everything about Himself, but the believer can know everything that God wants him to know.

Ephesians talks more about the “revelation” that the Spirit does for the believer. Paul describes this action as “enlightening” the believer. The Greek word is “photizo” and describes the illumination that the Spirit provides. The believer can understand the riches of God's glory, and the greatness of God's power. Not only can the believer begin to see the scope of these things, but he can connect them to himself - “in the saints”, “usward”, and “to the church”.

John describes the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit as an “unction” or an unguent. When a burn cream or lotion is applied to a wound, it brings healing properties to what is needed. The Spirit is described as the “eternal life” given to the believer. When the Spirit abides or is at home in the believer, the Son and the Father are comfortable as well (2:24). This happens when the believer recognizes and is comfortable with his place In Christ.

The Spirit is present in the believer so that He can teach all things. This passage does not eliminate the pastor/teacher or teaching gifts, but it does place those gifts behind the work of the Holy Spirit in importance and function. Those gifts cannot be used properly without the presence and power of the Spirit (Eph 4:3-11; Rom 12:6-7).

The believer can only hear what the Spirit has to say when he has “an ear”. John understood the concept of hearing what God has to say, but not understanding or processing what was being said. Jesus often spoke to the disciples without them understanding what was being told to them. The Spirit teaches the churches but the church goers often do not have an ear to hear.

## **The word for Reprove (Convince) in the NT**

Mat 18:15; Luk 3:19; Joh 3:20; Joh 8:9; Joh 8:46; Joh 16:8; 1Co 14:24; Eph 5:11; Eph 5:13; 1Ti 5:20; 2Ti 4:2; Tit 1:9; Tit 1:13; Tit 2:15; Heb 12:5; Jas 2:9; Rev 3:19

The contrast mentioned in the introduction is seen clearly in these verses. The reproofing that is done in these verses is not the work of the spirit towards believers. The work seen in these verses is towards the “unfruitful works of darkness” and the “gainsayers” that “deny God”. The only exception is the chastening work of the Father listed in Hebrews 12 and Revelation. Another contrast evident in these verses is that the reproofing work is often done by a believer towards the unbeliever. The Holy Spirit works in conjunction with the believer towards the unbeliever.

## **Conclusion**

The ministry of teaching is one of the ways that the Holy Spirit deals with the believer in this time. The believer still has a sin nature, and often leans on his own understanding to reason things out. The Holy Spirit turns the light on and reveals the mind of God, probing the deep things about God that would remain hidden from the individual. As will be seen later in the study, the believer will need to yield to this work if he is to benefit. The ministry of the Spirit should bring comfort to the believer.