

John-36
“The Work of The Holy Spirit”
John 16:1-11 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a second and welcome our first-time guests and those watching with us online today!

Guess what book of the Bible we're in today?
That's right...We're in the book of John!

If you're just joining us let me quickly explain what's going on in this portion of John's Gospel...

At this point, Jesus is done with His public ministry...He's turned water into wine, He's healed people, He's even raised His friend Lazarus from the dead...

It's Passover, and Jesus is in an upper room with 11 of His disciples...Judas has already left to betray Jesus...and although Jesus only has hours left to live, He's spending time teaching and encouraging His disciples...

This section of John is called "The Upper Room Discourse" and Jesus says so many important things about being a disciple in these chapters that we've been breaking it down as best as we can since July 26th...

He's taught that we should follow His example and serve one another...

He said we should love one another in the same way that He loves us...

He said that He is the Way, The Truth and The Life, and that no one can come to the Father except through Him...

He said that He is the Vine and we are the branches. Apart from Him we can do nothing, but if we remain in Him we will bear fruit...

Last week, Sammy did a great job closing chapter 15 with a powerful truth...The world is going to hate you because you are a disciple of Jesus...it hates you, because it hates Him!

And throughout this conversation, Jesus has been coming back to this idea that although He's going away...He's not going to abandon us...

He's going to send The Holy Spirit...The Holy Spirit will be our Comforter, and Counselor, our Advocate and our Helper...

John 15:26-27; 16:1-11 (NIV)

Pray

IKEA Furniture

My Son-in-law comes in and he's like, "Dad do you need some help? I've got parts scattered all over the floor...sweat running down my face onto the directions that seem to be in every language except English...

And of course I'm like...no, no, no...I've got this...My wife is looking at me saying Mike you don't have this...You've been working on that entertainment center for three hours!

You don't have it...

Did you know we tend to do the same thing in our walk with Jesus? The Christian walk isn't easy is it?

It's filled with all kinds of trials and tribulations...

We walk a narrow road...filled with hills and valleys...filled with temptations and traps from the enemy...

Jesus understood this...which is why He said that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to help us...But so many people are like...I'm good...I got this!

Can I lovingly say something...I love ya...but **You don't have it!**

Just like me with that IKEA furniture...you need help!

And as we dive into Jn 16 today, that's what I want to focus on...the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit!

Now we've already talked about the Trinity, and the Person of the Holy Spirit, so I'm not going to spend a lot of time on those truths...

He's God the Holy Spirit...the Third Person of the Trinity...

If you missed any of those messages you can go back and watch them on our YouTube Channel...

God doesn't expect us to walk this road by ourselves...He's given us The Holy Spirit to help us...

In our text, we're going to look at how the Holy Spirit works

The Holy Spirit **STRENGTHENS** us

16 "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.

Jesus is preparing His disciples for what's going to happen...

This past Thursday was Ezekiel's first day of school...You know what we didn't do...We didn't just throw a back pack on him, drop him off in a strange place, and walk away...

How many know that's not good parenting? What did we do? We prepared him for school...We talked about it...We went to orientation...

Hey this is how it's going to work...
This is your teacher...
This is your class room...

You prepare your child as best as you can for what he or she is about to experience...

That's what Jesus is doing here...
Everything He's been teaching them...has been in preparation for what's coming...

And now He's getting into the darker side of discipleship...By the way, follow Me, and people will hate you...

So I'm telling you this now...(He's prophesying about their future)...I'm telling you this so that you don't **FALL AWAY**

That word in the Greek is **skan-dal-id'-zo** it means a trap, snare or stumbling block that is in your way and would cause a person to trip up and abandon their faith...

I can picture the disciples thinking...what would make me fall away from Jesus? And just as they're pondering...Jesus tells them...

2 They will put you out of the synagogue; In other words...you're going to be kicked out of church because you follow Me...Imagine losing all of your family, and friends at the same time...

No one would talk to you...you would be treated like an outcast...shunned... that's exactly what would happen if you were kicked out of the synagogue in Jesus' day

This still happens today...

If a Muslim or a Hindu become a Christian they are completely shunned by family and friends in most cases...martyred for their faith in extreme cases...

The same is true for people who leave Cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Scientology...and many others all practice shunning...

This can cause you to not want to follow Jesus...

Jesus is saying...Hey I'm telling you this so that when you are persecuted...you won't fall away

**in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you,
-Jn 16:1-4 (NIV)**

Jesus is warning His disciples, which includes all of us...that it's possible to get tripped up on this journey with Him

Some things are going to happen...
because of life circumstances...because of sin,
because we live in a fallen world...because we love and follow Jesus...

Some things are going to happen that might tempt us, entice us, lead us into a place where we fall...we sin...or we even abandon our faith all together...

Jogging “Tripped” on sidewalk

Once I hit that curb...falling came pretty easy for me...gravity was working against me...it wasn't my friend...

The same is true spiritually speaking...
There are traps along the road that are spring loaded and ready to trip you up...

Trip up your marriage...
Trip up your relationships...
Trip up your walk with God...

Now that's the bad news...
The good news is that we don't have to fall away...

The Holy Spirit helps us to avoid those traps...If we happen to fall...He picks us back up...He strengthens us

Think about the Apostle Peter...
He was so confident that he wouldn't fall away...even though Jesus told him he would!

When the time came, he fell hard...
He was so afraid of persecution that he denied Jesus three times...

But on the Day of Pentecost...Acts Chapter 2...Peter is baptized with the Holy Spirit...and he is strengthened, empowered, and he boldly, and openly preaches to the crowd and 3,000 people were saved!

The Holy Spirit gave Peter strength to overcome fear...

Think about Stephen in the Acts 6...

He's described as a man "full of faith and the Holy Spirit" in verse 5...

By the time you get to verse 10 Stephen is being persecuted for his faith...They are coming at Stephen...arguing with him

10 None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke-Ac 6:10 (NLT)

See how the Holy Spirit strengthened Stephen...He will do that for you too!

You may be thinking...but they killed Stephen that day...that's true...

Jesus didn't say that I'm telling you this so that you won't have trouble...He said...I'm telling you this so when you HAVE trouble you won't FALL AWAY...

The Holy Spirit didn't keep Stephen from persecution...He gave Stephen the strength to remain faithful THROUGH the persecution...

The Holy Spirit didn't just give Stephen the strength to go through the persecution...

Christians in the first century were wrapped up in animal skins and fed to dogs...

They were placed on wooden poles, covered in pitch and used as human torches for Caesar...

All of the Apostles faced brutal deaths and were martyred for their faith...all except John...

Church History says that John was boiled in oil...but escaped and was exiled to the Island of Patmos...

It was the Holy Spirit who helped them stand firm in their faith...

It's the Holy Spirit who helps us stand firm in ours!

The Holy Spirit **STAYS** with us

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you-Jn 16:7 (NIV)

Now again...the disciples don't really understand what Jesus is saying...

They're focused on what they're going to lose...I mean what's better than actually being with Jesus? Imagine getting to live with Jesus for three years?

Getting to talk to Him, hang out with Him, eat with Him, learn from Him...who would want to give that up?

If you're separated from family you know how this feels...FaceTime is good, but it's not the same as actually being in the same room...

We have a son who lives in South Carolina, one who lives in Georgia and our daughter lives in Texas...We miss our family!

PC and I wish that we could spend time with all of them, but we can't because we can't be in two different places at the same time...

Neither can Jesus! He is God in a bod...For the sake of our salvation, He steps into time...He's the Word become Flesh...He's lives the life we can't live...and dies the death that we deserve so that He can save us...

Jesus has a physical body...this means that He can only be in one place at one time...After His death, burial and resurrection...He returns to Heaven...

And He sends the Holy Spirit to be our Advocate, our Helper...He lives in us...He's always with us...

This side of the cross...you can see how that is a great advantage to us!

Jesus is telling His disciples...Hey, I know you think you're taking an L because I'm going away...but because I'm going away I get to send the Advocate!

We looked at this word when we were in John 14...It's the Greek word "Parakletos"

It means...

Helper

Advocate

Counselor

Comforter

Jesus doesn't just say Hey I'm leaving guys you'll figure it out...No...He sends us the Holy Spirit...

He's going to be just like Jesus...but with the ability to be with all of us...

He helps us when we're weak, when we're vulnerable, when we're tempted to give up, to give in, to walk away...

You know what the Holy Spirit does? He prays for you...He reminds you that you're not alone...that you're not fighting this battle by yourself...

26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.-Ro 8:26–27 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit helps us...in our weakness...He doesn't abandon us in our weakness...He helps us overcome...We just have to walk with Him...listen to Him...

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves-Ga 5:16 (NLT)

There's more I could say, but it's time to move on...Our text tells us that the Holy Spirit strengthens us, stays with us...

The Holy Spirit **CONVICTS** the world
8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.-Jn 16:8–11 (NIV)

One of the things that the Holy Spirit does is He proves to the world that God is right and we are wrong...

He convinces people...He convicts people...He helps them see the light in three areas...

Sin

He convinces people that they are sinners...

Did you ever notice that most people need to be convinced that they are bad?

Most people don't want to admit they are sinners... "I prefer to use the word mistake instead of sin...it sounds less abrasive"

Some people just flat out deny that sin exists at all... “That’s just religious thinking”

Others actually blame their sin on other things...I do these things because this is how I was raised...I do these things because my father did this, and his father did this and his father....

People need to be convinced that they are a sinner...because only a sinner needs a Savior...

And the Bible tells us that we are all sinners and we all need Jesus!

Good people don’t go to Heaven...Forgiven people do!

So what happens is the Holy Spirit draws us...

He works in the heart of people...He speaks through God's Word...whether written or preached and He convinces people that they need Jesus!

Righteousness

To be righteous means that we can stand justified before God...

The Holy Spirit convinces people that they don't have what it takes on their own...to do that...Only Jesus was sinless...Only Jesus was perfect...When we compare ourselves to Him we are all unrighteous! Our righteousness isn't going to cut it...

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior we're given His righteousness...

The Apostle Paul talks about this...

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith-Php 3:7–9 (NLT)

Judgement

It's the Holy Spirit that convinces people that judgement is coming...

You can choose to reject God...

You can choose to reject His free gift of salvation...

Which means that one day you will stand before God and you will be judged according to His standards by your righteousness...

On that day you still have a fine that needs to be paid...but because you rejected Jesus...that means that you decided to pay for it yourself...

The Holy Spirit convinces people that judgment is real...Hell is real...

It's not supposed to be for us...it's reserved for Satan and his minions...and although he hasn't been sentenced yet...that's where he's going...and those who reject Jesus in this life will follow Satan to hell in the next...

That's a sobering reality...

But I want to close with this idea...

If you're a believer did you know that the Holy Spirit wants to use you to tell others about Jesus?

Are you making yourself available to do His work?

God uses us as flawed as we are to be His witnesses, to share the good news, to be the light, to represent Him...

You may be like, God can't use me...uhhh He's using me!

He uses normal, broken, jacked up people every single day...

He used Peter who had anger issues...

He used James and John who wanted to call down fire from heaven on people...

He used Thomas who was a doubter...

One of my life verses is 1 Cor 1:27

When people who used to know me ask me
how can YOU be a pastor?

I say...

27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are-1 Co 1:27–28 (NIV)

God wants to use you...

The Holy Spirit lives in you...And He wants to
work through you...

And you and I have opportunities to be used
every single day!

Ask Him to use you...

To give you a boldness to speak the truth in love...

Someone once said that there are actually five Gospels...

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John & You

The anonymous author wrote...

“You are writing a Gospel, a chapter a day...
By the deeds that you do and the words that you say...People hear what you say and they see what you do, so what is the gospel according to you?”

According to your words...

According to your life...

We're not always going to get it right...

But if we continue to walk with the Holy Spirit
He will flow out of us!

As we close, I want to pray for you...because
we all need the Holy Spirit...

Our prayer today is Come Holy Spirit...

Come with Your Comfort
Come with Your Conviction
Come with Your Guidance
Come with Your Power
Come and fill me

Come and use me to point others to Jesus!

Maybe you're here today and you realize that
you are far away from God...He stands ready to
forgive you and save you!

What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?
Altar Time