



The Ministry of the Spirit
33rd in the “Life in his Name” Series
John 16:1-15, p. 902
May 19, 2019
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God teaches us about the ministry of the Spirit in our lives and the world.

The Text: John 16:1-15

This text teaches us several things about the ascension of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

1) The ascension of Jesus is an important doctrine that needs to be understood by Christians (v. 7a).

a) The ascension marks the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth and beginning of his ministry from above.

b) The ascension is the heavenly enthronement of Jesus as King.

c) The ascension establishes Jesus as our heavenly Mediator and High Priest.

2) After the ascension, the coming of the Spirit connects our present life to our future glory (v. 7b).

a) Down Payment – “a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession” (Eph. 1:14).

b) First Fruits – “we, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, grown inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our bodies” (Rom. 8:23).

c) Seal – God “set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come” (2 Cor. 1:22).

3) The Spirit will minister to the world by convicting people of sin (vv. 8-11).

4) The Spirit guides Christians in and through life with the truth of the gospel (v. 13).

5) The Spirit directs our attention and affection toward Jesus Christ (vv. 14-15).

Response

“Walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:4).

Sunday Text Questions for John 16:1-15

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- 1) Starter Question: How does the Holy Spirit work and minister in the life of a Christian?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Before teaching about the Spirit, Jesus explains the hardships to be faced by Christians. How have the things described in vv. 1-4 been happening to Christians today?
- 4) Why, according to v. 7, is it an advantage (a good thing) for Jesus to depart (ascend to the Father)?
- 5) In what ways does the Spirit convict the world of sin? Does this mean every single person, only those who will come to faith in Christ, or something else?
- 6) Based upon the end of v. 11, what does Jesus mean when he says the “ruler of this world” (Satan) is judged?
- 7) What does it mean in v. 13 when Jesus says “the Spirit will guide you into all truth?”
- 8) How does this text help us understand the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives and in our church?
- 9) The central metaphor for living the Christian life is “walk according to the Spirit” (Rom. 8:4). What does it mean to walk according to the Spirit?
- 10) Concluding summary: What does this text teach us about *faith* (doctrine), *hope* (desire), and/or *love* (duty)?

Further study this week: Joel 2 on the pouring out of God’s Spirit (Mon) Romans 8 on walking in the Holy Spirit (Tues); Galatians 5 on keeping in step with the Spirit (Wed); 1 Corinthians 2 on wisdom from the Spirit (Thurs); 2 Corinthians 3 on life in the Spirit (Fri).