

JOHN 16:12-15
THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 16 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As we have seen over the last several weeks, Jesus has shared the Passover meal with His men. Judas left before the meal was over to betray Jesus. And it is after Judas left that Jesus shared communion with them, speaking of the New Covenant that will be found in the shedding of His blood on the cross of Calvary.

Keep in mind that the focus is now on His men, not the multitudes. And since He is going away, He wants His men to learn what they will need to carry on the work when He is gone!

Jesus showed them that they are to be servants and not lord over people. And the example He gave to them is that He girded Himself and washed their feet, something the lowest servant would do.

He warned Peter that he would betray Him and not only Peter, but all of them would betray Jesus! They had a hard time believing this, and Peter said that he would never deny Jesus! But, just as Jesus said, Peter and the rest did deny Him!

Then, in John chapter 14 we see Jesus bring comfort to His men telling them not to be troubled by these things. Yes, He was going away but He will come back and receive them to Himself!

It is here that Thomas wants to know where He is going and the way to go and out of that we see Jesus tell Thomas and us, “**... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’**” John 14:6.

It is after that we see Philip jump in and He wanted Jesus to show them God the Father.

It is out of that we see Jesus tell Philip and the rest of these men that if they have seen Jesus, which they obviously have, then they have seen the Father because Jesus is an exact representation of God the Father, Jesus is God!

From there Jesus speaks of loving Him and that love is seen in their obedience to Him.

Keep in mind that these guys are blown away by all that Jesus has told them so far. And Jesus gives to them these encouraging words in John 16:16-18, **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”**

And this Helper, the Holy Spirit has been our focus over the last few weeks. Last week we specifically saw the work of the Holy Spirit in the world, drawing people to Jesus.

And like I have said a few times recently, the Church has removed the Helper and replaced the Holy Spirit with programs, activities, this and that.

Please understand that we have no real power apart from the Holy Spirit. That is what Jesus has been telling them, that the Holy Spirit is going to come, after His death and resurrection, and He will empower them to live lives that will be pleasing to God, to do things that are far beyond their and our ability to do!

This morning we are going to continue looking at the Holy Spirit but this time we will focus on – ***THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!***

As I have said, in our last study the focus was primarily the Holy Spirit working in this world, drawing people to Jesus.

Let me share this with you because, as you will see, it speaks of what we are seeing today. We are told,

This generation hath gradually, and almost imperceptibly, become to a great extent a godless generation. One of the diseases of the present generation of mankind, is their secret but deep-seated godlessness, by which they have so far departed from the knowledge of God.

Science has discovered to us second causes; and hence, many have too much forgotten the first Great Cause, the Author of all: they have been able so far to pry into secrets, that the great axiom of the existence of a God, has been too much neglected.

Even among professing Christians, while there is a great amount of religion, there is too little godliness: there is much external formalism, but too little inward acknowledgment of God, too little living on God, living with God, and relying upon God.

Hence arises the sad fact that when you enter many of our places of worship you will certainly hear the name of God mentioned; but except in the benediction, you would scarcely know there was a Trinity.

In many places dedicated to Jehovah the name of Jesus is too often kept in the background; the Holy Spirit is almost entirely neglected; and very little is said concerning his sacred influence.

Even religious men have become to a large degree godless in this age.

We sadly require more preaching regarding God; more preaching of those things which look not so much at the creature to be saved, as at God the Great One to be extolled.

My firm conviction is, that in proportion as we have more regard for the sacred godhead, the wondrous Trinity in Unity, shall we see a greater display of God's power, and a more glorious manifestation of his might in our churches.

May God send us a Christ-exalting, Spirit-loving ministry-men who shall proclaim God the Holy Ghost in all his offices and shall extol God the Saviour as the author and finisher of our faith, not neglecting that Great God, the Father of his people, who, before all worlds, elected us in Christ his Son, justified us through his righteousness, and will inevitably preserve us and gather us together in one, in the consummation of all things at the last great day.

- <http://bit.ly/3UAJdUp>

Do you know who said that?

As hard as it may be to believe, Charles Spurgeon spoke those words on November 18, 1855! Nearly 170 years ago, (168) and look at where we are today.

I truly believe we must get back to the basics of Christianity. We must get back to the truths of God found in the Word of God!

That is why I have called this study – ***THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!***

And I have broken down these verses we will be looking at this morning into the following main points. They are,

SO MUCH TO LEARN – JOHN 16:12

HE TEACHES THE TRUTH – JOHN 16:13

HE WILL GLORIFY JESUS – JOHN 16:14-15

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 16, beginning in verse 12 and let's see what the Lord has for us this morning as we study His Word and we see –

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES!

JOHN 16

VERSE 12

Think about this for a minute. And I know we covered this verse last time. But think about this.

Not one word of the New Testament was written at this point!

Gentiles getting saved, even though we do see this spoken of in the Old Testament, was not even something that they thought about.

The church, made up of Jews and Gentiles was the farthest thing from their mind.

The Rapture of the Church, even though we see pictures of this in the Old Testament, they had no clue regarding this event. It was a mystery that was revealed to Paul.

And so much more they had no clue of and thus, Jesus tells them, **“I still have many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now.”**

Look at how this has played out so far.

God the Father sent God the Son into the world not to only save us from our sins, but to expand and amplify the teachings of the Old Testament. We see that in the Gospels!

Then Jesus, God the Son turned that responsibility over to the Holy Spirit who would explain things further, deeper, completely!

And we see this played out as the Church is born and God, through the Holy Spirit reveals these things to the Church and that is seen in the book of Acts, going deeper in the Epistles or letters and finally, the culmination of all things as we come to the book of Revelation!

I guess that this was too much for them to bear at this time, but through the work, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, this will be revealed!

Put yourself in their shoes or I guess sandals. Think about all that they have taken in, all that Jesus has taught them so far. What would you do? How would you feel?

I don't know about you, but it would be overwhelming to me. And I believe it was overwhelming to them.

And you have to love the way the Lord handles this. Just because they could not take anymore in yet, He was going to teach them more through the Holy Spirit.

Think about when you first got saved. How much did you know? Probably the basics. But as you grew in the Lord, as you matured in the Lord, the Holy Spirit taught you and is teaching you more and more.

You see, I don't ever believe we can get it all! Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, all-knowing has given to us His Word which is so easy to understand that a child can get it and it is so deep that the smartest man on the earth can spend a lifetime studying it and just scratch the surface!

I don't know about you but there are times I am reading the Scriptures and there were verses I have probably read over thirty times and then, all of a sudden, I see something that I have never seen before. And it is obvious but here it is. How did I miss it?

The reality is, I really did not miss it, but the Holy Spirit opened it up to me as I was reading the Word of God!

Again, we can't know completely an all-knowing God but, by His Spirit, He opens the Word of God up to our lives.

Paul, in I Corinthians chapter 2 is speaking of the things of God and how people can't know the things of God apart from the Spirit of God revealing them to us.

He said, **“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For ‘who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”** I Corinthians 2:10-16.

You see, man, on his own, through human reasoning, could never come to these truths that have been revealed to us in the Scriptures.

We have five senses that reveal things to us but there is one more for the Christian. And that is the Spirit who speaks to our hearts and opens up the Word of God to our lives!

You see, Paul is telling us that the natural eye cannot see the things of God, the natural ear cannot hear the things of God, and the natural heart cannot know the things of God, the wisdom of God! These things are spiritually discerned!

The reality is, I can’t even know what another person is thinking let alone Almighty God! Then how can we know God?

Because, like I have said, His Spirit will reveal the deep things of God to us, to those who love Him, to those who are searching for Him with their whole heart, to those who call upon Him!

Let me give you this perspective to think about regarding this. Imagine you are reading a book and you finish it, and you don't seem to understand fully what has happened. And you try and try but you just can't figure it out.

The only accurate way to find out what really happened is that you need to go to the author of the book and ask him what really happened!

And that is exactly what happens in our own lives. As we read God's Word, as we pray over verses and we just are not sure what is meant by them, the Author of the book will show us by His Spirit! That is just what we need, no human wisdom but the wisdom of God!

Martin Luther said, "*The Bible cannot be understood simply by study or talent; you must count only on the influence of the Holy Spirit.*"

John Calvin said, "*The testimony of the Spirit is superior to reason. For . . . these words will not obtain full credit in the hearts of men until they are sealed by the inward testimony of the Spirit.*"

And Paul tells us here in I Corinthians chapter 2 that as the Holy Spirit is teaching us it is more than just words. You see, as we study God's Word and listen to His Spirit - "**. . . we have the mind of Christ.**"

The Holy Spirit is teaching us the things of Christ and thus, as we read the Word of God and apply it to our lives, we are living for Christ, or we are being obedient to Him because we are following the Word of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God.

Old Testament scholar Gleason Archer puts it this way. He wrote,

How then can we know God or His will for our lives? Only if He reveals Himself to us! Unless He Himself tells us, we can never know for sure the answers to those questions which matter most to us as human beings.

At this point it is important to observe that the Bible presents itself as the written revelation of God. This purports [claims] to be a Book in which God gives us the answers to the great questions which concern our soul, and which all the wisdom and science of man are powerless to solve with any degree of certainty.

- Gleason Archer

Exactly!

And that is what we will be looking at next, what the Holy Spirit is doing – ***HE TEACHES THE TRUTH!***

VERSE 13

First of all, what is the title given to the Holy Spirit here?

He is called – “**... The Spirit of truth. . .**”

What does that mean to you?

What it means to me and should mean to you is that the Holy Spirit, when He speaks, when He teaches us, what we find in the Scriptures is truth and we can take that to the bank?

Why can we trust what the Holy Spirit is saying and what the Scriptures are saying?

Because He is the Spirit of truth, and He inspired the writers of the Scriptures and what they shared is truth!

But in our day and age there is this idea of relativism or that there really is no right or wrong, whatever you want to accept is truth, at least for you!

All I can say to that is – **WRONG!**

Let me share this with you because what you see manifested today in our nation and really the world is this idea of relativism, or you come up with your own truth. And, sad to say, we see this even in the church, Christians believing whatever they think is right!

You have to listen to this, and yes, it is a little long, but just look at what is said and then apply it to what we are seeing in our nation today and I think you will understand why we see these things happening, besides moving away from God.

In this article we are told,

Allan Bloom, author of the landmark critique of American education *The Closing of the American Mind*, starts his analysis this way: *'There is one thing a professor can be absolutely certain of: almost every student entering the university believes, or says he believes, that truth is relative. If this belief is put to the test, one can count on the students' reaction: they will be uncomprehending. That anyone should regard the proposition as not self-evident astonishes them, as though he were calling into question $2 + 2 = 4$.'*

What Professor Bloom observes is not a trend but a revolution. Like most revolutions, it did not start with a rifle shot or a cannon but with an idea that was whispered in many different environments and diverse situations. This revolution started in academia and eventually engulfed the common person. Its growth has been so subtle and thorough that it is now a core belief-not just of the college elite, but also of the rank and file, white collar and blue collar alike.

Since the sixties we have been in the throes of this quiet but desperate revolution of thought – the death of truth. We don't mean 'truth' in the sense of something being my personal opinion. Rather we refer to the death of what the late Dr. Francis Schaeffer called 'true truth,' the extinction of the idea that any particular thing can be known for sure.

Today we've lost the confidence that statements of fact can ever be anything more than just opinions; we no longer know that anything is certain beyond our subjective preferences. The word truth now means 'true for me' and nothing more. We have entered an era of dogmatic skepticism.

Ideas that are whispered are seldom analyzed well, for they simply don't draw enough attention. By means of repetition and passive acceptance over time, they take on the force of common wisdom, a 'truth' that everyone knows but no one has stopped to examine, a kind of intellectual urban legend.

Once ideas like these take root, they are difficult to dislodge. . . .

When truth dies, all of its subspecies, such as ethics, perish with it. If truth can't be known, then the concept of moral truth becomes incoherent. Ethics become relative, right and wrong matters of individual opinion.

This may seem a moral liberty, but it ultimately rings hollow. 'The freedom of our day,' lamented a graduate in a Harvard commencement address, 'is the freedom to devote ourselves to any values we please, on the mere condition that we do not believe them to be true.'

The death of truth in our society has created a moral decay in which 'every debate ends with the barroom question "says who?" 'When we abandon the idea that one set of laws applies to every human being, all that remains is subjective, personal opinion.

When morality is reduced to personal tastes, people exchange the moral question, What *is* good? for the pleasure question, What *feels* good? They assert their desires and then attempt to rationalize their choices with moral language. In this case, the tail wags the dog.

Instead of morality constraining pleasures ('I want to do that, but I really shouldn't'), the pleasures define morality ('I want to do that, and I'm going to find a way to rationalize it').

This effort at ethical decision making is really nothing more than thinly veiled self-interest-pleasure as ethics.

When self-interest rules, it has a profound impact on behavior, especially affecting how we treat other human beings. The notions of human respect and dignity depend on the existence of moral truth. Without it, there is no obligation of self-sacrifice on behalf of others. Instead, we can discard people when they become trouble-some or expensive, or simply when they cramp our lifestyles.

What follows is a true story about a newborn child we'll call Baby Garcia. This event took place in a major hospital in the Los Angeles area. I pass on the exact details as Jennifer, the nurse involved, related them to me:

[I am sorry, this is a tough one to read, but this is the mentality we are seeing today!]

One night a nurse on my shift came up to me and said, 'Jennifer, you need to see the Garcia baby' There was something suspicious about the way she said it, though. ***I see babies born every hour***, I thought.

She led me to a utility room the nurses used for their breaks. Women were smoking and drinking coffee, their feet up on the stainless steel counter. There, lying on the metal, was the naked body of a newborn baby.

'What is this baby doing here on this counter?' I asked timidly. 'That's a preemie born at nineteen weeks,' she said. 'We don't do anything to save them unless they're twenty weeks.'

I noticed that his chest was fluttering rapidly. I picked him up for a closer look. 'This baby is still alive!' I exclaimed. I thought they hadn't noticed.

Then I learned the horrible truth. The nurses knew, and it didn't matter. They had presented the baby to its mother as a dead, premature child. Then they took him away and tossed him on the cold, steel counter in the lunch room until he died. His skin was blotchy white, and his mouth was gaping open as he tried to breathe.

I did the one thing I could think of. I held him in his last moments so he'd at least have some warmth and love when he died.

Just then one of the nurses—a large, harsh woman—burst into the room. 'Jennifer, what are you doing with that baby?' she yelled. 'He's still alive . . .'

'He's still alive because you're holding him,' she said. Grabbing him by the back with one hand, she snatched him from me, opened one of the stainless steel cabinets, and pulled out a specimen container with formaldehyde in it. She tossed the baby in and snapped the lid on. It was over in an instant.

To them, this child wasn't human. In seven more days he would have qualified, but at nineteen weeks he was just trash.

If there is no truth, nothing has transcendent value, including human beings. The death of morality reduces people to the status of mere creatures. When persons are viewed as things, they begin to be treated as things. . . .

If we reject truth, why should we be surprised at the moral turbulence that follows? . . .

This is the chaotic and confusing world of moral relativism, a world made more confusing because moral relativism isn't even moral. . . .

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Being a Registered Nurse, I can't even understand the callousness of these other nurses.

And being a human being created in the image of God, I just don't get this. Their hearts are as cold as ice!

As we have seen in this article, I guess the question can be – ***IS THERE REALLY TRUTH OUT THERE?***

You bet there is. We have - ***THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH WHO WILL GUIDE US IN ALL TRUTH!***

You see, Jesus tells us that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will teach them all truth. He will give them the things that they will need. And the Holy Spirit continues to do that today!

The Holy Spirit gave Paul some mysteries that were unknown or not revealed to us in the Old Testament.

Like I have said, we see the church, we see the Rapture and-so-on.

Also, we see how God has given to us the New Testament.

Let me show you what I mean.

First of all, look at John 14:26, **“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 things that I said to you.”**

And then in John 16:13 Jesus said, **“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.”**

We see that the Holy Spirit would remind them of what Jesus had taught them and thus, we have the four Gospels!

Not only that, but the Holy Spirit would guide them in all truth, and we have the epistles or letters of the New Testament.

And lastly, we see that the Holy Spirit will show us the things that are to come and guess what book that is speaking of in the New Testament? It is the book of Revelation!

And make no mistake about it, when the Holy Spirit speaks, He does so in accordance with God the Father and God the Son. They all work harmoniously together!

How does the Holy Spirit guide us or teach us all truth?

I think that there are three ways that the Holy Spirit does this and I will expound on them.

The first is through – ***REVELATION!***

In other words, it is the revealing of divine truth, and this is done through angels, dreams, visions, prophets but the greatest revelation of the things of God is seen in the ***INCARNATION!***

Let me show you what I mean. In Hebrews 1:1-2 we are told, **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”**

Yes, in times past God spoke in different ways to the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus Christ! And the Holy Spirit, in speaking for Christ, continues that ministry giving divine revelation or what we call the New Testament! The Word of God is complete, we don’t have new revelations today! Please keep that in mind!

The next way that the Holy Spirit gives us truth is through – ***INSPIRATION!***

This speaks of God working upon the lives of those that wrote the Scriptures and allowed them to accurately, infallibly communicate God’s truth to us.

Remember what Paul wrote in II Timothy 3:16-17, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

That word, **“inspiration”** in the Greek, ***THEOPNEUSTOS***, (teh-op’-nyoo-stos) literally means ***“God breathed.”***

Just as God breathed life into Adam, He breathed life into the Scriptures!

And what we see as we read the Scriptures is that the Holy Spirit allowed each writer's personality and style to come through the books that they wrote but He made sure that the final product was without error in the original manuscripts.

Think about it. The Bible consists of 66 books written by some 40 different authors from all walks of life and over some 1600 years on three different continents in three different languages, written at different times and it is one story that unfolds of God's love and His saving sinful man!

How can that be? How can this be one story when there were so many different writers from so many different backgrounds over that long period of time and yet it is one story?

The only way that can happen is that this is a story that has been written by God the Holy Spirit and given to us!

Think about it. If you sat five people down and told them to write on one controversial subject, you probably would have five different opinions.

But with the Bible, we don't. These stories don't contradict each other, they enhance each other and that is a God thing. It is the inspiration of God given to men and they wrote these things down for us!

Let me give you this perspective. We are told,

In her book *Mystery on the Desert*, Maria Reiche describes a series of strange lines made by the Nazca in the plains of Peru, some of them covering many square miles. For years people assumed these lines were the remnants of ancient irrigation ditches.

Then in 1939 Dr. Paul Kosok of Long Island University discovered that their true meaning could only be seen from high in the air. When viewed from an airplane, these seemingly random lines form enormous drawings of birds, insects, and animals.

In a similar way, people often think of the Bible as a series of individual, unconnected stories. But if we survey the Scriptures as a whole, we discover that they form one great story of redemption - from the opening scenes of Genesis to the final chapter of Revelation. Weaving through all the diverse strands of the Bible is a divine story line, the overarching story of what God has been up to in the rescue and restoration of fallen human beings, from the first nanosecond of creation through the final cry of victory at the end of time.

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Amen to that. That is inspiration!

I want you to think about this for a minute.

From the Old Testament promise of the Coming Messiah to the New Testament and the coming of the Messiah, both the Old and New Testament fit perfectly and intricately together, from the start in Genesis to the end, the book of Revelation!

The reason being is that there was only one author, God the Holy Spirit!

Geisler and Nix in their *General Introduction to the Bible* put it this way. They wrote,

“In Genesis you have paradise lost and in Revelation you have paradise regained. You can’t understand Revelation without Genesis and you can’t understand Genesis without Revelation - it’s all woven together so intricately it’s like a beautiful tapestry. It actually becomes one book with 66 chapters - one unfolding story from beginning to the end.”

Also, listen to what F. F. Bruce has to say regarding the Scriptures. He wrote, “No part of the human body can be properly explained outside the context of the whole body - so no part of the Bible can be properly explained or understood outside the context of the Bible as a whole.”

And finally, Professor M. Montiero-Williams, former Boden professor of Sanskrit who spent 42 years studying eastern books and sacred writings said in comparing them to the Bible: “Pile them if you will on the left side of your table but place your own Holy Bible on the right side all by itself, all alone and with a wide gap between them. For there is a gulf between the Bible and the so-called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly and forever . . . a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thought.”

In other words, the Bible is unique and stands alone when compared to the sacred writings of the religions of the world.

Again, and I hope I have driven this point home – ***THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES!***

And the last point regarding the Holy Spirit is that He gives to us – ***ILLUMINATION!***

In other words, the Holy Spirit gives us the understanding of God’s truth that is found in the Bible!

And we talked about this already, knowing the mind of God and that is done by the Word of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God.

Think of these three points like this.

- Revelation speaks of the discovery of truth!
- Inspiration speaks of the communication of truth!
- Illumination speaks of the understanding of truth!

In a nation, in a world that is filled with lies, we have the truths of God found in the Word of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God. You see, He is the Spirit of truth!

We also see here in John 16:13 that Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit, “**... will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak . . .**”

What is the point, what is Jesus saying here?

It is really very simple. When the Holy Spirit speaks, everything that He says and does will be consistent with what Jesus has already said and done.

When people say that the Holy Spirit told them this or told them to do that and it goes against what the Scriptures are saying, then I know that they are not hearing from the Holy Spirit.

Yes, it is a spirit, but not the Holy Spirit, it is a demonic spirit that is leading them away from the truths of God found in the Word of God!

Yes, Jesus was going away, He was going to depart and return to Heaven but the Helper, the Holy Spirit will continue His earthly ministry. The Holy Spirit was not doing something different than Jesus did in His earthly ministry.

Let me say it again. The Holy Spirit would never contradict anything Jesus said during His earthly ministry, or any of God’s truth for that matter already revealed in the pages of Scripture.

The last point here in John 16:13 is this. Jesus said, “**... He will tell you things to come.**”

What is that all about?

It is about prophecy!

The Bible is about 27% prophetic in its writings or telling us of things that will happen before they happen. No other religious book has that, has prophecy because only God knows the beginning from the end!

Now let's apply this to our day, prophecy because so many today don't want anything to do with prophecy, they just want to live out their lives. But where is the hope if we do away with prophecy? There is none!

Thus, we must be *VIGILANT*, or we must be looking out for, watching for the return of Jesus Christ. Paul put it like this in Titus 2:13, "**looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**"

Paul was admonishing them, and the Holy Spirit is admonishing us to be watching for the Lord's return, it can happen at any moment! It is our hope. Please understand that our hope is not in this world, not in this government, not in this or that, but it is in Jesus Christ and His return and thus, we must be watching!

Now let me apply it to this verse we have been looking at here in John 16:13. We could not be vigilant; we could not be watching for the return of Jesus Christ if the Holy Spirit hadn't given us signs to be watching for! That should just make sense and the Holy Spirit has given us signs to be watching for that point to the return of Jesus Christ!

Listen to what Jesus said in Mark 13:32-37. We are told, **“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming - in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning - lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”**

Who is Jesus saying this to?

He tells us, **“I say to all: Watch!”** It is to *ALL* of us, and thus, we must ***WATCH!***

But if the Lord hadn't told us what to look for, what was coming in the future, what events to look for to show that His return is getting close, He couldn't tell us to watch because we would not know what to be looking for!

The biggest one for us today is that Israel is back in the land of Israel and that had to happen before the Lord comes for His Bride, the Church! Thus, watch!

But it is not just vigilance but also, we see that prophecy gives to us – ***VALIDATION!***

That word speaks of showing that something is real or that it is correct.

God has told us of things that will happen before they happen to show us that His Word, the Bible is real, that He has written it to us.

I like the way that the Lord said it in Isaiah 44:6-8, **“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”**

There is no one else who can tell us what is going to happen with 100% accuracy, only the Lord can, and He has done that for us.

And as we see these things happen, what the Lord has told us, then we don’t need to fear, we do not need to be afraid, God has warned us ahead of time. And thus, as these things happen and people are wondering what is going on, we can be witnesses of Him and point people to Jesus by showing them how God has warned us of what is coming!

So prophecy validates that the Bible is truly the Word of God!

We have seen here in John 16:13 that the Holy Spirit – ***TEACHES THE TRUTH!***

As we read on, we will see that – ***HE WILL GLORIFY JESUS!***

VERSES 14-15

I think this is very clear and yet, many today, like in the ultra-charismatic movement, make the Holy Spirit the center of attention and Jesus is placed in a position of secondary importance!

Make no mistake about it, the Holy Spirit’s ministry is revealing Jesus to us, to bear testimony of Jesus.

We see that in John 15:26 where Jesus said regarding the Holy Spirit, **“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”**

Yes, the Holy Spirit will use many different gifts and many different ways to accomplish this, but it is always to reveal Jesus to people! He never, never draws attention to Himself!

And that should be the same for us. We do not do things to draw attention to ourselves but to point people to Jesus, at least that is what we should be doing!

I like the way that one author put it. He wrote, ***“By this we can test all teaching and preaching - if it has the effect of magnifying the Savior, then it is of the Holy Spirit.”***

Exactly! And thus, the whole goal of our ministries is so that when people look at us - they see Jesus!

And listen to how this is done as one author sums up for us the ministry of the Holy Spirit toward the believer.

He wrote, ***“It is Christ’s glory revealed on the pages of Scripture that the Holy Spirit uses to mold believers into the image of Jesus Christ: ‘But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit’ (2 Cor. 3:18).***

If it is the Spirit’s purpose to glorify Christ in revelation, how can it be any less our purpose to glorify Christ in proclamation?

It is the witness of the Holy Spirit that ultimately testifies to the truthfulness of Scripture. Through the coherent unity, scientific accuracy, historical verifiability, and fulfilled prophecy of the Bible - altogether mark it as unique and divinely inspired of God.

In the end, only the Holy Spirit can convince lost sinners of its divine inspiration. The Spirit therefore testifies to the truthfulness of Scripture in the hearts of men.

Just as in regeneration (salvation), the Spirit must work in people's lives for them to change their views of both the Bible (the written Word) and Jesus Christ (the incarnate Word).

That sovereign work in the heart and mind convinces men and women that the Bible is from God, that all its words are reliable, and that its message about Jesus Christ is indeed the good news of salvation.

The true believer loves the Word of God and believes it because of the work of the Spirit in their heart. That work evidences, confirms, and validates that the Bible is truly a divine gift from God - the God of glory Who dwells outside of time and speaks to us through prophecy telling us the end from the beginning and confirming that the Holy Scriptures are indeed the divinely inspired Word of God to mankind!"

Amen to that!

The main ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers is to draw us closer and closer to Jesus every day so that we become more and more like Him.

That is what Paul said in II Corinthians 3:18, "**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**"

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, "**And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.**"

In other words, this transformation happens primarily as we read and study the Word of God. Paul put it like this in II Timothy 3:16-17, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

Is that true, that all Scripture is profitable to us? What about Leviticus? Yes, that is profitable for us. What about all those genealogies? Yes, that is profitable to us.

Let me give you this one example and it is from Genesis chapter 5, the genealogies from Adam onward to Noah. I know, you are already cringing, but let me show you what God has for us. I will give you their name and then what their name means and then we will look at what unfolds as we put them together!

ADAM = MAN

SETH = APPROVED

ENOS OR ENOSH = SUBJECT TO DEATH

CAINAN = SORROWFUL

MAHALALEEL = FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD

JARED = ONE COMES DOWN

ENOCH = DEDICATED

METHUSELAH = DYING HE SHALL SEND

LAMECH = TO THE POOR AND LOWLY

NOAH = REST OR COMFORT

Look at what we see way back in the Old Testament! The Gospel message!

It goes like this.

The man approved to death, sorrowful. From the presence of God, one comes down, dedicated. Dying, he shall send to the poor and lowly, rest and comfort!

That is the Gospel message given to us thousands of years before Christ came.

It is the Good News to a world that was moving quickly into darkness, and it is Good News for us today.

All Scripture is profitable to us today and the Scriptures, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, testify of Jesus!

I know I have given you a lot of information this morning and I pray that you take what you have learned and apply these things to your life as you live out your faith.

Yes, there is – ***SO MUCH TO LEARN!***

But we have the Holy Spirit that – ***TEACHES THE TRUTH!***

And – ***HE WILL GLORIFY CHRIST!***

May we do the same and bring glory to Jesus as we live out our faith!

As I close this morning, let me share this with you. We are told,

In the world of technology there is a new development called Hyper Sonic Sound (HSS).

The inventor, Elwood “Woody” Norris, has engineered sound waves to travel like a laser beam for about 150 yards. This allows sounds to be heard by a person in a particular place but not by those immediately around them.

You could be listening to music or specific instructions while those standing next to you would be left in total silence.

If you move out of the tightly formed path of these unique sound waves you too will be unaware of any noise.

God's communication with us is very similar to these sound waves. We must be in the right place to hear the Holy Spirit, and when we're there the message is clear. If we move away from the pathway of His voice, we become unaware of the fact that He is communicating with us, and we consequently miss the message.

- Reader's Digest, March 2005

That message is given to us through the Bible, the Word of God and it is opened up to us by the Spirit of God. May we be listening to His voice to us!