

# THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HIS MINISTRY

## **John 15:26 – 16:15**

*<sup>26</sup> “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.*

*“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup> And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. <sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.*

*“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: 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 go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Jesus is leaving! On the night before His arrest, Jesus gathers His apostles one last time. What will He tell them? What is the most pressing thing Jesus wants his disciples to know?

## **DISCUSS**

### **1. The Holy Spirit will witness. (15:26-27)**

As Jesus is leaving, He tells the Apostles that he has not left them alone. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit, the Helper, who will “*bear witness about me*”. The disciples are also called to bear witness, because they’ve been with Jesus from the beginning. This was the work of the Holy Spirit, to tell the world about Jesus, through our witness - a double witness of Jesus.

**When have you experienced the Spirit working with you in a moment of sharing Christ or encouraging someone in faith?**

## **2. Persevering Through Opposition (John 16:1-4)**

Jesus warns the Apostles that witnessing will not be easy. Earlier in John 15:18-25, Jesus already shared the reason why: “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you”. Once Jesus goes, hatred from the world will move from Jesus to His disciples.

But Jesus tells them this “to keep you from falling away” from Jesus (v1). Jesus was more concerned for eternal life than physical life.

He is warning them so that they will persist in bearing witness and assuring them that the Holy Spirit is with them.

**In what ways do we face “persecution” in Singapore for following Jesus—and how do you tend to respond?**

## **3. The Spirit Convicts the World**

Jesus tells us one of the hardest statements to accept, that it is for our good that He goes away. Yet Jesus continues with the reason, because the Spirit will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Perhaps we have felt hopeless when we share with our friends about Jesus. We feel inadequate, not knowing what we can do to change their hearts. Friends, this is not our job, only the Holy Spirit can convict their hearts. Our job is to witness (15:27)

**Since only the Holy Spirit can convict others of sin, righteousness, and judgment, how does that shape your prayer life for friends or loved ones who don't yet believe?**

#### **4. The Spirit Guides Us into Truth (16:12-15)**

The third ministry of the Holy Spirit is to guide us into truth and glorify Jesus. Notice that the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus and not Himself. He is like a shining light that shines on Jesus, so that we would look to Jesus.

And one of the ways we can look to Jesus, is by looking at the truth that the Holy Spirit will speak to the Apostles. This truth comes from the Father, to the Son, and through the Holy Spirit. This is what we know as the New Testament. That as Christians who might face persecutions and pressures, the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostles to write the New Testament. He will also *guide* us as we read the Bible.

**Since the Spirit speaks to us today through the Scriptures, how can you listen better this week?**

**Pray For:**

##### **1. Courage and faithfulness to witness for Christ**

- Pray that we will not be discouraged by fear, rejection, or feelings of inadequacy, but trust the Holy Spirit who works with us to bear witness to Jesus.

##### **2. Loved ones and friends to be convicted by the Holy Spirit**

- Pray for specific people in our lives who do not yet believe in Jesus—that the Holy Spirit will convict their hearts of sin, show them the beauty of true righteousness in Christ, and lead them to repentance.

### **3. For a deeper hunger to read and trust God's Word**

- Ask God to give us greater desire and discipline to engage the Bible, and for the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth and help us see more of Jesus through Scripture.