

Jesus would be nailed to a cross the next morning. He'll die and be placed in a tomb. The disciples have grown to love their Master. They were just ordinary people like us, but while they were with Him, they had witnessed extraordinary things. They had gradually become convinced that He is the Son of God. (Mark 14:33) They expected Him to take over the nation of Israel and lead it to a new age, one that the prophets had predicted. (Isaiah 9:7) They even argued that evening about who would sit on the thrones closest to Jesus. (Luke 22:24) Yet, Jesus had been warning them about a betrayal and His impending brutal death. In our passage for today, Jesus is elaborating on something He said earlier. He will not leave them as orphans, but will come to them and make His home in them. (John 14:23)

26 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. It sounds as if Jesus is sending someone else. The Counselor is another entity, and yet He is Jesus' presence. I won't attempt to explain it as people have been trying to since Jesus spoke this truth. We accept the mystery by faith. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the presence of Jesus and the Father. They are inseparable and yet they each have a unique role. They are one and yet they are their own entity.

In the previous chapter, you learned that the word "Counselor" is literally one who stands beside and calls to us. (John 14:16) Jesus called Him the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father. The Old Testament prophets told of the day when all would be taught of God. (Isaiah 54:13) They predicted the age in which the Spirit would be poured out on all flesh. (Joel 2:28) The coming of the Holy Spirit is therefore referred to as the promise of the Father. Jesus was telling the disciples that age was at hand. That is what He meant when He taught that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17), for you see, when the Spirit reigns in your heart, you are already in the Kingdom of Heaven. There is more to come, but you have already entered it in this present life.

Jesus is going to go on to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in us. He is explaining how the Holy Spirit functions. This description is the main emphasis of the Spirit. Some will try to convince you that the gifts are the main thing. They are important and not to be ignored, but what Jesus is describing here is the main thing!

The first and major work of the Spirit is that He testifies of Jesus. He witnesses Jesus to us. He convinces us of who He is and of His life and work. (Matthew 16:16-17) He reminds us of His words. Your mind knows things about Jesus because you read the record that the Holy Spirit helped the Gospel writers to record, but your heart knows about Jesus because of the Holy Spirit working in you.

I remember when I was 16 and the Holy Spirit witnessed Jesus to me in a way I will never forget. A group of young men stopped to pray and ask Jesus what we were missing and the Holy Spirit witnessed Jesus to us. No words were spoken. Lots of

Commented [notes1]: 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."
Matt 14:33 (NIV)

Commented [notes2]: 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.
Isaiah 9:7 (NIV)

Commented [notes3]: 24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.
Luke 22:24 (NIV)

Commented [notes4]: 23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."
John 14:23 (NIV)

Commented [notes5]: 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--
John 14:16 (NIV)

Commented [notes6]: 13 All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace.
Isaiah 54:13 (NIV)

Commented [notes7]: 28 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.
Joel 2:28 (NIV)

Commented [notes8]: 17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
Matt 4:17 (NIV)

Commented [notes9]: 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."
Matt 16:16-17 (NIV)

tears were shed. We knew Love. We knew Forgiveness. We experienced the Resurrection and the Life. The Spirit testified of Jesus.

I thank God for that special gift of grace, but there is a daily witness of Jesus going on in each of our lives that isn't as dramatic. It's the still small voice that guides us. (1Kings 19:12) It is the illumination of Scripture as we devote time to being in the Word and letting Him speak to us. It is a feeling (excuse me, all those who don't think God can move our emotions) of peace (Colossians 3:15), comfort and joy even in the midst of difficulties. (2Corinthians 7:4) He testifies the life of Jesus to us. When you let Him do that work in you, you also testify by word and actions. People can't help but notice that there is something going on in you.

The Apostles had the imperative command to testify because they had seen the ministry of Jesus from the beginning. They had a special task of relating to the early church the life and words of Jesus. (Acts 4:20) That was done through the Gospels and through their continued story telling. The baby church that was formed after Pentecost was taught the Apostles' teaching, which is what Jesus commanded in this verse. (Acts 2:42) Because of the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit in their lives, we have an accurate account of what Jesus did and said. Now it's our turn to testify, first and foremost of Jesus' ministry in the first century, but also of His continued work through the Holy Spirit in us. (Mark 5:19) You have to have a testimony to testify. In other words, you need a living relationship with Jesus to have something to tell others about. Anyone can talk about the Gospel story, but the conviction comes when they see that story has made a difference in your life.

⁵ "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. ⁷ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. I would have been filled with grief too. Wouldn't you? But when we have the Holy Spirit residing in us, it is actually better than Jesus' physical presence. The Holy Spirit helps change your heart. He is with you wherever you go. The physical presence of Jesus couldn't do that. It is actually better to live today than to have lived during Jesus' ministry. (John 7:39) Jesus goes on to explain why.

⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. The Holy Spirit can convict the heart and bring change. When the Pharisees saw Jesus do things, they had intellectual arguments about whether He should have said what He did or have healed on the Sabbath and numerous other legal issues. (John 9:16) Their eyes got in the way of seeing His heart. The Holy Spirit helps us see Jesus' heart. You'll notice in Acts 6, after the coming of the Holy Spirit, a great number of priests converted to the faith. (Acts 6:7) That is because the Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin.

This does not mean that before Pentecost there was no conviction. The Spirit would come upon people for a time. People still had their conscience. What has changed is

Commented [notes10]: 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.
1 Kings 19:12 (NIV)

Commented [notes11]: 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.
Col 3:15 (NIV)

Commented [notes12]: 4 I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.
2 Cor 7:4 (NIV)

Commented [notes13]: 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."
Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Commented [notes14]: 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Commented [notes15]: 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."
Mark 5:19 (NIV)

Commented [notes16]: 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
John 7:39 (NIV)

Commented [notes17]: 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.
John 9:16 (NIV)

Commented [notes18]: 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.
Acts 6:7 (NIV)

conviction in regards to who Jesus is and what He accomplished. For those who will receive that conviction, repent, and believe, there is also now the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, His continued abiding presence.

Notice how Jesus described the conviction that would come. ⁹ *in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me*; This is the big one. When people testify of the life of Jesus, it should bring conviction of unbelief to the hearer. The Greek word to convict or reprove was used in the secular world as cross-examination. It is to convince a person of the weakness of their case. It reproves them for their refusal to accept Jesus. Everyone is challenged for rejecting His claims. There is no ambiguity in the claims of Jesus. Unlike all other religious leaders, Jesus makes clear and certain claims of being the image of the invisible God (John 14:9), the only way to God (John 14:6), to even be Life itself! The Holy Spirit comes into the life of every person and convicts him or her of not accepting the truth of who Jesus is. Everyone will either believe in Jesus or be found guilty of refusing to believe. (John 8:24)

As I read this passage I thought of a young man who said he read the Bible and thought it was a bunch of fairy tales. He didn't know how anyone could believe it. Yet, this verse tells us that the Holy Spirit will convict Him of unbelief. He has determined that he has reached a logical conclusion, but in the Spirit's good time, he will be convicted.

The Holy Spirit will also convict the world ¹⁰ *in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer*; As we testify to the life of Jesus, we are testifying of how man is supposed to live. His righteous life is our example, an example that we fall so short of. No matter how good a life you live, we all fall way short of the life of Jesus. (Philippians 3:9) So though we can see Him no longer, the testimony of Jesus still convicts the world of righteousness. Jesus ascended in the site of numerous witnesses. (Acts 1:9) The resurrection and ascension proves He was completely righteous.

Enoch and Elijah were the only others to have been taken directly to heaven, though they did not die. (Genesis 5:24; 2Kings 2:11) Jesus died, and yet through the resurrection He also was taken up into heaven. Enoch and Elijah were righteous because of their believing faith, as was the case with Abraham's testimony. (Genesis 15:6) But Jesus was found righteous because He was sinless. There was no fault in Him! (Hebrews 4:15) That should convict us of the need to repent and believe in Him. (Matthew 5:20)

The Holy Spirit also brings conviction *in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned*. Because of Jesus' victorious life as a man, He showed what man could be and refuted the prince of this world's claims over man. Jesus paid the judgment for sin in full so that the prince of this world cannot claim those who have faith in Jesus' work on the cross. If we follow the evil one we should be convicted. If we give in to his offer of this world in exchange for worshiping Him, we are condemned with him. (Matthew 4:8-9)

¹² *"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his*

Commented [notes19]: 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? John 14:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes20]: 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (NIV)

Commented [notes21]: 24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins." John 8:24 (NIV)

Commented [notes22]: 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Phil 3:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes23]: 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. Acts 1:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes24]: 24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Gen 5:24 (NIV)

Commented [notes25]: 11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 2 Kings 2:11 (NIV)

Commented [notes26]: 6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Gen 15:6 (NIV)

Commented [notes27]: 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Heb 4:15 (NIV)

Commented [notes28]: 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. Matt 5:20 (NIV)

Commented [notes29]: 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Matt 4:8-9 (NIV)

own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. The disciples could not possibly have taken in or been able to endure all that they needed to hear. That is another function of the Spirit. He will guide us, or lead the way, into all truth. What is not recorded of Jesus' words that would speak truth into our situations, the Spirit will be faithful to teach us. We can't bear it all now either. That is why He lives with us to help us through the many situations of life. (Psalm 143:10)

Greater spiritual truth means greater freedom. (John 8:36) Are you letting Him guide you into all truth? (Psalm 25:4-5) If the answer to your need isn't clearly in God's word, do you go to Him and ask for His revelation? (1Corinthians 2:9-10) Do you then expect an answer? Do you really believe these words of Jesus? And if you don't have a relationship with the Spirit, remember these words of Jesus, "Ask and it will be give to you." (Matthew 7:7) The Father is waiting for you to ask. He wants to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. (Luke 11:13)

I was listening to the news with a friend and he was as worked up as I was about things that are happening in our country and around the world, but I realized the great difference is that I have hope. He seemed despondent. I have the comfort of the Holy Spirit to know that whatever comes my way, He will see me through. (Romans 8:28) I determined at that moment that the next time I see him, I will share with him the Scriptures about the Holy Spirit. Pray that time may come soon and that he will have the willingness to receive the Spirit.

The last part of that verse declared that *He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears*, There is that mystery again. Though the Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son, He will only speak what the Father tells Him to speak to you. Jesus said that of Himself as a man. (John 12:49) He would only speak what the Father told Him to speak.

and he will tell you what is yet to come. The Spirit of God can warn us of difficulties ahead or promise us blessing lies ahead. (Isaiah 48:14) The Spirit warned the Apostle Paul numerous times that he would be bound and imprisoned when he went to Jerusalem. (Acts 20:23) I have heard testimonies of people who knew they were either going to suffer or die. The testimony of the brothers who died in Malatya included the warnings of the Holy Spirit of what was to come. God is faithful and will have the Holy Spirit speak to us the words of warning or of blessing that is soon to come when we need it. The warnings prepare our hearts for the hardship and encourage us that it is all within God's plan. The encouragement of blessings to come often helps us have faith to endure the hardships of the present. (Hebrews 12:2) This has nothing to do with fortune telling or predicting the future, but has everything to do with strengthening our hearts for service to our King.

¹⁴ *He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.* ¹⁵ *All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.* Everything that the Spirit does is to bring glory to the Son. When He convicts the world, it is conviction for not believing in Jesus. That is so that in believing we will bring glory to Jesus. The Spirit guides you into all truth. He is guiding you into the Son who is truth. (John 14:6) That

Commented [notes30]: 10 Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
Psalms 143:10 (NIV)

Commented [notes31]: 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
John 8:36 (NIV)

Commented [notes32]: 4 Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;
5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.
Psalms 25:4-5 (NIV)

Commented [notes33]: 9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" --
10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
1 Cor 2:9-10 (NIV)

Commented [notes34]: 7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Matt 7:7 (NIV)

Commented [notes35]: 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
Luke 11:13 (NIV)

Commented [notes36]: 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Commented [notes37]: 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.
John 12:49 (NIV)

Commented [notes38]: 18 If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.
Isaiah 48:18 (NIV)

Commented [notes39]: 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.
Acts 20:23 (NIV)

Commented [notes40]: 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorned its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Heb 12:2 (NIV)

Commented [notes41]: 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6 (NIV)

brings glory to Jesus. He testifies of Jesus and reminds us of His words. That too brings glory to Jesus. Every revelation the Spirit gives of the Son is glorious.

The Spirit receives from the Son wisdom and words of life and reveals them to us. Jesus said that everything that belongs to the Father belongs to Him as well, so the wealth of the Father's resources is available to us. (Romans 8:17) The Spirit takes from Jesus who received everything from the Father and makes it known to us. Again we get a picture of the Oneness and interconnectedness of the holy Trinity.

Allow me to summarize what we have seen as the work of the Holy Spirit as revealed by Jesus on that last night. The Spirit testifies or witnesses to us of Jesus. It is better to be indwelt by the Spirit than to have Jesus' physical presence. He convicts the world of unbelief, righteousness and judgment. He guides us into all truth. He glorifies the Son by revealing more of Him to us. He does a lot more than that in our life, but these are the chief functions of the Holy Spirit. These are the main things we need for Him to bring into our lives.

Let me put it in terms we are more familiar with while trying to stay faithful to what is actually being said. The Spirit reveals Jesus to us. He leads us to salvation through repentance of our unbelief. He directs our life daily with the truths that come from Jesus. He continues to bring glory to Jesus by revealing more of Him to us. (2Corinthians 3:18) Are you allowing Him to do all of that in you? Does Jesus mean more to you today than in the past, or have you not been allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal more of Jesus to you?

The answer to your every need is found in one of those activities of the Holy Spirit. Whether you are depressed, despondent, or despairing, the Holy Spirit is the answer. In the good times and difficult times, in celebration and in pain, the Holy Spirit will minister to you exactly what you need. He takes from Jesus who has received everything from God and shows you what you need. His presence in you is all you need for illumination and regeneration. Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen?

With the gift of the Spirit, those ordinary disciples would go on to do extraordinary things, things that they had seen in Jesus' life. Though you and I are just ordinary disciples as well, we have the same gift, the Holy Spirit. If we will yield to Him, we, also, will do extraordinary things to bring glory to the Son. (2Thessalonians 2:14) We will have an increasingly greater revelation of Jesus.

Jesus described the presence of the Spirit to be like a well of living water springing up within us. (John 7:38-39) Are you experiencing Him like that? If you are not experiencing what Jesus described, either you have not yielded to His convicting you of unbelief in Jesus, or you've been quenching the Spirit convicting you of righteousness so that you can live as you please. What will you do about it?

Commented [notes42]: 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
Romans 8:17 (NIV)

Commented [notes43]: 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
2 Cor 3:18 (NIV)

Commented [notes44]: 14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Thess 2:14 (NIV)

Commented [notes45]: 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."
39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
John 7:38-39 (NIV)