

The Holy Spirit will Convict the World of Sin, Righteousness and Judgement



John - Chapter 16

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John 16:1-16:4

Loved by God, Hated by the World

Christian Persecution is Fulfilled Prophecy

- Satan controls the world's system
- **Martyr = Greek word for witness but became redefined as someone who dies for their belief in Jesus.** All the Apostles were martyred
- Romans killed thousands of Christians in the first 300 years after Christ, the Catholic church killed an estimated 50 million reformed Christians throughout history who rejected the Catholic system
- More Christians have been persecuted in the last century than all world history combined.
- Not only is this not shocking, but it is to be expected because it is exactly what Jesus said would happen.
- It's more shocking that we in the West have escaped persecution for as long as we have....But this is changing!

John 16:1-4

Christian Persecution

- First Jesus tells His disciples He much leave them in Chapter 13, now He tells them will have to die. **THIS IS SHOCKING!**
- They now have both promised blessings and promised persecution - The promises are our hope (Blessings, God's love, Eternal life, Peace) in the midst of persecution
- V.1 – They were warned by Jesus so they are not shocked (trapped) when it happens.
- This is the cost of Discipleship – Deny yourself and take up your Cross
- Sermon on the Mount – Blessed are those who are persecuted for my name.
- This is critical for us to know! Modern Christians need to adjust their expectation of what following Jesus means.
- Jesus predicts in Matt 26 and Mark 14 that they will all fall away, despite this warning, and they do fall away for a time (until the Holy Spirit comes).

John 16:1-4

Christian Persecution

- We must not fall away into fear and doubt and sin
- Jesus Predicts 2 things will happen: (16:2)
 1. **They will put you out of the synagogues;**
 2. **They will kill you**
- **They will think that they are doing God service (SATAN'S GREAT DECEPTION)** – (i.e. Remember Saul's attitude before he became Saul...Crusades, Inquisition – done in God's name – sincerity and commitment does not mean knowing Jesus)
Satan is religious – disguises himself as an "angel of light"
- V.4 – Jesus tells us that He is telling us this so we **REMEMBER** it when it happens and we BELIEVE (John 14:29). This is divine prophesy.
- 1 Peter 4:12-13 "do not be surprised..."

John 16:1-4

Christian Persecution

- V. 4 “**And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.**”
- Before this, the Disciples faced no persecutions. Jesus took all the persecution while He was with them.
- But now, He is leaving, and anyone who bears His name will now face persecution.
- **Rev. 12:17; Daniel 7:21, 25** – Dragon in the tribulation will make war with anyone who holds to the testimony of Jesus.
- V.5 – shows the selfishness of the Disciples – no one even asked Him where He is going. Jesus appears to be grieved. They were more worried about themselves than Jesus.
- Holy Spirit will enable you to preach the Gospel and make all the promises of Christ real.

Romans 5:3-4

Tribulations reveal the True Christian

- False Conversions (no conviction of sin & repentance/prosperity preaching)
- **The test of true faith** versus false teaching (emotional experiences) is how you deal with trials. Do you keep the faith even when the going gets tough?
- This is not unusual, but typical NT teaching:
 - **Matt. 5:10-12; John 16:33; Acts 5:41; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; 2 Cor. 12: 8-10; James 1:2; Peter 4:12-14; Luke 6:26; Parable of Sower – Mark 4:16-17** – Stoney Ground
- But because this is something we **“know”** (Rom 5:5 **“knowing** that tribulation produces...”), we should glory in them. How? Because our faith enables us to endure them in such a way that these trails actually further our faith.

“Suffering” is not to be taken lightly

- **Passages on tribulation suffering:** Dan. 7:21, 25; 12:1; Mark 13:19, 2 Cor. 1:4,8,1 Thess. 1:6; 2 Thess. 1:4; Rev. 6:9; 14:12; 17:6
- Jesus, Paul, and millions of Christian martyrs have suffered for Christ, and many are suffering now around the world. Even if it not tribulation suffering, why would we think that this generation will not suffer severe persecution?
- Luke 14:27 **“And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”** Matt. 5:10 **“Blessed are the persecuted...”**

Questions to Ponder:

1. If the government bans Christians from believing and sharing with other as Jesus commanded us to do, the good news and the full literal truths of the bible, such as:
 1. Jesus Christ is the one true God and Saviour, and He is returning to reign in Power;
 2. God is the creator of all things;
 3. Salvation through faith in Christ is the only way to heaven;
 4. Everyone has a need to be saved from sin and its punishment (hell);
 5. Not being legally allowed to share the bible's truths with anyone including your children (i.e. gender issues; morality as bible defines it); etc...

Would you be prepared to be charged/jailed for your faith?

2. If we moved to a cashless society and were required to have a chip or mark in order be able to buy and sell ...would you be prepared to refuse this, even it meant incredible suffering and hardship?
Rev. 13:15-18
3. Would you challenge or warn others of a false teacher who denies the truths of the bible? Even if it brings persecution to you?
 - If these questions bother or scare you, ask the Holy Spirit for power to strengthen your faith and convictions and give you courage to “not be ashamed” of Jesus and His Word. (Think of the faith and courage of Daniel when he disobeyed the law to pray, even though the penalty was the lions den, or of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who went into the fiery furnace)

John 16:4b-15

The Holy Spirit

- Jesus had not earlier talked of persecution until just now because He had been with and protected them by taking all opposition upon Himself.
- Now He says He is leaving but is providing the solution for their protection – The Holy Spirit!
- V.6-7 – While the disciples were filled with sorrow, Jesus assures them “It is to your advantage that I go...”
- The many promises of the New Covenant was that the Spirit will characterize the age of the kingdom of God, but cannot be fully inaugurated until Jesus dies, rises and is exalted at the Father’s right hand.
- Holy Spirit means “Paraclete” or advocate - Both **defense attorney (v.12-15)** and **prosecuting attorney (v.8-11)**

John 16:4b-15

The Holy Spirit

- Jesus tells the disciples that although He is going, the Disciples must continue to proclaim the truths they were taught to the world, and the world will hate and kill them, but they are promised that the Holy Spirit will come to help them.
- John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:13 – **The main job of the Holy Spirit is to provide the truth and testify about Jesus Christ.**
- Holy Spirit is primarily to empower believers to proclaim the Gospel.
- Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to convict the entire world (v.8) – measured against the Law of God and found guilty.
- God expects us to convict the hearers of the Gospel of their sin and their need for a saviour – All the prophets preached hard messages of conviction of sin – they were prosecutors who **convicted** those who failed to uphold **righteousness** and pronounced **judgement**.

John 16:4b-15

The Holy Spirit

This is the 4th Mention of the Holy Spirit in John

1. Life-Giving Power – John 7:37-39
2. Indwelling Presence – Spirit of **Truth** – John 14:16-17; 16:13
3. **Teach** you all things & bring **Remembrance** – John 14:26
4. Empowering for Witnessing – John 15:26
5. **Conviction (of the Whole World!!)**
 - **Sin, Righteousness & Judgement**

John 16:4b-15

The Holy Spirit

1. Conviction (the Whole World!!)

- **Sin** - convincing of the need for a savior – **unbelief** is the ultimate sin that damns people to hell – brings people to repentance.
- **Righteousness** – reveal the darkness of the heart and man's desire to be self-righteous – reveals the righteousness of God or the standard by which we will be judged by God. **2 Cor. 5:21** – Imputed Righteousness of Romans, provided by the Blood – The Cross
- **Judgement** – Wrath of God. All will be judged by God. Satan's big lie is that there is no judgement, and we can judge. Satan was judged in Genesis 3 and finally in Rev. 20. ¹²

John 16:4b-15

The Basic Functions of the Holy Spirit

Convicts the
Lost World of
Sin and their
need for
Christ

Conviction

Baptises/
Indwells those
who repent
and trust Jesus
(Life of Jesus in
us –“in-Christ”)

Justification

Filling of the
Spirit
- Provides
Power over **Sin**
and In **Service**
Sanctification

Salvation

Victory

Egypt

Wilderness

**Promised
Land**

**Romans
1:18 - 3:20**

**Romans
3:21-26**

**Romans
5 - 8**

John 16:8-11

CONVICTION OF SIN

- “**Convicts**” = expose, convince someone of a truth, to prosecute or prove guilty, or convict **judicially** - Used 18 times in NT and has to do with showing someone their sin, usually as a **summons to repentance**. (John 3:20; Eph. 5:13)
- **The main sin that the Holy Spirit convicts a person of is the sin of unbelief** (not individual acts of sin in this context). Jesus died to redeem the whole world, but not all people will receive God’s offer of forgiveness.
- On judgement day, God will not ask what we did (individual acts of sin), but what we didn’t do (receive Christ). Rejection of Christ, or **unbelief is the unpardonable sin**.
- **Depravity of man, recognition of sin and need for a saviour is the first work of the Holy Spirit** (Romans 1:18-3:20; Psalm 51:17 – need a broken & contrite heart)
- The Holy Spirit must **awaken people of their guilt of sin** before men can truly believe. A person cannot be saved until they know they are lost sinner against a Holy God, and feel a deep need in their **heart** (Cry for Mercy).
- **Hosea 10:12; John 4:16-18, Luke 18:9-14; Mark 1:4, 15, 2:17, 6:7, 12; Gal 1:8-9**

The Holy Spirit – Convicts of Sin

Jude 1:14 “¹⁴ Now Enoch (first preacher in the Bible), the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, **the Lord comes** with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ **to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly...**

Ezekiel 11:4-10 ⁴ Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man!”⁵ Then the **Spirit of the LORD fell upon me**, and said to me, “**Speak!** ‘Thus says the LORD: ... ⁸ You have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you,” says the Lord GOD. ⁹ “And I will bring you out of its midst, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and **execute judgments** on you. ¹⁰ You shall fall by the sword. **I will judge** you at the border of Israel. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Matthew 3:11-12 (John the Baptist)

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “**Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?** ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ And even now **the ax is laid to the root of the trees**. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and **thrown into the fire**. ¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit and fire**. ¹² **His winnowing fan is in His hand**, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but **He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**”

Jesus Convicts of Sin

John 3:19 - And this is the **condemnation**, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I **testify** of it that its works are evil.

John 8:34, 44-47 - Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin...**You are of your father the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ **Which of you convicts Me of sin?** And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

John 9:39 - ³⁹ And Jesus said, “**For judgment I have come into this world**, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” ⁴⁰ Then *some* of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we blind also?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ **Therefore your sin remains.**”

We are to Preach about Sin & Salvation

- The World will always hate a true preacher of the Gospel – all the Old Testament prophets, the Apostles and Jesus Himself were killed.
- You cannot be saved until you know you are lost
- Today most preachers are concerned with trying to make people feel good and not talk about sin and judgement.
- The main sin that needs to be proclaimed is the sin of not believing in Jesus Christ and the consequences of judgement and hell.

Matthew 23 – Woe to the Scribes & Pharisees

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEJImktNBqo&list=PLcJVlul8isJJgv2R7PgPTFK5hpZSwckj&index=39>

Righteousness of God = Law

The Most Important Question of Humanity is – How Do I Be “Right” with God

- Righteous – is a Legal standing that we are judged “Right” with God – God’s perfect character is the standard by which everyone is measured (which is expressed in the Mosaic Law). It’s right living in accordance with God’s standards and laws (in **Word, Deed and Thought**).
- On our own, it’s impossible to meet the righteousness demanded by God on judgement day since it’s impossible for us to obey all the commandments in the Bible without sinning – the standard of God’s perfection is too high for us to attain (we can’t measure up to it).
- The penalty of sin is spiritual death and eternity in hell, separated from God (Ez. 18:20; Rom. 6:23)
- So, how can we ensure that when we die, we are judged “right” with God in order to avoid the punishment? This is the big question. The bible says there will be a judgement (Rev. 20: 11-15) and Jesus Christ is the judge (John 5:16-30; Rev. 7:17). Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 21:27) will avoid hell. (the lake of fire).
- How can a sinner be justified (“declared righteous”) before a holy and righteous God and avoid his wrath?
- The good news of the Gospel is that God, through His grace (an undeserved gift), reconciles us to Himself and judges us legally righteous based on nothing more than Faith in His Son, who He sacrificed on the cross out of love for all mankind.
- **The Righteousness of God is only found in Christ and is Imputed to those who Trust in the crucified Jesus Christ.**

What about the Law? (10 Commandments)

1. The **Purpose** of the Law is to reveal God's character to us; (Rom 3:23 – we fall short of the law which is “Glory of God” -)
2. The **Effect** of the law is to reveal our failure as humans to keep it; the Law reveals our sin/acts as a mirror/convict us of sin; (Rom 3:20)
3. Jesus **Fulfilled** the Law so that by faith in Him, He lives in us and God attributes (imputes) the perfect righteousness of His sinless Son to us so that we become perfect in His sight, since all our sins are forgiven through our faith in Christ (Matt. 5:17)

Righteousness Analogy

The arbitrary requirement made by the Calgary Police Force is that all new officers must be at least 7 Feet Tall to be accepted as Police officers.

7 Feet Tall = Righteous Requirement of Law = Glory of God

Don't measure yourself by judging others (works)



Jesus Christ Fulfills the Righteous Requirement
(Rom. 3:21-22; Matt. 3:15; Matt. 5:17)

“For there is no difference (drug addict, morally nice person, self-righteous person) for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

No one will ever measure up to the acceptable standard to become a police officer on the Calgary Police Force (Rom 3:10). Nothing we do on our own can make us tall enough. **The Righteousness of God (Salvation) is found only through faith in Christ.**

The Law, Sin & New Covenant

- Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill them**.”
- God’s Law (10 Commandments) is the “MARK” we aim for but it is impossible for us to keep. Why did He give us this law? So we can know what the moral character of God is and what sin is. Rom. 3:20
- 1 John 3:4 “**sin is lawlessness**” – therefore every time break the law, we sin.
- Rom. 3:23 “all have **sinned** and fall short of the **glory of God**”
- Therefore the LAW = The Glory of God = Character of God (**John 1:14** – Jesus)
- Sermon on the Mount teaches that the Law is far more than external behavioral commands (don’t kill or commit adultery) – it concerns the heart (don’t even think about sinful things!) – exposes to us the fact that **in our natural state, we cannot live up to God’s Character/Law (Rom. 8:3-4)**
- **We need the Bad News (diagnosis) before the Good News (the remedy)**
- Many only want the remedy, but don’t want to deal with the cause, we must come to **despair/conviction** of what we are and realize that we are rotten to the core and need a new heart (New Covenant) – “**the mystery**” – “**Christ in us, the hope of glory**” Col. 1:27
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn-MxtZLxI8> - What is Sin

What happens when the Holy Spirit Fills people?

1.	Romans 8:26	– helps in our weakness, prayers
2.	Acts 1:8	– Power – to be witnesses
3.	Acts 2:4	– speak in tongues
4.	Acts 20:28	– helps you oversee the flock
5.	John 14:26	– teaches and remembers for you
6.	John 15:26	- Bears witness of Jesus
7.	John 16:13	– guides into truth, speaks for you
8.	John 16:8	– convicts of Sin, Righteousness, Judgement
9.	John 16:13-15	– guides you into all truth
10.	Galatians 5:22-23	– fruit is love, joy, peace, etc.
11.	Galatians 5:16	– helps us with desires of flesh
12.	Ephesians 4:11-12	– equips the saints for ministry
13.	Romans 8:11	– gives life to resurrect
14.	Romans 8:6	– life and peace
15.	Romans 8:15	– adoptions as sons
16.	Romans 8:16	– bears witness
17.	Romans 8:26	- Intercessory prayer
18.	1 Corinthians 2:10	– searches everything
19.	1 Corinthians 2:15	- Judgeth all things; mind of Christ to Discern
20.	2 Corinthians 1:22	– seals us as a guarantee
21.	Matthew 4:1	– leads us, even into the wilderness
22.	1 Peter 4:10	– to serve one another
23.	2 Peter 1:21	– produces prophesy in people
24.	Isaiah 11:2	– wisdom and understanding
25.	Luke 11:13	– receives great gifts from the Father

Romans 2: 2-29

Principles of God's Judgement

1. According to **Truth** (v.2) – not the lie of Gen 3:4
2. **Thankfulness** is measured (v.4)
3. **Accumulated Guilt** (v.5)
4. According to **Works** (v.6-7)
5. **Impartial** (no favored people) (v.11)
6. **Doers** not just Hearers (v.13)
7. **Secrets of the Heart** (v.16)
8. Race doesn't matter (v.17-29)

John 16:8-11

Questions to Ponder

- Have you or someone you know refused or became offended when asked to admit and confess **sin**? Does someone you know think they are self-**righteous** (good person) and doesn't have to worry about "**judgement**" after death?
- Do they know what **sin** is? Do they understand the meaning of **Righteousness**? Do they understand human justice based on the law system requires **Judgement** and know that it is based on the 10 Commandments?
- Why did Jesus Die? What does the Cross mean?
- Is the Cross offensive?
- Are you afraid of being ashamed of the Gospel and offending someone by declaring the need for them to repent of their sin?
- Why do you think people can hear and believe intellectually the news that Jesus is God, He loves them, he can give them peace with God and eternal life but for some reason they show no signs of the new birth?
- Do you have the courage to tell them the truth? **Isaiah 53:6**

Death, Resurrection & Holy Spirit

- V. 12 – **You cannot bear all things now** - principle of teaching – there was much more to learn, but there must be progress from simple to advanced truths – Precept upon precept – knowledge of God’s Word is knowledge about God.
- V.13 – **Spirit will guide you to all truth** – This was revealed in the New Testament writings of the Apostles. Truth speaks to the trustworthiness of the Jesus.
- V.13 – **He will not speak of Himself** (John 14:26) or on His own authority
- V.14. – **The Holy Spirit will Glorify Christ** – this is the principal work of the Holy Spirit. By this we can test all Teaching & Preaching – does it have the effect of magnifying Jesus Christ. **1 John 4:1-3**

Death, Resurrection & Holy Spirit

- V.15 – **All Things that the Father has are Mine** – (Heb 1:1-2) – **Claim to deity!**
- V.16 & 19– **You won't see Me for a little while, then you will see Me** – The disciples were confused.
 - Could mean the 3 days in the grave; end of age (2,000 years); or by the Holy Spirit (after 50 days) or probably all three meanings.
- V.20 – **“Verily, Verily”** or “Truly, Truly” or “Most assuredly” is a Hebrew phrase for “Amen, Amen”, means to be Firm or Sure, or Trustworthiness or Faith – Hab. 2:4
- V.21 – **Child Birth analogy** – a mother quickly forgets her pain after childbirth.
- V.23-27 – Ask the Father in the name of Jesus and you will Receive (if you are abiding & obeying Christ and praying in His will)

John 16:24-33

Death, Resurrection & Holy Spirit

- V.25 – parables are used to both reveal and conceal the truth – In Acts, after the Holy Spirit comes, the truth is revealed clearly to the Apostles and to us through scripture
- V. 26 – “At that day” = Pentecost & Church Age - we can come boldly to the Father for His grace in the name of Jesus because of what Christ did for us on the Cross.
 - **This is the Love of God – Jesus reconciles us to the Father**
- V.31 – **Do you believe?** – Comforting to know that even after all this, the Disciples still had imperfect faith.
- V.32 – You will be scattered – prophecy fulfilled
- V.33 – ³³ **These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**
 - Remember how this chapter started – they would be hated by the world because of their testimony of Christ. The purpose of this discourse is that the disciples might have peace, despite persecution.
 - Jesus overcame the world at the Cross, and we can rest assured that we already have the victory, and with the Holy Spirit, we will have new POWER of endurance and courage to face the world.