

# Encounter(ing) God

## Holy Spirit      Part 3

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### Introduction

**The Holy Spirit** — the person, the work, the ways of the Holy Spirit, who is our *Advantage*.

Jesus Himself describes ***the Mission of the Spirit***. What is the Advantage, the Holy Spirit sent to accomplish? Ultimately what is His goal? Why does He come upon us and give us power, boldness?

#### ***What is His mission?***

- **John 16:7-15**

<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.

- in verse 7 Jesus says, “*it’s better for you all if I leave... it’s to your advantage that I ascend to my Father...*”
- in verse 6 Jesus says to His disciples that they will be filled with sorrow, because He told them He was leaving. They were so focused on the absence of Christ, they were missing the purpose of it.

**Jesus limited Himself and ascended to His throne,  
so that we could receive the unlimited Spirit of God.**

**Jesus in John 16 gives us the mission of the Spirit — three powerful realities...**

**CONVICT THE WORLD  
GUIDE INTO TRUTH  
REVEAL THE SON**

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### Convict the World

**Convict the world concerning sin**

- **John 16:8, 10**

...when he comes, he will **convict** the world concerning **sin**... because they do not believe in me.

- the word “convict” in the original Greek literally means to ***expose the facts*** of a case...
  - on one hand, the Holy Spirit is like a prosecuting attorney, asking questions to expose reality

- on the other hand, in verse 7, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the *Helper*.” In Greek, it’s the word ‘*Paraclete*’ which means “Advocate, Counselor, Comforter, Encourager.”

*So, on one hand, the Holy Spirit is like a prosecuting attorney bombarding you with questions, exposing you... but on the other hand, He’s like a defense attorney, standing up for you, helping you...*

**OBJECTION:** is He arguing with himself? How can someone Prosecute you and Defend you at the same time?

Think of it this way...

**Illustration:** Two people escaping from some life-threatening danger — and they’ve almost made it out... but one of them starts to give up... and says, “Oh it’s useless, we’ll never get out... it’s too late for me... I won’t make it. It’s over. Go on without me.”

If you love that person... and some life-threatening danger is about to pounce on you, what do you do?

- You don’t cozy up next to them and say, “*Oh it’s okay. Everyone feels discouraged about different things here and there...*” NO WAY!
- You grab them by the shirt, you stand them up, you get in their face, you argue, you convict, you prosecute!
  - Why do you do that? *Because you love them.*

**This is what the Holy Spirit does.** Because there is a very real, a very serious life-threatening danger called Sin in your life...

**Illustration:** If you have a serious medical condition, what is the first thing a doctor has to do if he’s going to treat your condition? Somehow, he has to convince you that you have a condition that needs to be treated. He’s got to expose the facts of your health... if you’re ever going to find healing, you first have to face the seriousness of your condition.

***Just like a good doctor, the Holy Spirit points us to the cure... Jesus says, He will convict the world of sin and... verse 10.***

- **John 16:10**  
**“concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer”**
- Now, what this isn’t saying is, “*You have a terrible condition called sin, now try really hard to be a better person, stop doing all the bad stuff, behave like a righteous person would behave.*”
- that is what the world thinks Christianity is... it’s about being righteous. Living morally. This is even what many Christians think Christianity is... It’s about following the rules. My good outweighing my bad. Being moral, and righteous and upright.
- The problem with this perspective is that it makes our view of ourselves WAY too high, and our view of God FAR too low.

**What Jesus is saying here:**

- the Holy Spirit doesn’t say try harder, do better, be moral...
- The Holy Spirit says, it’s not up to you!
- The cure for the condition of sin is not what you can do, but what Christ has already done for you...
- you want to be free from Sin? You want to be cured?
- It’s not, be more righteous, you can’t! You don’t have what it takes to be righteous...

- that's why the Holy Spirit spent all that time prosecuting you...
- whatever righteousness and moral goodness you can muster up is as filthy rags before the Lord...
- The Spirit isn't saying, try real hard and *"live a more righteous life"*
- the Spirit says, "**look the Righteous One!**"

- **1 Corinthians 1:30**

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and **righteousness** and sanctification, and redemption,

- **1 John 2:1**

"...we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ **the Righteous.**"

*What Ananias told Paul as he received his sight after the Damascus road...*

- **Acts 22:14**

The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see **the Righteous One** and to hear words from his mouth.

- **To be convicted of righteousness means to see Jesus has made a righteousness for us that we receive through submission, surrender, trust, faith in Him.**
- **He takes our selfishness and sin upon Himself and places His righteousness upon us.**

***Sin is simply independence from God... it's declaring, I'm in charge of my life!***

- *But the moment you lay down your right to self-determination, your independence, your self-worship — and surrender your life to Christ, who is the Righteous One...*
- *God declares you at that very moment, "Righteous, Holy, Blameless..."*
- *You're cured, you're free from sin... you're a new creation... adopted into the family of God because of Christ's righteousness, imputed, placed upon us...*

**What happens next? The Holy Spirit convicts the world...**

- **John 16:11**

**concerning judgment**, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- The Holy Spirit is a like prosecutor, convicting the world of sin — it's for our benefit. It's the doctor trying to get us to realize the seriousness of our condition...
- But the ruler of this world (Satan) is a different kind of prosecutor, **he is a persecuter** — he exposes us, in order to condemn us, to berate us, to steal, kill and destroy any semblance of the image of God that resides in us

**But everything that Jesus said, and everything He did is absolutely intentional.**

Look at the order...

The Holy Spirit brings conviction concerning sin, righteousness and judgment

- He convicts of sin, so that we might recognize the depth of our condition
- then He points to the Righteous One, the One who frees us, who liberates us, gives us a new name, new identity, a new family, a whole new abundant Spirit-filled life

- then the Holy Spirit convicts us, reminds us, points us to the reality — that the evil one (Satan), who does everything he possibly can to condemn us, is himself condemned already, and is just biding his time until his inevitable execution, once and for all.
  - the one who’s been beating you up, the one who’s been tempting you to sin, and then rubbing your face in... the one who reminds you of all your failures, all your hurts, who tells you that you’re a nobody, a nothing... you’ll never amount to anything... no one cares about you... you’ll never be loved...
  - the Holy Spirit convicts you, points you to the reality that the ruler of this world, the condemner of your soul, not *will be* judged, but *HAS ALREADY BEEN JUDGED*; and one day our King is going to take the one who has done everything he can to destroy your life, and toss him into the Lake of Fire...
  - No matter how difficult life gets... no matter what suffering or hardship you’re in, there is a day coming when every wrong will be made right, every injustice will be dealt with, and our enemy will be silenced once and for all!

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## Guide into Truth

- **John 16:13**  
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...

*At this time — Pastor Rob tells a personal story illustrating how the Holy Spirit within him illuminated truth, as he was able to comprehend it.*

- **John 16:12**  
“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”
- Jesus hadn’t yet sent the Spirit who would reside in them, and give them the ability to comprehend, to understand...

**INTERESTING:** *in all of Paul’s prayers for the churches that were facing persecution and suffering — He never once prays for easier circumstances? He never prays, “God make life easier for them.”*

*But over and over again He prays, “God, help them know you. Give them a deeper understanding of you. Help them grasp how much you love them.”*

- WHY? Why is that his prayer? Why isn’t he praying for better circumstances? Or against discouragement?

**Illustration:** When we’re feeling down, or stuck in life... here’s what most of us think... “*I need new circumstances — or we think, I’m deficient in some knowledge, missing some information... there’s some trick to life that I’m missing.*”

- That’s why the self-help industry is raking in billions of dollars every year... they’ve learned to capitalize on this. 5 steps to a better you. Get the Promotion by Friday. Change your children with one word. How to get in shape with 1 easy trick.
- *The bigger issue is that the information that you already have isn’t real to you. If I want to get in shape...? Move more, eat less. I already know that! But it’s not real to me, or I’d be in better shape!*

- This is why Paul doesn't pray for better circumstances... He prays that the church would know the depth of God's love for them over and over and over again. WHY?
- Paul understood for the church then and the church now, **that if the love of God ever became real to us, it wouldn't change our circumstances, but it would change us, and give us the power to navigate whatever circumstances we may face.**

**This is what the Holy Spirit does.**  
**He guides us into all truth.**  
**He takes spiritual truths and makes them real to us.**  
**He takes an intellectual understanding and makes it real, experiential.**  
**He illuminates the mysteries of God for those who believe.**

- **1 Corinthians 2:14**  
The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.
  - The Holy Spirit guides you, leads you, illumines in you, ALL truth

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## Reveal the Son

- **John 16:14**  
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.  
**Jesus says that the Spirit isn't going to just give you general truth for truth's sake... the Spirit has a very specific mission...**

*Jesus says, "The Spirit will give you what you really need, not just knowledge, not just truth, but He's going to reveal everything about Me, who I am, my life, my death, and all that's yet to come, my death, resurrection, ascension, and return... He'll reveal who I am, what I've done, what I'll do, and who you are in Me."*

**OBJECTION:** Someone out there might say, "Well, I believe God loves me... but the whole thing that Jesus is God... it's just hard to accept. I don't believe it."

**Question** — If that's what you believe, your life will never be changed. Because the question is, has the love of that God, the one that you believe in... has it ever brought you to tears? Has it ever overwhelmed you? Have you ever been overcome with gratitude and uncontainable joy because of the love of the God you believe in?

- The answer is no. Because your idea of God is vague and ambiguous. It's not concrete. It has no flesh.

### But Jesus does.

Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, one with God, in beginning with God, all things created through Him... left His Heavenly throne and put on flesh. He walked among us. He laughed with us. He cried with us. He fought for us. He was torn apart and murdered for us... conquered death for us, rose again for us, won that eternal victory for us! If that ever becomes real to you... you know what you won't be?

Indifferent about the love of some vague God that you believe loves you. **You'll be crushed under the weight of His glorious love for you, as revealed to you in the person of Jesus by the Spirit of God.**

## TO WHAT END?

**The mission of the Spirit is to reveal the Son to us  
so that He can reveal the Son through us.**

## IT'S ABOUT MISSION

The Father sent the son...

the Son ascended to send who?

The Spirit

Who does the Spirit send?

You. Me.

- **You. Me.** He comes into our lives, transforms us, and sends us out empowered to be and do all that God has created us to be and do! **That's the church.**

*“The Christian’s life in all its aspects—intellectual and ethical, devotional and relational, upsurging in worship and outgoing in witness—is supernatural; only the Spirit can initiate and sustain it. So apart from him, not only will there be no lively believers and no lively congregations, there will be no believers and no congregations at all.”<sup>1</sup>*

*~ J. I. Packer*

## Without the Holy Spirit...

- there will be no vibrancy in our relationship with Christ...
- no illuminated understanding of the nature and character of God,
- no missional unction or empowering,
- and a lifeless, mission-less, powerless church.... even no church at all.

## BUT...

- if we take hold of all of the things that are ours in Christ...
- when the Holy Spirit, our heavenly Advantage for an earthly purpose...
- when the Spirit reveals the deep things of God to us in Christ, and we take hold of them...
- we won't be able to help but live lives that brings Glory to Him.

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<sup>1</sup> J.I. Packer, *Keep in Step with the Spirit: Finding Fullness in Our Walk with God* (Baker Books, 2005) 15

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## What is ours in Christ?

- **Ephesians 1:3-14**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with **every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and blameless** before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for **adoption to himself** as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has **blessed us** in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to the **riches of his grace**, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making **known to us the mystery of his will**, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, <sup>14</sup> who is **the guarantee of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it so important that Jesus leave the earth, so that His purpose could be fulfilled?
2. How can the Holy Spirit be a “prosecuting attorney” and a “defense attorney” at the same time?
3. What is the difference in how the evil one is a “*persecuting* attorney”?
4. Does knowing that the evil one has already been judged give you confidence in standing up to the lies of the enemy?
5. Why didn’t Paul pray for better circumstances for the persecuted church?
6. What is the ultimate mission of the Holy Spirit?
7. How do you fit into that mission?

# NOTES