

June 11, 2017

# Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, and the work of the Holy Spirit

## Questions - John 14:12-31

1. **(12-14)-Greater things than these will you do because I am going to the Father.** Discuss what the greater things might be, because we have the gift of the Holy Spirit indwelling us as believers.
2. **15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth.** How are the disciples to show love to one another, and to Jesus? Why do you think this idea is repeated four times (15, 21, 23-24)? Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. In the light of this prophecy, being fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit to disciples, what is the part that the Holy Spirit does here, that enables love and obedience?
3. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in V18, 25-27? Of all the promises about the Holy Spirit that are given here, which impacts you the most? Why?
4. What is the difference between the peace Jesus gives, and the peace of the world? Where do you need Jesus' peace?

## Questions for 15:26-16:15

1. **I this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them.** We live in a relatively free country, where persecution for faith amounts to the scorn of friends, family or neighbours. Consider the story of the Coptic Christians, and their reaction to those who persecute them, because of their faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. As you are challenged by their faith in the face of such brutality, consider what might be the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, to enable such faithfulness.
2. **26 “When the Advocate 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.** Consider the idea “The work of God is **the work of God**.” Explore and describe how the Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus, and how he enables us to testify.

3. **8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.** The Holy Spirit not only works in us who know and love Jesus, but works in the lives of those we come in contact with. The idea is that the Holy Spirit goes before us and prepares people to hear truth. Paraphrase the three goals of the Holy Spirit’s work (8-11), for those who we come in contact, considering conviction of sin, what constitutes righteousness, and judgement? Read Acts 2:14-41, as an example of how the Holy Spirit worked in the life of Peter as he testified, and in the light of those who heard his message and responded with faith. In this light of this, explain Jesus comment that it is better for him to go away. What are the benefits for the first disciples, and for us, today?
4. **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 the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”** The Holy Spirit gave the first disciples (apostles) prophetic understandings of the events surrounding Jesus, the incarnation, his life and teaching, the need for his suffering and death, and the reasons for it, the vindication of the resurrection, and what that means, the way the Holy Spirit will work, and what will happen at the end of this age. This is the content of the New Testament. How do we, as disciples today, experience the guidance and growth we need from the Holy Spirit, as disciples, becoming more like Jesus?