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John 16

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

John 16.

Topics.

- Whoever kills you will think they are doing a service for God.
- The Helper, Comforter and Spirit of truth.
- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.
- Whatever you ask of the Father in my name, He will give it to you.
- Praying in Jesus name.
- I came from the Father and have come into the world.
- In the world you will have tribulation, but I have overcome the world.
- In Christ you may have peace.
- In the world you will have tribulation.
- Take heart; I have overcome the world.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus is eating the Last Supper with his eleven apostles he told them that he is the true vine, and his Father is the vinedresser and that just as the Pharisees scribes and priests hated him, they will hate them. He then comforts them by saying that he will send them the Spirit of truth to help them witness and testify of him.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

1

JESUS IS STILL EATING THE LAST SUPPER WITH HIS DISCIPLES

NOTE: it is thought-provoking to remember that through this entire conversation Jesus is fully aware that Judas is about to come with soldiers and take him to face an agonising, bloody and brutal death.

JOHN 16:1-4

Whoever kills you will think he is doing God a Service.

- **John 16:1-4:** "I have said all these things to you (the eleven apostles) to keep you from falling away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴But 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.

The things Jesus had said to the apostles relates back to his conversation with them in the previous chapter especially his discussion regarding the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes telling them they will aggressively hate and persecute anyone who confesses to be a follower of him.

Whoever kills you will think they are doing a service for God: the following is absolutely stunning and shows how powerful deception can be and how murderous behaviour can stem from an underlying wrong belief in the heart and the mind. Jesus says to the eleven apostles "Whoever kills them will think they are doing God's will." The word

whoever in this context primarily refers to the Jewish religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief Priests, Pharisees and scribes) and those who were under their authority. The book of Acts and history show how true these words of Jesus were. The hostile Jewish religious rulers sent their followers to persecute and kill the apostles and anyone else who was confessing the name of Jesus. The stunning and overwhelming horror of this is that they actually believed by murdering those who confessed Jesus they were doing God's will and protecting the truth of God's word. The chief priests, Pharisees and scribes had religious authority over the nation of Israel they claimed to believe in God and be His representatives and priests on earth, yet they rejected Jesus and hated the apostles and were willing to sanction murder to protect what they believed was the truth of God's word. This clearly shows that beautiful temples and opulent church buildings and a worldwide following cannot be taken as evidence that the priests or ministers of that religious institution are doing the will of God. This reality of course is one of the reasons Jesus says:

- You will recognize them by their fruits every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (Matt 7:16-20).

By their fruit, means by their outward behaviour and actions. A healthy tree (faith) embraces things like compassion, forgiveness and mercy etc., it is treating others with respect and decency whereas a diseased tree (religion) would be full of hypocrisy, lust for power and control, fighting, quarrelling and even going to war thus a healthy tree is governed by love, mercy and compassion etc., whereas a diseased tree is governed by pride and self-serving ambition.

NOTE: it seems almost unbelievable (to me at least) that people could kill and murder and believe they are doing what God wishes, but throughout history religious leaders and groups like the Ku Klux Klan claiming to be Christian have murdered innocent people who they believed to be offensive to God and there have been many others who have gone to war in the name of God. Even today some religions sadly have extremist who teach their teenage children to strap bombs on themselves and walk into coffee bars to kill men, woman and children who they believe to be enemies of God etc., but every man woman and child on planet earth should know that when those who confess to be following God act in this brutal and murderous way rather than serving God they are a gross offence to Him and will be judged and condemned accordingly.

From the Beginning: Jesus words, "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you," (v4) refer to the beginning of his ministry with the apostles.

JOHN 16:5-11

Now I am going to Him who Sent Me.

- **John 16:5-11:** But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you (the eleven apostles) asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, 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. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Helper: (Comforter in KJV) means an intercessor, consoler supporter and carries the idea of an attorney, ally or friend who sympathises, defends and calms those who are in fear or trouble.

The Helper, Comforter and Spirit of truth: Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to God who sent him, though they may not have fully understood what he meant, they did know he was saying he would die,

we know this because sorrow filled their hearts (v6), but Jesus said it is to their advantage and by extension to the advantage of everyone who is seeking God that he is killed because if he is not there is no way the Helper/Comforter also called the Spirit of truth (v13) can come not only to them, but to whoever is seeking after God. The primary purpose of the Helper, Comforter and Spirit of truth is:

- To convict the world of sin because they do not believe in Christ.
- To convict the world of righteousness because he went to his Father.
- To convict the world of judgment.

To convict the world of sin: (v8-9) the world in this context firstly applies to the Jewish religious world then by extension to the entire world. The spiritual rulers of the Jewish world were the Pharisees scribes and priests. The death and resurrection of Jesus judged them in the sense that not only did it do away with their entire ceremonial rites and the need for the Levitical priesthood it took away their power and control over the people because the resurrection of Christ made the way to God open to all (Jew and Gentile) through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the sacrificial Lamb of God without blemish. No-one needs a human priest to intercede for them because Jesus has replaced all human priests. Jesus is the eternal and perfect High Priest that intercedes for the repentant sinner and all who belong to him. The world was convicted of sin by Christ because he spoke the truth and lived it, now the world is convicted by the Spirit of truth which is Christ's words we know this because Jesus himself says:

- I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).

To convict the world of righteousness: (v8, 10) The Spirit of truth convicts the world of righteousness because Jesus lived the perfect life before God which no human has ever been able to do, not even God's greatest prophets, Jesus is the only man who ever lived out his famous Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:17-48) (Luke 6:27-38) and therefore by his very name the world is convicted since his perfectness reveals our imperfectness.

To convict the world of judgment: the words, "To convict the world of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged (v8, 11)" refer to the following two things:

1. To the religious rulers of Jesus generation and their religious system of ceremonial rites and the keeping of traditions and legalistic rules to earn righteousness through self-effort.
2. To all religions, ministers and priests who teach or imply people are saved by keeping a set of rules, traditions or by self-effort.

All of these two groups have been judged and condemned by Christ's life, death and resurrection since Jesus life has clearly set the standard God requires for righteous which is a life without sin and only God's Son has ever lived such a life, thus every human is convicted because all fall short of God's holy and perfect standard.

SUMMARY: the primary purpose of the Helper, Comforter and Spirit of truth was to aid the apostles and by extension all who belong to Christ in witnessing. The main aim of the Spirit of truth is to reveal a person's lack of righteousness as they hear the words of Christ and convict them of their need for someone to redeem and reconcile them to God.

JOHN 16:12-15

When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will Guide you into all the Truth.

- **John 16:12-15:** "I still have many things to say to you (the eleven apostles) but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

NOTICE: The Comforter or Helper is now called the Spirit of truth.

Since the eleven apostles did not have the Good News of the Gospel and the New Covenant in written form Jesus tells them that the Spirit of truth (the Spirit of Christ) will guide them into all truth as well as reveal to them future events. The Spirit of truth will glorify Christ and reveal to the eleven apostles everything that Christ has spoken during his three years with them. Today we have the exact same Spirit of truth (the Spirit of Christ) that Christ revealed to the apostles in the written word of God. It could be said today that the New Testament is the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of truth and that we receive the Spirit of truth as we read and believe the words of Christ.

I still have many things to say to you: Jesus words, "I still have many things to say to you" (v12) most likely refers to his brutal, torturous, bloody and cruel death which of course they could not bear to hear until after the resurrection and his words, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth," (v13) refers to the following two things:

1. To himself rising from the dead and appearing to them at which time they all would have understood what he meant when he told them that he would be killed and rise the third day.
2. To the Holy Spirit being poured out on them as recorded in Acts chapter two and enlightening them to the Good News of the Gospel which Peter boldly stood up and proclaimed and three-thousand responded and were baptised (Acts 2:1-41).

The Holy Spirit and the Spirit of God: The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and has many personas (faces) and aspects (traits). The title given to the Spirit of God depends on the context of the role or function that the Spirit of God is to minister in (i.e. if it is help the Spirit is called, the Comforter/Helper, but if the context is in relationship to the right understanding of the word of God the Spirit is given the title, the Spirit of Truth). The titles simply show the reader the function the Spirit is involved in, but it is all the same Spirit which of course is the Spirit of God thus the reason it is called the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the primary title of God's Spirit, but it has many subtitles that express the activity or function God's Spirit is ministering in.

JOHN 16:16-19

A little while and you will not See Me and a little while and you will See Me.

- **John 16:16-19:** "A little while, and you (the eleven apostles) will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?"

Jesus knowing Judas is about to appear with the officers of the religious authorities to take him captive and that he is about to lay down his life tells the eleven that very shortly they will see him no longer and then that they will see him again, of course they have no idea of what he is talking

about. Remember prior to Jesus being resurrected from the dead people's belief concerning life after death was believed to be in some form of eternal consciousness or spirit being it had not entered into the mind (except for a few prophets) that God could raise the human body from the dead to eternal life and everlasting glory.

JOHN 16:20-22

You will Weep and Lament, but the World will Rejoice.

- **John 16:20-22:** Truly, truly, I say to you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

The eleven have no idea what Jesus has been talking about and now he tells them that very soon they will be weeping while the world will be rejoicing.

Great sorrow and great joy: Jesus pictures his death and resurrection as a woman giving birth. Figuratively the woman can be seen as faithful Israel giving birth to their Messiah the Christ. His torture and death symbolised by the woman's labour pains and great sorrow and the resurrection symbolised by the birth and enormous joy for the following two reasons:

1. Christ is risen.
2. Christ's death and resurrection brought about the birth of an entire New Covenant, a new perfect and eternal High Priest and the Good News of the Gospel for both the Jews and Gentiles.

JOHN 16:23-30

Whatever you Ask the Father in my Name, he will Give it to You.

- **John 16:23-30:** In that day you (the eleven apostles) will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." ²⁹His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God."

Jesus words, "In that day," (v23, 26) refers to the day Jesus appears to the apostles, prior to his death and resurrection they would have literally asked Jesus not God for anything they needed because he was with them, but Jesus knowing he is about to ascend to heaven tells them if they go to God in his name God will grant them whatever they ask so that they will be flooded with joy. The following is fabulous: Jesus explains to the eleven and by extension all who belong to him that when they pray in Jesus name it does not mean that Jesus will then have to go to the Father to plead their case for them, because there is no need since God loves all those who are devoted and faithful to His Son and therefore will answer their prayer.

The Father does not need Jesus to plead the case of those who belong to Christ since He sees their devotion and love for His Son and therefore loves them and is willing to favour them.

Praying in Jesus name: in Jesus name does not simply mean tagging the name of Jesus on the end of a prayer. In Jewish culture a person's name embraces everything that person is and stands for. Praying in Jesus name therefore means praying from an attitude of kindness, love, mercy, forgiveness and according to whatever will add to God's Kingdom and bring a good testimony to the name of Jesus. Praying in Jesus name carries the idea that a person is living a life in a manner that is worthy of the name of Jesus.

The apostles and praying in Jesus name: during the time Jesus was on earth with the apostles they would not have thought to pray to God the Father since they had their Messiah the Christ with them, but now Jesus is saying, to them that after his resurrection they will not be able to ask him for anything simply because he will not be with them, but if they ask the Father in his name God will give them whatever they ask. So far they have known Jesus as a great prophet and the Christ, but have not fully comprehend the enormity of who he is or the enormous suffering and agonising death he is about to go through.

The hour is coming when I will tell you plainly about the Father: Jesus words, "The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father" (v25) refers to when he appeared to them after his resurrection, it was then that they understood all that he had said to them and when he was able to clearly speak to them about God his heavenly Father. Even though at the Last Supper the eleven apostles said they understand what Jesus was talking about (v29) they still did not fully comprehend that he would surrender to his enemies, be brutally and cruelly tortured and that his bloody and bleeding body would be nailed to a cross and three days later raised from the dead.

I came from the Father and have come into the world: Jesus words, "I came from the Father and have come into the world." (v28) does not mean that he pre-existed with God, but that he was born of the Father by the creative power of God's Holy Spirit and that he was sent and favoured by God his heavenly Father and the words, "I am leaving the world and going to the Father." (v28) refers to his death and resurrection to the right-hand side of God. For further information see:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity), in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

JOHN 16:31-33

In the World you will have Tribulation, but I have Overcome the World.

- **John 16:31-33:** Jesus answered them, "Do you (the eleven apostles) now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Jesus is fully aware that when the officers of the Pharisees come to take him away captive the apostles will desert him and return to their own homes.

NOTICE: Jesus gets his strength not from his friends, but from his heavenly Father, there is a lesson in this for us all, our emotional, mental and spiritual strength should not come from our family or friends but from our relationship with Christ and knowing that he will never turn us away or give up on us.

In Christ you may have peace: Jesus words, "In me you may have peace," are directed toward the eleven apostles, but by extension to all who belong to Christ. The peace in focus is mental, emotional and spiritual peace. Those who belong to Christ have peace for two reasons:

1. Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ righteousness is imputed as a free gift by God the Father to those who are devoted to His Son so that those in Christ are set free from the law of sin and death which states, "The wages of sin is death," (Rom 6:23) meaning those who sin must die (eternally).
2. Those who belong to Christ have peace because they are set free from striving to earn righteousness by self-effort and keeping rules, traditions and religious deeds since eternal life is granted to those in Christ (Jews and Gentiles) as a, "Free gift from God to all who are in the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 6:23).

In the world you will have tribulation: Jesus words, "In the world you will have tribulation" refers not only to the conflict and persecution the world will inflict on those who do not believe, but also the troubles that come into our lives because we live in a body and a world that is flawed by sin (self, pride, ego, greed and coveting etc.).

Take heart; I have overcome the world: Jesus words, "Take heart; I have overcome the world" means that through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, "Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:38-39). This means nothing in or of this world can rob those in Christ from their salvation and eternal life. All the power to sever those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ from their salvation and rob them from eternal life is totally in their own control since the only power to separate them from their inheritance to eternal life and everlasting glory lies in their own choice to remain in Christ or turn away from the Good News of the Gospel and deny him.

NOTE: there is often confusion over Christian salvation (i.e. has keeping the Ten Commandments been replaced by grace so that whoever believes can do as they please and still be saved). Paul beautifully answers this by saying to his disciples:

- Thanks be to God that you have become obedient from the heart to God's standard of right living (Rom. 6:17-18).

Meaning they willing desire to live in a manner that is worthy of God and Christs name (Rom. 6:17-18).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
