

The Advocate

John 16:5-16

Life Group Discussion – December 9th, 2018

Today's passage is when Jesus is talking to the Disciples about the Holy Spirit. The Disciples have followed and been trained under Jesus, so they would become afraid when He wasn't there, because they believed they could not do anything without Him. But Jesus promises something amazing to the Disciples and to us when He is not on Earth. He promises the Advocate, or the Holy Spirit.

But now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:5-7)

One of the most beautiful things in this life is having faith. Because having faith means you begin to have a relationship with the God who loves you. But the way we gain this faith and change our lives is only through the Holy Spirit. We cannot transform our own selves through our own abilities; it must be purely through the Holy Spirit.

But we continue to rely on our own strength and look to the counsel of others when problems arise. But those will always have a limit. Our own abilities can only take us to a certain point, and everyone has fallen short and will make mistakes. This is why we must first go to the Advocate who will not fail us.

The Holy Spirit is what corrects our path and allows our ears to be open for criticism. This world is full of sin, and the people here will always say that sin is allowable. But the Bible says that God and sin cannot mix. Therefore the bad things in this world

are only shown to us through the Bible and from a realization given to us through the Holy Spirit. The world teaches us that success and achievement here is everything. And in order to get those things, we can cheat, lie, and steal. If we did not have the Word of God or the Holy Spirit, we would naturally go towards those things. But the Holy Spirit is here to correct us and give us a new vision and a new direction.

When we rely on the Holy Spirit, we are given power.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Without the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing. Our prayer has no power and our evangelism will not do anything. So the most important thing we can do is pray that we are filled by the Holy Spirit. If we have the power of the Holy Spirit, it won't matter how terrible we are in our speech or words, lives will be changed. People's hearts will be healed. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we are able to transform anything.

SHARING-----

1. Jesus knows He will be leaving the Disciples soon. But He tells them that it will be a benefit, not a curse, that He is leaving them. The Holy Spirit was going to lead them and give them direction after Jesus. Was there a time the Holy Spirit corrected or showed you the right path?
2. What does it mean to you to be "Filled by the Holy Spirit"? Has your understanding changed through this sermon?