

GUIDED INTO TRUTH

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Introduction

1. Imagine that you are going away and you are intending to leave your kids behind. You are standing in the doorway giving them final instructions – and you can tell they are not connecting. You're not overly concerned however, because a family member is coming over to stay with the kids. That trusted family member would later fill in all the details. The information still is important to share even if much of it seemed to pass over the heads of the children. After the parents leave, and the family member comes over and begins to relay the information, what was said earlier by the parents would now make more sense.
2. Jesus is departing. His disciples will remain behind. They have been receiving truth for some time, but Jesus was always around to give counsel to straighten out their confusion. But He is going away. However, He is sending the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will not be in flesh like Jesus, but He will be present with them, and He will never go away from them. That was not something easy to understand. Jesus assured them that the Spirit would be working in them and for them. Last week we considered what the Spirit would do for them and what the Spirit would do for the world around them.
3. For them and all who would later believe, the Holy Spirit would **keep** them from falling; He would keep them through difficult trials, fulfilling the promises that had been made to them by Jesus. In regard to the world, the Holy Spirit would **convict** them. He would convict them of sin and righteousness and judgment.
4. Today we pick up what the Holy Spirit would do **for Jesus** and what He would do **for the eleven** specifically. What we learn today can also be applied to us and I will try to give you some suggestions how that might look.
5. Kids. You have done well. Thank you for completing your activity sheets. Today we are talking about the Holy Spirit – who He is and what He does. When Jesus told His

disciples He would send them the Holy Spirit, He promised that the Spirit would guide the disciples into what (**all truth**)? One role of the Holy Spirit is toward the Lord Jesus. What did Jesus say the Spirit would do toward Him (**glorify Him**)? Toward the end of this message I will talk about revelation and something else. The something else is a big word that means to shine the light on something. What is that big word (**illumination**)?

I. WHAT THE SPIRIT WOULD DO FOR JESUS (4-7, 14)

A. The Spirit made it possible for Jesus to return to the Father (To refresh our memories this is from last week's text. ***4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you...7 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***). This is review from last week.

1. Certainly the disciples were grieved that Jesus was leaving them, and so He comforted them with the promise of this other Comforter whom He would send.
2. The disciples were being left behind and they were expected to serve as witnesses in a world that would hate them and likely persecute them. You can understand why they needed the assurance that the Holy Spirit would be participating with them in that witness. In very brief but rich terms, Jesus described how.
3. Knowing their capacity to take in all that had been said (which was not very much), Jesus promised that though they did not get it now, the Spirit would come and help them when they were better able to handle it. Though they may not have believed it at the time, Jesus' going and the Holy Spirit's coming were for their good. Last week I tried to illustrate the behavior of the disciples later that night in comparison with their behavior soon after the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Surely it was no exaggeration what Jesus said in regard to the Spirit's work! What the Holy Spirit would do for the disciples made it possible for Jesus to return to the Father. But the Spirit would not be coming until after Jesus returned to the Father. The Spirit made it possible for Jesus to return to the Father; that's one ministry the Holy Spirit had toward the Lord Jesus. That's review. Now listen and hear what else the Holy Spirit would do for the Lord Jesus in verse 14.

B. The Spirit makes it a priority to glorify the Lord Jesus (14) - ***He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.***

1. Jesus Christ is glorified when His followers become saturated with truth about Him.

2. The Holy Spirit is not in the spotlight. That is reserved for Jesus. But the Holy Spirit is not an optional extra either. He is essential to our salvation and necessary for our life and ministry. He glorifies the Son of God and calls upon us to do the same. It's not wrong to talk about the Spirit or to trust the Spirit or even to speak to the Spirit and of the Spirit, but it is wrong to emphasize the work of the Spirit above the Lord Jesus – a mistake that some make.
3. Perhaps this is as good as any place to call for a balance in the manner in which we respond to the work of the Spirit. Some believers think that careful study and proclamation of the Scripture is dead and unspiritual, so they opt for loud praises in worked up emotions, the louder the better. (I've had people criticize me for preparing sermons in advance and bringing notes into the pulpit. If I were really spiritual, if I was really tuned in, I would just open my mouth and see what the Spirit would say). Others seem to think that any emotion is extreme; it is of the flesh. Somber, quiet reflection is the only legitimate avenue of worship. Is there a correct answer and if so, what it is? In the words of one commentator, ***“We who are believers must learn to glorify Jesus by increasingly apprehending as much graciously revealed truth as we can, forging it into our lives until it both transforms us and prompts spontaneous and enthusiastic praise. Away with willfully ignorant clamor; away with arid truth intellectually appropriated but never absorbed or implemented”*** (Carson, pp. 151-152).
4. But again, it is not the Spirit who is in the spotlight. It is Jesus Christ!

II. WHAT THE SPIRIT WOULD DO FOR THE DISCIPLES (12-13, 15)

A. He will guide into all truth - ***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.***

1. The disciples at this point were not able to even begin to comprehend the coming death and resurrection of Jesus, much less understand the significance of these events and how that would play out in the years to come. To try to explain that significance would have been pointless at that time. And furthermore, they were simply too immature to grasp any more of what Jesus might teach.
2. The Lord Jesus knew, however, that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth, in the sense that He would complete the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Actually, all

that the Holy Spirit would give would be from Jesus Himself. Jesus would make the revelation known and the Spirit would guide these men into all the truth that Jesus was making known.

B. He will declare what is to come

1. Already hinted, this seems to promise that not only would the Holy Spirit bring to remembrance what Jesus had taught the disciples, but He would also make known what these things meant and how these things were completed in Christ.
2. Jesus was talking about the NT canon (the 27 books that make up the NT). In time, a converted Pharisee would pen several letters and many of them would be correctly regarded as God's revelation to us (13 of them). A physician named Luke would write one quarter of the NT (The "Gospel according to Luke" and "The Acts of the Apostles"). Two half-brothers of Jesus would add more to the canon, though at this time they remained unbelievers (James and Jude). It worked something like this: The Holy Spirit, using the style and vocabulary and life experiences of the various writers, **directed** them to write exactly what Jesus wanted revealed and He **protected** what they wrote to be exactly what Jesus intended without any human imperfections. The revelation came from Jesus declared by the Spirit through the pen of the Bible writers, all of it proclaiming Jesus as Lord!
3. What the Holy Spirit makes known is what the Lord Jesus desires to make known. The Holy Spirit **will take what is mine and declare it to you**. As Jesus was dependent upon the Father during His earthly ministry so the Holy Spirit would be dependent upon Jesus during this revelatory ministry spoken of by Christ here. So the Holy Spirit will make known to these who will record His revelation, the truth about Jesus Christ. Remember in Hebrews 1, "**Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**" Jesus was speaking through the Holy Spirit as He was working in the lives of those who would record the NT. The words that they recorded were not adding something new to what Jesus had revealed during the time of His incarnation. Rather it was an explanation leading to the implications of that truth! The New Testament is the Lord Jesus speaking! To say it another way, the theme of the NT as given by the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ. For Jesus directed the Spirit to make Him known to us and that's what He has done!

4. Perhaps a word about **“guide you into all truth”** with **“he will declare to you the things that are to come”** is needed. This is not a promise for additional revelation from the Holy Spirit. You will hear many so called prophets who will announce that God has spoken to them regarding sequence and timing of events heralding the return of Jesus. These will be credited to the Holy Spirit. This verse may be cited as a proof text for what they are declaring. Based on what Jesus said here and throughout the Gospels, that seems to lack legitimacy. The emphasis here is the completion of the NT. And the NT is complete. And John does give us a peek into the end of the age in the final book of the NT. It is not an easy book to understand, but it does declare in reasonably clear language that Christ will come and He will destroy the enemy once and for all, and He will reign forever with those whom He has redeemed. All that He intended from the beginning and promised as recorded in the Scripture will happen exactly as He said. Sequence and timing mostly remain a mystery. The ultimate victor, however, is not held in suspense. It is clearly stated because the Holy Spirit guided those who wrote the truth about it. To quote from God's final revelation to us, ***“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”*** There is no doubt how all of this concludes! We have all we need now to live by faith to the glory of God until He either quietly takes us home or loudly comes to get us!

Conclusion

1. The work of the Holy Spirit in us now is to help us understand what the revelation of Jesus means and how it can be applied in our lives. If I am struggling to understand, along with careful consideration on my part, I should ask Him to help me understand.
2. Remember that we are talking illumination, not revelation. God is not sharing new information. He is shining light on what He has already said.
3. Let me explain. In Bible College and seminary, before every class it was customary to begin class with prayer – either by the professor or one of the students. We also prayed on exam days. Some of us were quietly praying for illumination – “Dear God, please help me to recall the things that I have studied and help me to answer in a way that demonstrates that I understand the material on which I am being tested.” Others were praying for revelation – “Dear God please give me the answers. I didn't pay attention

in class and I failed to study for the test. Please bless my guesses to be good enough to pass this course!"

4. God has given to us His Word...His Word! His revelation! We can know what is important to Him and we can know Him! We don't have to try to sift out truth from error. It's all truth. We don't have to wonder what parts really are the Word of God. We don't have to pray that what we are reading will become the word of God to us. It is God's Word – all we need for life and all we need to live godly in Christ!
5. When we come to a passage that is tough to understand we take some time to think about it and to ask God to help us see it. The more we ponder, likely the more clearly it will be understood. We can also seek the counsel of others in person or through books and sermons – but always comparing what they have written with what God has provided in His Word. And we must always remember that in every text ultimately it is God who is to be glorified. If that is our focus we will likely remain on track.