

John 14-16: The Coming of the Holy Spirit

08-14-16 PM

John 13-17 is the conversation and teaching of Jesus to His disciples during and after the last supper. Several times in this portion of John Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit (whom He calls “the Helper”) who will come to the disciples (John 14:16-26, John 15:26-27, John 16:7-15). This conversation does not point as much to the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 (although this is where this coming” begins), but the coming of the Holy Spirit to all believers that is understood to be the Holy Spirit in Scriptural Inspiration (2 Peter 1:20-21, Ephesians 3:50 . Jesus did promise that the Holy Spirit would come with the miraculous power (Acts 1:7-8), as did the prophets (Joel 2:28-29).

In John Jesus describes several things about this coming. He said that Holy Spirit would come of HIS authority FROM the Father. He said that Holy Spirit would teach all men and would bring to remembrance what He (Jesus) had told them. He said that Holy Spirit would remain forever. Finally, He said that world cannot receive Him (Holy Spirit), and that He will convict the world.

Holy Spirit would be under the authority of Christ: Jesus made it clear that He needed to ascend to Heaven (to His throne) in order to send the Holy Spirit. This authority was different that past comings of Holy Spirit. Now the Spirit would be in the name of Christ, and thus is referred to as the Spirit of Christ (Philippians 1:19, Romans 8:9).

Holy Spirit would teach: We are told that the Scriptures reveal all things we need to know about serving God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). This indicates to us that the work of the Holy Spirit is done via the Scriptures. Jesus quoted the prophets when He said in John 6:45 “*they shall be taught by God*”; the Holy Spirit is God, and by His presence in the Scriptures, He (God) teaches us Himself. At the same time, **Holy Spirit would bring to the disciples a remembrance of Christ;** based on other passages which invoke the idea of remembrance (2 Timothy 2:14-15, Titus 3:1, 2 Peter 1:12), this too is accomplished by the presence of the Scriptures.

Holy Spirit would remain forever: We are told that the Word of God will abide with us forever (1 Peter 1:24-25). This parallel causes us to understand that Holy Spirit abides with us today as the Inspired Scriptures, which we are told are “*living and active*” (Hebrews 4:12).

The world cannot receive Him, and Holy Spirit will convict the world: The man who is in the world and has a mind to the world cannot understand the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:12-14). The world not receiving the Holy Spirit is the unforgivable sin (Matthew 12:31). Spiritual things cannot be discerned apart from Scriptures; as Jesus told Peter when he confessed the identity of Jesus “*flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven*” (Matthew 16:17). In this the Holy Spirit will convict the world of Christ; Jesus would parallel this statement in John 12:48 by telling us it was the Word of God that will judge us in the end.