



THE ADVANTAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life and/or the grace in your lives.

OPENING COMMENT

What could be better than having Jesus on earth right now? Jesus tells us that having the Holy Spirit is better! The Holy Spirit is given to the church in order to bring us through suffering, help us in evangelism and lead us into the truth.

READ THE TEXT: John 16.1-15

¹"I have said all these things to you 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. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you 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.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, 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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What assurance do Christians have that we will not run away from God (John 16:1)? For further study read Romans 8:31-39 and John 10:28-30.
2. How do I know if I have the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 14:17)? For further study read Romans 10:9-10 and 1 John 4:2-3.
3. What does the Holy Spirit convict of (John 16:8-11)? How does that impact our evangelism (sharing the gospel with others)?
4. Read John 16:13 and 2 Peter 1:20-21. How do these passages impact our understanding of Scripture?
5. How would you describe the role of the Holy Spirit from verses 13-15? What does that teach us about our role as Christians?
6. Does the Holy Spirit draw attention to himself? Who does he draw attention to?
7. What are the advantages of Holy Spirit being with us? And how can we get to know the Holy Spirit better?

CONCLUSION

Jesus reaffirms what He has said earlier in John's Gospel: What is better than having Jesus physically with us? Having the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and guides us into all Truth. As we come to know the Holy Spirit we find that he not only keeps us from falling away in suffering, he draws us to Jesus Christ through the gospel. The Holy Spirit seeks to glorify Jesus above himself. If that is true of the 3rd person of the Trinity, it must be true of us as well. If all things are wrapped up in Christ, may we be wrapped up in Him.

SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of what this text has impressed upon you.
- Pray for the Spirit's work in one another's lives in the various ways that He keeps us, guides us, and is preoccupied with Jesus.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

