

If you have observations or questions feel free send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. -Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18) **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**)

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to proclaim fearlessly the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions Pastor Victoria Adewumi has raised this week, 3/5, on John 16. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** Do not be daunted by the number of pages. As an editorial decision, I include each of the passages mentioned in full to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes, rather than having you, the reader, look up each reference. If your Bible is open beside you, you can transfer and annotate from these pages with ease.

At the end of the message notes, pages 5 to 8, I have made notes on the remainder of the chapter and footnotes (*) to help dig deeper into some of the principles and controversies this passage raises. *These notes are offered to enhance understanding and are not designed to complicate discussions in life group.* This week I covered ideas:

1. On the Holy Ghost or the Holy Spirit.
2. On the progressive promise of the Holy Spirit, a review of John's gospel.
3. On sin and faith in God.
4. On the all-sufficiency of the Bible.

Victoria begins with a review from last week (See footnote below.):_15: **18** If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me first. **19** If you were of the world, it would love you as its own. Instead, the world hates you, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world...**26** When the Advocate comes, whom I will send

to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me. [27](#)And you also must testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning

Persecution Foretold

[\(Acts 23:12–22\)](#)

[1](#)“I have told you these things so that you will not fall away. [2](#)They will put you out of the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. [3](#)They will do these things because they have not known the Father or Me. [4](#)But I have told you these things so that when their hour comes, you will remember that I told you about them. I did not tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

1. Why does Jesus forewarn them of the world’s hatred?
2. How will the Holy Spirit testify concerning Jesus? Who else does Jesus say will also testify concerning Jesus? And who else is included in this task? How will we testify? Who testifies through us?
3. What is your reaction to the above warning? Victoria asks, “What keeps us faithful in these trials that have been promised?” Answer her. **Look up Matthew 10: 18** On My account, you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. [19](#)But when they hand you over, do not worry about how to respond or what to say. In that hour you will be given what to say. [20](#)For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you....(This is repeated in Mark 13:11 and Luke 12:11-12.) Is this promise a comfort? Do you have a testimony?
4. How do you manage a sudden and surprise difficulty at home or at work? Have you ever been in a panic situation? Do you have a testimony? Are you good in a crisis? Is a difficulty easier to handle for you if you have been forewarned and you know you have the best equipment? What is required of you, when you want to optimize the use of your emergency equipment? How do you optimize your relationship with the Holy Spirit, so that you are best equipped and ready?
5. From memory, what happened when the Holy Spirit came on the disciples at Pentecost? (Acts 2) What was the fruit? How did the disciples handle the persecution that they faced?

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

[\(John 14:15–26\)](#)

[5](#)Now, however, I am going to Him who sent Me; yet none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’

[6](#)Instead, your hearts are filled with sorrow because I have told you these things. [7](#)But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit 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.

[8](#)And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: [9](#)in regard to sin, because they do not believe in Me; [10](#)in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; [11](#)and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world has been condemned.

1. Look closely at this passage. How many times has Jesus referred to “Him Who sent me?” Of whom is He speaking? Why are none of the disciples asking where He is going? Look at chapter 13:33. “...I am only with you a little while longer...Where I am going you cannot come.” He keeps saying He is going away. Do the disciples understand, yet?
2. How can it be to the benefit of the disciples that He go away? Would you rather have the Bearded and Sandaled One with you in the room reading this right now? Or the Holy Spirit? Which does Jesus say is the better choice? Why?
3. Victoria declares, “If I had the physical Jesus at my side, I’d have the problems of the world solved.” Do you agree? Why is that not the plan? Who can do the works Jesus did better than Jesus? (Remember what He told us in 14:12. “The works that I do, you’ll be doing also. And greater works than these you’ll be doing, because I’m going to the Father.” Now talk about why it is to our advantage that He go.)
4. Victoria continues, “When Jesus walked on earth, He was confined to one physical, geographical area.” How is it to God’s advantage today that He has Holy Spirit-filled believers? To what degree is He confined today? Think carefully? What do we need to break those barriers that still exist?
5. She says, “We have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside us. Prophets, priests and kings could only dream of this.” How is this an advantage to you today? She says, “Jesus died, rose again...and sent the Helper to be known.” React. Is it possible to know God better today than the twelve knew Jesus Himself? What will it take to know Him like that?
6. List and describe the specific tasks of the Holy Spirit spoken of in verses 8-15.
7. Sin: Why is it not our job to convict anyone of sin? Is that a relief? Is the Holy Spirit adequate for that task? How did He convict you of sin? Do you have a testimony? Victoria relates how she was convinced that the Spirit’s job was to convict her of her failures. Can you relate? Why is that wrong, according to this verse? What is the ultimate failure?
8. How is not believing in Jesus the ultimate sin? Explain. What happens to your sin when you believe in Jesus? If “they” do not believe, what does that say of you? How did you respond to the Holy Spirit when He came to you? How did your response change your perspective? To what degree?
9. Righteousness: How does Jesus returning to the Father disclose righteousness? By what means did Jesus return to the Father? How did His death prove His matchless righteousness? To whom does the Holy Spirit disclose His righteousness? If He discloses that righteousness to us, how and where will the world see His righteousness again, since He is no longer around to demonstrate that righteousness? Who now gets to demonstrate that righteousness? How are we doing? Is the plan working? Is anything missing? Look at what Paul tells the Ephesians in chapter 4: *21 Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him—in keeping with the truth that is in Jesus— 22 to put off your former way of life, your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be renewed in the spirit of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore each of you must*

put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one another. 26 "Be angry, yet do not sin." Do not let the sun set upon your anger, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. List the practical steps Paul gives us to "...put off the old way and...put on the new self." What does that new self look like? Whom does the new self look like?

10. Judgement: Are we getting judged? Who is getting judged? How do we know the Prince of the World has been condemned? (Look at what John says in 1 John 5: **3**For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome, **4**because everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. **5**Who then overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God....) How are we doing? If we're not overcoming yet, what's ahead, even "at hand?" What does "overcoming the world" even look like? Can you describe it? How will our overcoming the world prove beyond doubt that the ruler of this world has been cast down? Who will be ruling us when we have overcome?

12 I still have much to tell you, but you cannot yet bear to hear it. **13** However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. **14** He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you. **15** Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is Mine and disclose it to you.

List the tasks of the Holy Spirit here.

1. Review John 5:10: **19**So Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself, unless He sees the Father doing it. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does. **20***The Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does. And to your amazement, He will show Him even greater works than these....* How does this compare to the Spirit's tasks for us? How have the roles changed? Can you see how this might be to our advantage?
2. Look at 1 Corinthians 2: **9***Rather, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him."* **10***But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11*For who among men knows the thoughts of man except his own spirit within him? So too, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12***We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13*And this is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." List the tasks of the Holy Spirit as Paul describes them here? Do you have a testimony?
3. Who is your teacher? Can the Bible possibly contain all that we have to hear? Or is there more revelation than the Bible can contain? How do you know? What is Jesus preparing us for? (Step carefully. See footnote below.)

The Rest of the Story Grief Will Turn to Joy

16In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me.”

17Then some of His disciples asked one another, “Why is He telling us, ‘In a little while you will not see Me, and then after a little while you will see Me’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” **18**They kept asking, “Why is He saying, ‘a little while’? We do not understand what He is saying.”

19Aware that they wanted to question Him, Jesus said to them, “Are you asking one another why I said, ‘In a little while you will not see Me, and then after a little while you will see Me’? **20**Truly, truly, I tell you, you will weep and wail while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. **21**A woman has pain in childbirth because her time has come; but when she brings forth her child, she forgets her anguish because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. **22**So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

1. What exactly does Jesus mean, “You will see me no more, and then you will see me.” How? Through whom? Have you seen Him? What can you expect?
2. Ladies only please: How does the presence of the child born compare to the pains that brought the child forth?
3. At what point did the disciples hearts rejoice again, as Jesus describes here?

Ask in My Name

(Matthew 18:19–20)

23In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. Truly, truly, I tell you, whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. **24**Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

25I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. An hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you this way, but will tell you plainly about the Father. **26**In that day you will ask in My name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. **27**For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. **28**I came from the Father and entered the world. In turn, I will leave the world and go to the Father.”

29His disciples said, “See, now You are speaking plainly and without figures of speech. **30**Now we understand that You know all things and that You have no need for anyone to question You. Because of this, we believe that You came from God.”

31“Do you finally believe?” Jesus replied. **32**“Look, an hour is coming and has already come when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and you will leave Me all alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. **33**I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world!”

1. Describe boldness in prayer as Jesus describes it here. What are hindrances to that boldness? Does Jesus set any limits on our prayers? Do you? Why?
2. When is the hour that Jesus no longer speaks in “figures of speech?”
3. What hope is there in that Jesus overcame the world? What do His last words do for you. Take a minute to share the hope these words inspire.

Scribe's notes:

1. **On "Holy Ghost" or "Holy Spirit:"** The King James Bible calls the Holy Spirit the "Holy Ghost." Is there a difference between "ghost" and "spirit"? When you think about it, and how each word is used, it's easy to see that the two words are often used interchangeably. A ghost is a spirit. A spirit is a ghost. The origin of the two words is the difference. Ghost is an old English term that means "spirit, breath, angel, demon." Spirit is from the Latin *spiritus*, and means the same. Earlier in this series, in another footnote, I showed that the Hebrew word *ruach*, and the Greek word *pneuma*, are translated "breath," and "spirit." In John 22, Jesus will breath on his disciples and say, "Receive my Holy Spirit. (*Pneuma*/Breath) Modern translators chose "spirit" over "ghost" for the negative connotations associated with the latter in modern times.
2. **On the promised Holy Spirit:** Chapters 13 through 17 relate Jesus' last words to his closest disciples on the night of his betrayal. These chapters highlight the crux of the message Jesus wants them to remember. What he repeats in these chapters might rightly be said to bear more weight of significance than any other portion of this gospel we are to share of the Kingdom. Look closely at the progressive revelation Jesus offers of the Promise of the Father, first spoken of by John the Baptist: John 14: *15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you do know Him, for He abides with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 In a little while the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. **How will we see Him, but the world will not? Now remember what we learned last week: John 15: 26 When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me. 27 And you also must testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning. **What does Jesus reveal as the task of the Holy Spirit and the purpose of His coming? How does the Holy Spirit testify? Do we have any responsibility in this? Or were these instructions only for the apostles? If we do not testify, who will? Look at verse 14:18 above? Are we orphans?***** And finally, look at what Jesus says in chapter 16: *5 Now, however, I am going to Him who sent Me; yet none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 Instead, your hearts are filled with sorrow because I have told you these things. 7 But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit 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. 8 And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father*

and you will no longer see Me; [11](#)and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world has been condemned. [12](#)I still have much to tell you, but you cannot yet bear to hear it. [13](#)However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. [14](#)He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you. [15](#)Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is Mine and disclose it to you. [16](#)In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me.” **Jesus took what was the Father’s and disclosed it to all with ears to hear. Now Who takes from Jesus and discloses it? Explain the benefits of knowing the Holy Spirit? List His promised tasks? Do you have a testimony? Who is YOUR teacher? How much does the Spirit withhold? Look at verse 12. How can it be that Jesus is done teaching? Why cannot we hear it? When will we be able to hear it? Who will teach it?**

3. **On sin and faith in God:** The late Pentecostal preacher, R.W. Shambach used to say, “You don’t have any problems. All you need is faith in God.” How does that statement square up to what John said in his epistle, cited above, “This is the victory that overcomes the world...even our faith.” How does faith itself become an answer to our issues and difficulties?
4. **On the all-sufficiency of the Bible.** Is the Bible the complete record of all the Word and the works of God? This is a controversy that should never be lit, but unfortunately it divides believers too often. It’s not possible in a footnote to provide sufficient answer, but note again what Jesus tells us in verses 12-13: [12](#)I still have much to tell you, but you cannot yet bear to hear it. [13](#)However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. Notice the future tense? There might be things we need to hear looking at the days ahead, the likes of which cannot be found in the Bible. Remember what Jesus told us in chapter 14: [26](#)But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you. He’s not only our teacher, He’s our perpetual review! This fact is true: in these increasingly dark times, it is a danger to limit any communication the Holy Spirit has for us. We will need a word behind us saying, “This is the way. Walk in it,” whenever we turn to the right or to the left. (Isaiah 30:21) So, is the Bible all-sufficient? Yes, of course it is. It is the standard by which any communication is made. And the Word is the author of our expectations. We would not expect personal and particular guidance from the Spirit if Jesus had not promised it, knowing this: The Holy Spirit will never step away from the Father’s will or Word on any occasion for any reason. We measure what we hear according to the standard He Himself alone raised in His Word. It is incumbent upon the believer to know what He has believed. Paul told Timothy,

“¹²For this reason, even though I suffer as I do, I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day. ¹³Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching you have heard from me, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus....”

And this is how we keep ourselves free from error.