

The Message of the Spirit

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 16:4-16.

B. The Lord's desire was to reveal His relationship with the Father and the relationship they would need to handle life after Him.

II. There is a need for the Spirit of God.

A. Human beings need to be kept and supported--Jesus kept His disciples, but He was going away, so someone else would have to keep them.

B. We were born to be dependent.

C. The Spirit keeps us today. It is better that Jesus leaves because the Spirit--the strengthener--comes to bring power from within.

D. The Spirit convinces the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

1. When the Spirit comes to the Christian, He will convince the world of these things.

2. The world ought to see that the issue of life is Jesus and thus be convinced of sin of unbelief.

3. The world ought to be convinced of righteousness because when it looks at the church it ought to see a different standard of behavior.

4. The world ought to see judgment because there is coming a head on clash between the philosophy of the world and the philosophy of Jesus.

III. The process by which the Spirit teaches.

A. The pre-requisite: one has to know how to respond by faith and trust to the one within.

B. The Holy Spirit guides unto truth gradually.

C. The Spirit never gives isolated truth, and only speaks what He hears.

D. The Spirit will declare the things that are to come and the consequences that are ahead.

IV. The aim of the Spirit's teaching is the glorification of God.

A. All that the Father has will be given unto the believer.

B. The Spirit of God has come to give a quality of life that is worth living.

Application questions:

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to depart from the disciples? What benefit do modern believers have in this?

2. Can a believer glorify God without the Holy Spirit? Explain.

3. What kind of impact should we expect the Spirit to have on the world? Should the believer expect a positive relationship with the world because of this?
