

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## JOHN 16.1-15



**T. M. Moore**

*A Scriptorium Study*

*And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,*

*He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24.27*

**The Fellowship of Ailbe**

The Gospel of John: John 16.1-15  
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## Introduction to *John 16.1-15*

Jesus wants His friends to know that following Him will not be easy. But He is sending a Comforter to them, the Spirit of truth. He will teach and guide them into all truth, and show them everything the Father has given to Jesus.

The Spirit will glorify Jesus, and because He does, we will, too.

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## 1 That We May Not Stumble

Read and meditate on John 16.1-3.

Jesus wants us to know that the path by which we follow Him will be strewn with things that could trip us up. He does not want us to stumble, so He tells us in advance what to expect.

*1“These things that I have spoken, I impart to you so that you will not stumble. 2They will put you out of synagogues; the day is coming when whoever kills you will consider that in doing so, the will of God is being satisfied, and he is serving God. 3Because they know not Me, and do not know the Father, they will do these things to you.”*

- John 15.1-3

Reflect

1. When we think about following Jesus, what is implied in the idea of *stumbling*? Should we be aware that the possibility of stumbling is real? Explain. What does it look like when a believer stumbles? Complete this prayer: *Lord let me never stumble over You, or in walking the path You have marked out for me, but...*

2. What kinds of threats might cause us to stumble? First, Jesus notes the threat of *exclusion* (v. 2). What forms might this threat take in our day? How would a believer stumble when faced with this threat? *Nothing matters more to me, Lord, than abiding in You, so let me not be afraid when...*

3. A second threat is more serious: bodily harm, or even death. Over the centuries, many Christians have suffered physical injury or death because of their faith in Jesus. We don't think about this much, perhaps; but should we? Should we at least set our minds concerning such a threat? How can we do that? *Should it come to harm or injury or the threat of death, Lord, help me to...*

4. A third threat is more implied than overt here. People might mock our faith, exclude us, or do us bodily harm, all the while claiming that *they* are doing God's will, not we (v. 2). *They* know the truth, and we are wrong, and thus we deserve whatever they might choose to dole out. How can we avoid stumbling over this threat? *Let me so abide in Your truth, Lord, that...*

5. Why would people do such things to us (v. 3)? Since this is so, what should our attitude be toward them? How did Jesus manifest this attitude? Bring together into one the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

Summary

“No one should wonder that we are harassed with constant persecutions and continually tried with increasing afflictions when the Lord before predicted that these things would happen in the last times. He has instructed us for the warfare through his teaching and exhortation. Peter also, his apostle, has taught that persecutions occur to test us. We are to look to the example of the righteous who have gone before us and are to be joined to the love of God by death and sufferings. For he wrote in his epistle, ‘Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that comes on you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If

you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory and of God rests on you.' The name of Christ is indeed blasphemed by them but is glorified by us." *Cyprian of Carthage (fl. 248-258 AD)*

We should not avoid those things that might make us stumble. We must recognize them, and prepare for them, but we will compromise our witness for the Lord if we try to avoid these threats by remaining silent when we should bear witness for the Lord. And remaining silent at such times is but to stumble. How can you prepare each day so that you will not stumble in your walk with the Lord? How can believers help one another not to stumble?

*Closing Prayer*

Blessed *is* the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.  
The ungodly *are* not so,  
But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.  
Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,  
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.  
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 1

**Psalm 1** (*St. Thomas: I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*)

How blessed are they that shun sin's vain and wicked ways.  
For them has Christ salvation won; He loves them all their days.

God's Word is their delight; they prosper in its truth.  
In it they dwell both day and night to flourish and bear fruit.

Firm planted on the banks of God's great stream of grace,  
They raise unending praise and thanks to His great glorious face.

The wicked are not so, but, driven by the winds,  
They fall and perish, weighed with woe, when once God's wrath begins.

In Jesus' righteousness, though sinners fail and fall,  
His flock He will preserve and bless, who on His favor call.

## 2 Remember

*Read and meditate on John 16.4.*

Remembering the things Jesus taught them would be of much help for the disciples as the things He taught began to come to pass.

*<sup>4</sup>“But I have spoken to you all these things, that when their time comes, you may all remember what I said to you. I did not say these things to you while I was with you.”*

- John 16.4

*Reflect*

1. A couple of very important principles are contained in this verse. First, let's have a brief review (you might want to scan chapters 13-15). What are the “these things” to which Jesus referred? What had He been teaching His disciples, and through them, us? Complete this prayer: *Lord, so many things clutter my mind! Help me always to remember...*
2. *Remembering* is a primary function of the mind. Imagine if we could not remember! How completely lost we would be each day (“Now where do I keep my clothes?” “How do I get to work?”). How does memory work? That is, how do things become embedded in our memory, so that they'll be there automatically when we need them? *Thank You, Lord, for the gift of memory. Let me not take this gift for granted, but...*
3. Jesus told the disciples that *remembering these things* would be important “when their time comes” (the Greek has *their* time rather than *the* time). Why? How would remembering these things help the disciples when the time came to love the brethren, or as they experienced people's hatred, or when a situation arose where they might do good to someone? If they did not make a point of *remembering these things*, would they be as well prepared for such situations as they should be? Explain. *Help me to prepare each day to remember the things You've taught me, Lord, so that...*
4. John 13-16 is the longest extended record of Jesus' teaching anywhere in the gospels – longer even than the Sermon on the Mount. He seems to have left a great deal for the end of His time with His disciples. Why do you suppose He didn't spread these teachings out throughout the course of His time with them? Was He focusing on other things while He was with them? Such as? *Clearly, Lord, I need to see You working and hear what You want to teach me, and this means I...*
5. Seeing Jesus and hearing His Word: These are two indispensable aspects of discipleship. We must work hard to apply our memory to each of them, so that we'll be ready for good works, or to bear up under trials by remembering how Jesus did things, and what He taught about *these things*. There's an additional benefit to remembering like this. As we see the things Jesus taught us coming to pass in our lives (as “their time comes”), how does this affect our confidence in the things He's taught us, but that we do not yet see? Such as His Kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven? And His promised return? The dwelling He is preparing for us? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“Let us also consider these things in our temptations when we suffer anything from wicked people, 'looking to the Beginner and Finisher of our faith.' Let us consider that it is by wicked people and for virtue's sake and

for his sake [that we suffer]. For if we reflect on these things, everything will be easier and more tolerable. Since one is even proud when suffering for those he loves, what kind of feeling will such a person have who suffers for the sake of God? For if Jesus, for our sake, calls that shameful thing, the cross, 'glory,' how much more should we think that way! And if we can so despise sufferings, much more shall we be able to despise riches and covetousness. We ought then, when about to endure anything unpleasant, to think not of the toils but of the crowns. For as merchants take into account not the seas only but also the profits, so should we count on heaven and confidence in God. If acquiring things seems pleasant, simply remember that this is not what Christ called us to, and it will immediately appear displeasing. And if it is hard for you to give to the poor, do not keep adding things up in your mind, but rather immediately transport your thoughts to the harvest that results from the sowing. And when it is hard to despise the love of a strange woman, think of the crown that comes after the struggle, and you shall easily bear the struggle. For if fear diverts a person from unseemly things, much more should the love of Christ. Virtue is difficult. But let us cast around its form the greatness of the promise of things to come. Indeed, those who are virtuous, even apart from these promises, see [virtue] beautiful in itself. This is why they go after it and work for it, because it seems good to God and not because it is a job they have to do." *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

There is power in the Word of Jesus, as we remember what He has taught us and carry out what He commands. This makes it very important that we let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly (Col. 3.16). What can you do to improve your ability to remember what you have seen and heard from Jesus?

*Closing Prayer*

I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;  
My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.  
I have set the LORD always before me;  
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.  
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;  
My flesh also will rest in hope.  
For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16.7-11

**Psalm 16.7-11** (*All to Christ: Jesus Paid It All*)

I bless Your Name, O Lord; my mind instructs each night;  
You teach me by Your Word and guide me in the right.  
    Make me know life's way! Pleasures fill Your hand;  
    Fill my life with joy each day! Before Your face I stand.

You are ever with me, Lord; in You I shall not fall.  
But rejoicing in Your Word, I abide within Your call.  
    Make me know life's way! Pleasures fill Your hand;  
    Fill my life with joy each day! Before Your face I stand.

Soon Your glory I shall see, for as Jesus rose again,  
You will come to gather me to my home with You in heav'n.  
    Make me know life's way! Pleasures fill Your hand;  
    Fill my life with joy each day! Before Your face I stand.

### 3 Going and Coming

Read and meditate on John 16.5-7.

Jesus was going, but the Spirit was coming. And having the Spirit is definitely to our advantage.

*<sup>5</sup>“Now the time has come, and I must go away to Him Who sent Me here. Yet none of you inquires concerning where I go. <sup>6</sup>But since I’ve said these things to you, your hearts are filled with sorrow. <sup>7</sup>It is true, that it is better that I go away. The Helper will not come here if I stay, but if I go, then I will send Him to you.”*

- John 16.5-7

*Reflect*

1. Jesus chided His disciples in verse 5 for not being curious about where He was going. Rather than seek a fuller understanding, they simply became discouraged, and were sorrowing. How do you understand this rebuke? What was the Lord trying to get His disciples to see or do? Complete this prayer: *I know, Lord, that I can sometimes become discouraged by circumstances, when I what I should do is...*

2. Jesus indicates that, had they *asked*, they might not have fallen into sorrowing. Are we sometimes like that? We come upon some situation that we don’t understand, or don’t find agreeable, and, rather than seek the Lord in prayer and His Word, we get upset. Does this happen to you? Explain. What would Jesus have us do instead? *Thank You, Lord, that we can pray about everything, and that Your Word is living and powerful and sufficient. The next time I begin to get discouraged...*

3. Jesus’ going away meant that the Spirit would be coming to them. Review John 14.16, 17, 26, and 15.26, 27. How might remembering this have kept the disciples from sorrowing? It’s not wrong to sorrow, especially when a dear friend is departing; but all sorrow on the part of believers should be kept in a larger context and tempered by the promises of God. How would you try to comfort a fellow believer who was sorrowing the loss of a loved one? *You’re always pointing me forward, Jesus, and upward, too, so that...*

4. What “advantage” did Jesus’ going away hold for the disciples? Why was this more advantageous to them than having Jesus stick around? *Help me to realize more of the power of Your Spirit at work within me, Lord, to...*

5. Jesus promised to send the Spirit for a specific work. How would you feel about the Spirit if He refused to do the work Jesus sent Him to do? Meditate on John 20.21. To whom does this apply? How? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“Great is the tyranny of despondency. We need great courage in order to stand strong against it and, after gathering from it what is useful, to let go of what is superfluous. And so, it has a purpose at times. When we ourselves or others sin, that is a good time to grieve. But when we fall into human difficulties, then despondency is useless. And now when it has overthrown the disciples, who were not yet perfect, see how Christ raises them again by his rebuke. They who before this had asked him ten thousand questions ...— these men, I say, now hearing, ‘they will put you out of the synagogues’ and ‘will hate you’ and ‘whoever kills

*The Gospel of John: John 16.1-15*

you will think that he does God's service'—were so cast down as to be struck dumb, so that they say nothing to him. And so he reproaches them and says, "these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go to him that sent me, and none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.' Immoderate sorrow is a horrible thing, dreadful and even deadly, as Paul said, 'Lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up by too much sorrow.'" *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

The promises of God's Word, and the presence of His Spirit, can give us faith, hope, peace, and joy in the face of every trial or uncertainty. How can we keep this in mind, so that we make good use of it at all times?

*Closing Prayer*

Your mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens;  
Your faithfulness *reaches* to the clouds.  
Your righteousness *is* like the great mountains;  
Your judgments *are* a great deep;  
O Lord, You preserve man and beast.  
How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God!  
Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.  
They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house,  
And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.  
For with You *is* the fountain of life;  
In Your light we see light.  
Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,  
And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

Psalm 36.5-10

**Psalm 36.5-9** (*Landas: My Faith Has Found a Resting Place*)

Your lovingkindness, Lord, is great, it reaches heav'n above;  
Your faithfulness mounts to the skies, and keeps us in Your love.  
Your righteousness like mountains high and judgment like the deep  
Preserve Your creatures one and all and in Your mercy keep.

How precious is Your love, O Lord; we shelter in Your wings.  
We drink refreshment to the full from Your abundant springs.  
You give us freely of Your grace, we drink it with delight;  
Life's fountain is with You, O Lord, in Your light we see light.

## 4 A Work of Conviction

Read and meditate on John 16.8-11.

The work of the Spirit in our lives is first a work of conviction.

*8“When the Helper finally comes to you, then He will judge the world because of sin, make known the righteous way they should walk in, and warn the world of judgment: 9sin, because they do not trust Me; 10righteousness, because I go unto My Father, and you do not see Me any more; 11and judgment, too, because the ruler of the world is due for judgment.”*

- John 16.8-11

*Reflect*

1. We will not benefit from the work of God’s Spirit unless we understand and submit to that work. Jesus said the Spirit’s work is to *convict* the world. What does the word *convict* imply? What is it like, to be *convicted*? Complete the following prayer: *Lord, I know that when You are convicting me, I...*

2. First, the Holy Spirit convicts of *sin*. How does He do that (cf. Ezek. 36.26, 27; Rom. 7.7)? What is the foundation for all conviction of sin? How can you know when the Spirit is convicting you of sin in your life? Where else would we expect the Spirit to convict the world of sin? *Lord, You are working to bring sin to light, but the world doesn’t seem to want to talk about sin. Help me to...*

3. Second, the Spirit convicts the world of *righteousness*. He doesn’t just point out what’s *wrong*, but He points us in the direction of what is *right and true*. Why does this make it important that we abide in Jesus’ Word, as He commands us? What does it mean to let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col. 3.16)? How does the Spirit use our fellow believers in this work of *conviction*? *Show me the way I must walk, Lord, and let Your Spirit...*

4. Finally, the Spirit convicts the world of *judgment*. That is, in the light of sin and righteousness, we must either repent or be found opposing the Lord. Judgment implies warning. How does the Spirit warn us of judgment to come? How does He warn the lost and unbelieving people in our lives? *Help me always to hear Your words of judgment, Lord, so that I...*

5. How many different ways does the Spirit work to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment? What is your role in this work? Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

*Summary*

“By what means, then, is the world to be reproved of righteousness, if not by the righteousness of believers? Accordingly, it is convinced of sin because it does not believe on Christ, and it is convinced of the righteousness of those who do believe. For the very comparison with believers is itself a reproving of unbelievers.” *Augustine (354-430 AD)*

The Holy Spirit works within us to do His work of conviction, but He also works through us. Explain.

*Closing Prayer*

Show me Your ways, O LORD;

Teach me Your paths.  
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,  
For You *are* the God of my salvation;  
On You I wait all the day.  
Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses,  
For they *are* from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;  
According to Your mercy remember me,  
For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.  
Good and upright *is* the LORD;  
Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.  
The humble He guides in justice,  
And the humble He teaches His way.  
All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth,  
To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Psalm 25.4-10

**Psalm 25.4-10** (*Festal Song: Revive Thy Work, O Lord*)  
Make me to know Your ways, teach me Your paths, O Lord!  
My Savior, all day long I wait and seek You in Your Word.

Remember mercy, Lord, and steadfast love to me!  
And all my sins before You let them not remembered be!

My sins have been of old, Your love is new each day;  
According to Your goodness, Lord, regard my sinful way.

Upright and good are You, You lead us in Your way;  
The humble You instruct in truth and guide him day by day.

The paths of God are all of love and faithfulness;  
All they who keep His covenant the Lord will surely bless.

## 5 Guide to Truth

Read and meditate on John 16.12, 13.

The Spirit convicts us of sin, righteousness, and judgment so that He might the more effectively guide us into all the truth of God.

<sup>12</sup>“I have more to say to you, but you cannot receive it now. <sup>13</sup>When He, the Spirit of all truth is come, then He will guide you into truth, for on His own authority He will not speak alone; but what He hears, this He will speak and He, will tell you things to come.”

- John 16.12, 13

Reflect

1. Jesus told His disciples He had more to say to them. If Acts 1.3 is any indication of the *focus* of this future instruction, what seems to have been of primary concern to Jesus? Why? Why could they not “bear” those things at that time? Can we “bear” them now? Explain. Complete this prayer: *Lord, You have commanded us to seek Your Kingdom as our highest priority in all things, and this means...*

2. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of *truth*, to guide us into all *truth*. The opposite of truth is, of course, the lie. Meditate on Psalm 12 and Romans 1.18-32. Summarize the nature of the lie. How does this help us in understanding the truth? How does it help us in recognizing when we might be drifting into the lie? *Lead me into all truth today, Holy Spirit, as I...*

3. The Holy Spirit will *guide*, *speak*, and *tell* us the truth He hears from Jesus. Each of those verbs is significant in helping us understand how we learn the truth of God. What does each suggest? What do they all together commend as a program for learning the truth? *I want You to teach me the truth, Holy Spirit, so I...*

4. The truth the Holy Spirit teaches relates to Jesus and His authority. The Spirit has no authority of His own, as, for example, to magnify Himself in some way. Rather, all His teaching – all the truth He speaks and tells us, and into which He guides us – is about Jesus (cf. vv. 14, 15). All truth, therefore, resolves into Jesus, Who *is* truth (Jn. 14.6). What are the implications of this for our calling as disciples? For whatever we may wish to learn in life? *Increase in me, Lord Jesus, as I learn Your truth, and let me...*

5. Jesus said the Spirit will tell us “things to come.” Does this mean that Christians should expect to gain some special insight to world events, or people’s lives? Meditate on Acts 1.7 and Revelation 1.1. How do these counsel us in thinking about “things to come”? While we cannot know all the *details* about things to come, we can know some things. Explain. Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

Summary

“The Lord sent the Paraclete because, since human weakness could not receive everything at once, it might gradually be directed and regulated and brought to perfection of discipline by the Lord’s vicar, the Holy Spirit... And so, he declared the work of the Spirit. This, then, is the Paraclete’s guiding office: the direction of discipline, the revelation of the Scriptures, the reforming of the intellect and the progress in us toward ‘better things.’” *Tertullian of Carthage (155-250 AD)*

We cannot be disciples of Jesus unless we have the Holy Spirit. Only the Spirit can teach us what we need to

know, empower us to live as witnesses, and bring forth in us fruit and gifts for ministry. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we know when we are filled with Him (Eph. 5.18-21)?

*Closing Prayer*

Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.  
Delight yourself also in the LORD,  
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the LORD,  
Trust also in Him,  
And He shall bring it to pass.  
He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
And your justice as the noonday.

Psalm 37.3-6

**Psalm 37.1-6** (*Neumark: If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee*)

Let not the wicked make you worry;  
Envy not those who break God's Word.  
Like dying grass will they be sorry,  
And fade like every dying herb.  
Trust in the Lord and do His will;  
Dwell in His grace, be faithful still.

Delight yourself in God's salvation;  
He'll give you all your heart's desire.  
Commit to Him your every station,  
And His good purpose will transpire.  
Your righteousness a blazing light  
He will bring forth against the night.

## 6 To Glorify Christ

Read and meditate on John 16.14, 15.

The Holy Spirit is all about Christ, and when He comes to dwell in us, we'll be all about Christ, too.

*<sup>14</sup>“And thereby He will glorify My Name, for He will take what I shall give to Him and He will make it plain to you. <sup>15</sup>For everything is Mine that is the Father’s. He will take of Mine, therefore, and will declare it to you.”*

- John 16.14, 15

*Reflect*

1. We recall that the glory of Christ is a primary theme of John’s gospel (cf. Jn. 14). What is the glory of Christ? What does it mean to glorify Jesus? Complete this prayer: *Lord, in my life, show Your glory by...*

2. The Spirit glorifies Jesus by taking what is His and declaring it to His followers. To what does Jesus refer when He says “Mine” (“take of what is Mine”)? How does this taking what is His and making it known to us glorify Jesus? Are we involved in this? Explain. *Lord, if I meet You in Your glory in Your Word, then I’ll be more likely to...*

3. Jesus says that “Mine” includes “All things that the Father has...” What does the Father have? Meditate on Psalm 24.1 and Psalm 115.16. Does Jesus intend us to glorify Him with the things of earth? Which things (1 Cor. 10.31)? How do we do that? *Everything You have entrusted to me, Lord, I can use for Your glory, and today...*

4. Everything has been given to Jesus, and He entrusts a measure of that to us, that His rule and glory may come on earth as in heaven. But we need His Spirit to teach us how to use what Jesus gives us, and to empower us as His witnesses, so that He will be glorified. What does this suggest about the role the Spirit has been sent to play in our lives? What does it mean to *walk* in the Spirit (Gal. 5.16), or to *be filled* with the Spirit (Eph. 5.18ff.)? How does this glorify Jesus? *I want to live always for Your glory, Lord Jesus, so I need...*

5. The glory of God is revealed in Jesus, supremely in His death and resurrection. What do these reveal to us about God? The glory of Jesus is revealed in *us* as the Spirit, Who dwells in us, takes whatever belongs to Jesus and makes it known to us – known for what it is and how it must be used. You would think that, were this happening more consistently, more of God’s glory would be more evident in the world (Hab. 2.14). Why do you suppose what Jesus promised in these two verses is *not* as evident as it could be? Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“All things that the Father has are the Son’s. And ... all that belongs to the Son is the Father’s. Nothing then is peculiar [to any person] because all things are in common. For their being itself is common and equal, even though the Son receives it from the Father.” *Gregory of Nazianzus (329-389 AD)*

The Father, Son, and Spirit are all involved in bringing glory to Jesus in and through us. How should we experience this?

*Closing Prayer*

The LORD *is* my strength and song,

*The Gospel of John: John 16.1-15*

And He has become my salvation.  
The voice of rejoicing and salvation  
Is in the tents of the righteous;  
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.  
The right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.  
I shall not die, but live,  
And declare the works of the LORD.

Psalm 118.14-17

**Psalm 118.14-18** (*St. George's Windsor: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*)  
In the Savior we are strong! He is all our strength and song!  
To His grace now raise your voice; in His righteousness rejoice!  
For the Lord does valiantly; we shall live eternally.  
Praise His works with all your breath, you whom He redeems from death.

## 7 The Comforter Who Convicts

*Read and meditate on John 16.1-15.*

It won't be easy following Jesus. That's the message the Lord wanted to leave with His disciples. No wonder they sorrowed at His leaving. But He promised them a Helper, a Comforter, Who would convict them of sin and guide them into all truth. And thus He would be glorified in them.

*<sup>1</sup>“These things that I have spoken, I impart to you so that you will not stumble. <sup>2</sup>They will put you out of synagogues; the day is coming when whoever kills you will consider that in doing so, the will of God is being satisfied, and he is serving God. <sup>3</sup>Because they know not Me, and do not know the Father, they will do these things to you. <sup>4</sup>But I have spoken to you all these things, that when their time comes, you may all remember what I said to you. I did not say these things to you while I was with you. <sup>5</sup>Now the time has come, and I must go away to Him Who sent Me here. Yet none of you inquires concerning where I go. <sup>6</sup>But since I've said these things to you, your hearts are filled with sorrow. <sup>7</sup>It is true, that it is better that I go away. The Helper will not come here if I stay, but if I go, then I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup>When the Helper finally comes to you, then He will judge the world because of sin, make known the righteous way they should walk in, and warn the world of judgment: <sup>9</sup>sin, because they do not trust Me; <sup>10</sup>righteousness, because I go unto My Father, and you do not see Me any more; <sup>11</sup>and judgment, too, because the ruler of the world is due for judgment. <sup>12</sup>I have more to say to you, but you cannot receive it now. <sup>13</sup>When He, the Spirit of all truth is come, then He will guide you into truth, for on His own authority He will not speak alone; but what He hears, this He will speak and He, will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup>And thereby He will glorify My Name, for He will take what I shall give to Him and He will make it plain to you. <sup>15</sup>For everything is Mine that is the Father's. He will take of Mine, therefore, and will declare it to you.”*

- John 16.1-15

*Reflect*

1. Review verses 1-3. What's the message here for new believers? That is, what should we tell new believers about the cost of following Jesus? Have you accepted that message as your own? Complete this prayer: *Only strengthen me, Lord, whatever may come, and I...*

2. The Good News of the Gospel is both what Jesus *has done* for us, and what He *will do* in and through us by His Spirit. That is, salvation is both something we experience once for all, and something we experience increasingly, day by day. Explain. What is the role of the Spirit in this? *Thank You, Lord, that there is always more of Your salvation to know and to enjoy, and that You...*

3. Meditate on Galatians 4.4-6, and John 16.8-11. What should we tell a new believer about what it means to believe in Jesus? What expectations for the work of the Spirit should we explain? *In my life, Lord, I know Your Spirit is at work because...*

4. Truth is the fuel the Spirit uses to unpack the Lord's salvation in our lives. That involves a process, summarized in Philippians 2.12, 13, which is called *sanctification*. How does the Spirit use truth to sanctify us? What is our responsibility in "working out" this sanctification? *Thank You, Lord, for working in me to...*

5. The end product of the Spirit's work in us is *glory*. Meditate on 2 Corinthians 3.12-18. How would you explain to a new believer what to expect and what to seek where glorifying God is concerned? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"But with Christ's bodily departure, both the Father and the Son, as well as the Holy Spirit, were spiritually present with them. For if Christ had left them so that the Holy Spirit replaced him rather than dwelling along with him, what would have become of his promise, 'Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world' and, I and the Father 'will come to him and will make our dwelling with him'? He had also promised that he would send the Holy Spirit in such a way that he would be with them forever. Jesus knew, however, that though they were presently in a carnal condition, they would undoubtedly possess in a more comprehensive way both the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. But we should in no way think that the Father is present without the Son and the Holy Spirit or [vice versa].... Wherever any one of them is, there also is the Trinity, one God." *Augustine (354-430 AD)*

Give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Share with someone today what God's Spirit has been doing in your life of late.

*Closing Prayer*

You who fear the LORD, praise Him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,  
And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;  
Nor has He hidden His face from Him;  
But when He cried to Him, He heard.  
My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly;  
I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.  
Let your heart live forever!  
All the ends of the world  
Shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
And all the families of the nations  
Shall worship before You.

For the kingdom *is* the LORD's,  
And He rules over the nations.  
All the prosperous of the earth  
Shall eat and worship;  
All those who go down to the dust  
Shall bow before Him,  
Even he who cannot keep himself alive.  
A posterity shall serve Him.  
It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,  
They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born,  
That He has done *this*.

Psalm 22.23-31

**Psalm 22.29-31** (*Dix: For the Beauty of the Earth*)

All the prosperous of the earth shall before His mercy fall;  
Bending low before His worth, hear them humbly on Him call.  
Even those low in the grave He will by His mercy save.

Let the generations all witness to His saving grace;  
Let them to all nations call, "Bow before His holy face!"  
Let the children of the earth hear of Jesus' saving worth!

*The Gospel of John: John 16.1-15*

*Questions for reflection or discussion*

1. Why was it important to Jesus to let His friends know that following Him would not be easy? Is it important for us to know this? Why?
2. Why does the world need to be convicted of sin? Do we need to be convicted of sin? Explain.
3. How does the Holy Spirit guide us into all truth? What is our role in being thus guided?
4. What does it mean to glorify Jesus? How does the Spirit enable us to glorify Him?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from John 16.1-15? How are you putting that lesson to work in your walk with and work for the Lord?

*Items for prayer:*

## The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

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Thank you.