



I0) The Instruction of the Spirit (John 16:13-15)

Section 2: Christian Growth Handout

The Holy Spirit’s teacher function includes timely revealing truth, delivering knowledge, and imparting wisdom, all closely related to His teaching ministry. Similar to a caring parent, the Holy Spirit conveys specially needed knowledge to establish strong Christian lives to serve the Lord because He wants us to succeed.

A) The Need for the Spirit’s Revealing (John 16:13-15)

The setting for this teaching was the night before Jesus died. Jesus knew within hours, the whole world would turn about in a totally unexpected and threatening way, thus stirring Him to comfort His disciples (and us!).

“¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come ¹⁴ He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you” (John 16:13-15).

- The Holy Spirit is intricately connected to revealing how God’s truth is relevant to our lives.
 - “Spirit of truth” describes the Spirit by associating Him with truth, almost like a name, Spirit Truth.



Father
↓
Son
↓
Spirit
↓
Church

- “_____ you into all the truth”: He strategically leads us into knowing the truth.
- “He will _____; and He will disclose to you” shows He timely, not necessarily instantaneous or clearcut, but always presents the insight needed to faithfully follow Him. (**Faith building truth!**)
- “He shall glorify Me” teaches us how the Spirit faithfully reassesses our situation to timely pass on what the Father knows we need so that we are careful to live and give the Father glory.

Explanation of Upper Room Discourse: People rightly question the correctness of applying these teachings to us because it was spoken to the 12 disciples. These teachings chiefly apply to the to-be apostles, but they also apply to all believers for the Holy Spirit similarly helps all of God’s people as seen in Acts. The Spirit functions in similar ways with all believers when facing similar situations. Many verses confirm this.

Summary: It all makes sense. God the Father takes the knowledge that believers need to know and passes it through Jesus on to them through the Holy Spirit (Ro 8:14,16). Because of the deception of the evil one, we need to know that truth becomes an added reason to carefully seek His Word and be attentive to the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual _____ requires a reordering of one’s decisions in light of new insights the Spirit brings to our attention from God’s Word.

B) The Holy Spirit’s Personal Presence (John 14:26)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:26).

- “The Helper, the Holy Spirit” (Grk. _____) has many meanings but chiefly as one who comes alongside of; Comforter. It further defines the Spirit’s function with all disciples, both the counselor, teacher, pastor as well as those learning. We need Him to do God’s will.

- “The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send by My name” (Acts 2) refers to Jesus’ assurance to His followers that even after resurrection He will continue to personally lead them, though through the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever” (Jn 14:16).
- “All things” includes our calling and gifting (also sourced to the Holy Spirit) and shapes how the Holy Spirit personally teaches us. (e.g. Steven, Apollos).
- “He will teach” partly reflects the twofold teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit:
 - New truths: “He will teach you all things” releases any limitations that might hinder our confidence in the Holy Spirit’s ministry to our lives.
 - Old truths: “Bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” can be used not only of words Jesus said to the disciples but truths from His Word that God has formerly taught us (Memorize!).



Summary: Jesus might not be physically present, but through the Holy Spirit Jesus is by our side, and so we need to take our following of Him seriously. Jesus leads through the Spirit! We need to be attentive!

C) The Spirit our Teacher (Lu 12:12)

“For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say” (Lu 12:12).

- “The Holy Spirit will teach you” refers to believers in general (“My friends” 12:4) reveals how Jesus brings special comfort to Christians under persecution (Lu 12:10-12)– Stephen.

“You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit” (1 Th 1:6).

“But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth” (2 Th 2:13).

- “Teach you” similarly states how the Holy Spirit not only passes needed knowledge on to us but does it with the purpose of changing our priorities and commitments—in this case to be faithful witnesses.
- “In that very hour what you ought to say” speaks of the _____ and _____ of the Spirit’s help.

Summary: All believers are assured how the Holy Spirit would pass on Jesus’ comfort and wisdom by timely bringing to our minds what we need to know. While Jesus was limited to one place at a time, the Holy Spirit is everywhere at once with all His disciples.

Final Application

- 1) The Spirit is teaching! Are you learning?
- 2) The Spirit is by our side (Paraclete)! Do you have peace?
- 3) The Spirit is with us in emergencies! Do you trust Him?

Final Summary: God is not irrelevant but wonderfully interested in and capable of bringing His knowledge and guidance on properly conducting our daily lives: “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5).

Discussion Questions

- What kinds of things does God help us know? Please give an example how the Holy Spirit taught you.
- The truth of God is clearly important to living a strong Christian life. What are some ways you regularly bring His Truth into your mind so that the Holy Spirit can “remind” you?
- So how does the Holy Spirit practical teach and help us in our various ministries?