

The Glory of the One and Only: Remain in Victory
Patrick Murphy / February 16, 2020

John 15:26-16:33 Remain in Victory

Intro: John Paton's stuff stolen.

That is not quite like the missionary stories we read about in scripture. However, when we read about the disciples after Christ's ascension, their missionaries are remarkable. But stories concerning those men weren't always impressive in the gospel. What changed in them? Jesus, from chapters 13 through 16, is preparing his disciples for his departure. Troubled, confused, filled with sorrow, Jesus directs them, again and again, to believe what is true and hope for what is promised. Last week he commanded the 11 to remain in him, love like him, and so become the disciples he wants them to be. Their willingness to follow is only one piece of the puzzle. Throughout this discourse, Jesus has promised the Counselor, the Spirit of Truth, the Advocate 5 distinct times to aid them in their "abiding." That sworn advocate remains to this day, assisting and guiding us in our walk as disciples.

How are we to expect to be aided and guided by God the Holy Spirit? What role does he play in our lives today?

John 15:26-16:4 Disciples anticipate persecution and avoid apostasy.

²⁶ "When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. ² They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ They will do these things because they haven't known the Father or me. ⁴ But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you will remember I told them to you. I didn't tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

Vrs. 1-4 A more significant danger than persecution from the world, and it is apostasy or abandoning the faith. Desertion of more than going to church or singing songs, but in light of John 15, it is the rejection of the life, joy, and truth of Christ. Last week Jesus stressed remaining in him through faith and obedience to become his disciples. That act will produce unjustified scorn and abuse from a world that suppresses its knowledge of God. That persecution is powerful, and far from being ignorable. It will be in your face, obstinate, but ultimately misguided. John includes an irony found in the world's thinking they are offering service to God, and in a real sense, a martyr's death is received by God as an offering. However, it is the martyrs offering and not the worlds. An offering of life that becomes a whiteness and a testimony in God's courtroom against the world.

Many of these disciples would face horrendous deaths at the hands of religious people who think they are pleasing their god/s. A trend that has not stopped. Two years ago, in Nigeria, a Sister named Rose was asleep in her house with her husband and son. In the middle of the night, Islamic terrorists attached to Boko Haram broke into her house and murdered her husband and son in front of her eyes because they were Christians. They then were attempting to force her to convert by proclaiming Allah Akbar, but she instead turned and ran out of the house. The men followed her demanding she says Allah Akbar, slashing her back each time she refused. She didn't resist in silence; when they would shout Allah Akbar, she would shout Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. She eventually collapsed from loss of blood, and after two days, she was found and nursed back to health. She hasn't fled her town but continues to serve and love the people around her, even her enemies. [Why? The physical and emotional pain has been healed in Christ. Look at the words of the Apostle Peter.](#)

1 Peter 4:14 ¹⁴**If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.**

So, Christ prepares his disciples, telling them of future suffering that would be directed at them instead of himself. He wants resilient and persistent disciples, but they won't be alone. As Christ leaves his disciples physically, that doesn't mean the presence of God is going too. Christ is sending the Holy Spirit, our advocate, who, like Christ, is truly God, to be with us comforting and guiding us from belief till death.

John 16:5-15 Disciples live with the Spirit's conviction and clarification.

⁵ But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: ⁹ About sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

¹² "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.

Jesus issues a rebuke to the disciples little to no concern over why Christ is going because they care more about their circumstances when he has gone. Regardless, he emphasizes a vital truth to encourage them: It is better that I go. How can that be the case? In what possible way could it be to our benefit that Christ isn't physically present with us?

Which would you say is better, Jesus with us or the Holy Spirit living in us? I would say, why not both. It's not like they are Peter Parker and Spiderman, where they can't be in the same room at the same time. It all has to do with OT prophecy... Conveniently, it is better for the Holy Spirit to dwell in us than for Christ to be near us because of the specific role the Holy Spirit has. He is our advocate and Counselor.

In a world hostile to the people and things of God, the Holy Spirit is our great defense. He aids, guides, heals, and draws our life into a restored relationship to God. In this passage of scripture, Jesus presents two significant ministries of the Holy Spirit that disciples partner with and benefit from.

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Only the Spirit can make a sinful soul aware of their unrighteousness and impending judgment of punishment. We maybe vassals used to accomplish this goal, but the Spirit alone can change the heart. We know the truth because we recognized in our conviction, our lack of righteousness, and our impending judgment. We responded to the sentence, seeking salvation through belief in Christ, and our sin was forgiven, we were made righteous, and any accusation from the devil is overruled in his own conviction. But we live in a culture hellbent on eradicating any form of guilt and conviction. The Spirit will convict, but a person can resist.

The Holy Spirit clarifies Christ's message and ministry.

The many things he has to share can't be shared because the cross hasn't taken place yet. Remember a time when you've read through the gospel's, and you are perplexed by the disciple's thoughts or reactions? There are countless interactions like that, and there will be two more in this passage. They don't have the context of the cross to understand nor the Spirit to guide them. That same Spirit is now clarifying for each believer the implication of the person, ministry, death, resurrection, and exaltation of our savior. This is the capital "T" truth, and the message has not changed, it is not a different version, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit in unity proclaim to us the glory of Christ and the truth of his salvation.

John 16:16-24 Disciples receive a permanent Joy

¹⁶“A little while and you will no longer see me; again a little while and you will see me.”

¹⁷ Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this he’s telling us: ‘A little while and you will not see me; again a little while and you will see me,’ and, ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸ They said, “What is this he is saying, ‘A little while’? We don’t know what he’s talking about.”

¹⁹ Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, and so he said to them, “Are you asking one another about what I said, ‘A little while and you will not see me; again a little while and you will see me’?” ²⁰ Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. ²¹ When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. ²² So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.

²³ “In that day you will not ask me anything. Truly I tell you, anything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

The passage transitions away from the persecution of the 11 disciples to the heart and spiritual health of the 11. Knowing about persecution will prepare them to persist in their faith, but without a guaranteed hope, what will they be continuing for? Jesus promises them permanent joy after a time of sorrow.

Vrs. 16-18 **These men don't get it**, and neither would we. He's already said he would be leaving them, and now he is leaving for a little bit.

Vrs. 19-22 **A dark time is approaching**. A time when every sense you have will be telling you that you have lost. Your heart will be filled with sadness, and the world from every perspective will look as if it had won. BUT, your sorrow will turn to joy. Your heart will be filled with gladness. Jesus gives us a quick analogy common throughout the OT for a time of joy preceded by intense sorrow. The labor and the delivery of a child.

Story of having Peyson...

Peyson, Luca, Riley, Theo, and the upcoming boy will continue to be an inexpressible joy to Kelsey and me. Jesus offers us a better joy than even children, the joy of his salvation, and that joy cannot be taken. That is because the joy offered to believers in Christ is Personal and Positional

Our joy is positional –

John 1:12 - ¹² But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name,

We are no longer enemies of God because of our sin but have been welcomed into his family. As true children who are promised every privilege and right that comes with being in his family.

Our joy is personal –

Christ has called each of us by name to believe in him. He calls us friends. He sends the Spirit to live with us.

Remember Rose, her story didn't end when she recovered...

Some might say that “this joy that was promised is not present in my life” or “I have only experienced it from time to time.” Jesus gives us a prime directive if that becomes the case. **In fact, throughout this discourse, he has reminded us, again and again, to do one thing, ASK the Father! If our joy is ever threatened or hidden in our life, I suspect remaining in Jesus has been neglected.** His joy is manifested in us as we remain in him through faith and obedience. Two threads intertwined when we ask the Father for the needs of our heart to be met. We are obedient to the command of approaching him and faithful that he will hear and answer our prayer.

John 16:25-33 Disciples live in Christ's Victory

²⁵ “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ On that day you will ask in my name, and I am not telling you 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.^o ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

²⁹ His disciples said, “Look, now you're speaking plainly and not using any figurative language. ³⁰ Now we know that you know everything and don't need anyone to question you. By this, we believe that you came from God.”

³¹ Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? ³² Indeed, an hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave me 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. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

The disciple's pretension is rebuked again by Christ. They think they have understood, but they don't. In the days to come, it will all begin to make sense as they perceive the ministry of Christ through the cross. However, on the day of his execution, these men will scatter and abandon Jesus for a time. But not God the Father, Christ remains inseparable from the Father's presence. Jesus looks beyond the disciple's collapse and desertion to their restoration. His encouragement to them is filled with truth and promise.

We are both in Christ and in the world. We will have a peace that exists despite the suffering that we will also be present in our life. The two are not mutually exclusive; they go hand in hand. But take heart; I have overcome the world! Christ has victory not just for himself but for each and every one of his followers.

In all my time as a pastor, I have never heard a brother or sisters say to me, "The closest I have ever felt to Christ was on the sunny days." But I have heard the opposite many times. "I was closest to Christ in my hardest hour, in my time of pain, in my time of persecution, or trial. That is when I knew Christ's peace more than before or since." I can say that to you, too, "My greatest joy in life has come through the hardest of times in life." Remain in Christ and keep in step with the Spirit. He will guide us into all the truth and remind us of the joy we have in Christ's victory.

John's Pattons Recount pg. 117