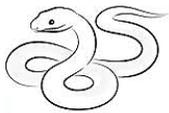


John 16 - “The Work of The Spirit”



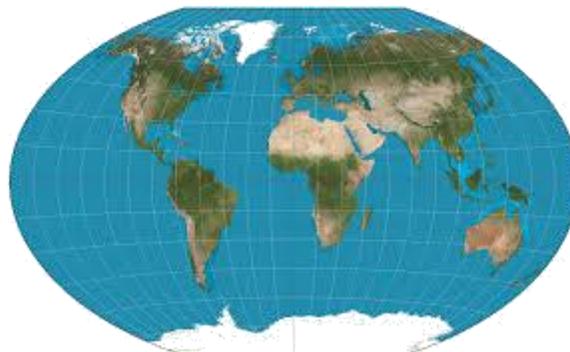
In **Matthew 10:16** depicts an air creature and a ground creature in relationship to each other. The dove is the one in the air (let's imagine heaven) while the serpent is the one on the ground (let's imagine earth) - "*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore **wise (shrewd, careful, strategic - calculated) as serpents, and harmless as doves.***" Notice the relationship between the two. One is strategic while the other is "harmless." The real irony here is that the dove (representation of the Spirit) has real power and the serpent only has perceived power.

I am really overtaken with the imagery for the Holy Spirit being one of a harmless creature when it is the Holy Spirit which is the POWER of God. The book of John does the critical work in the gospels of introducing us to the Holy Spirit (MUCH MORE COMING NEXT IN THE BOOK OF ACTS).

THIS REALLY CONNECTS THE BIBLE THEMES TOGETHER IN A COHESIVE MANNER. The book of Acts will introduce us to the church (which is really an extension of the ministry of Jesus Christ). Jesus was the POWER for the ministry of the gospels. The Holy Spirit is the POWER for the ministry of the church. Jesus' discourse (conversation/discussion) with the disciples was the Master Teacher getting the Apprentices (disciples) ready for the work ahead.

John 16 helps them (us) get prepared for the TRANSITION from the Ministry of Jesus to the Ministry of the Spirit. IT IS CRITICAL NOW TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE ONE ("The Trinity is **one God** who exists eternally as **three distinct Persons**: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit—each being fully God.").

In our study of the text, keep in mind that Jesus is preparing His disciples for His going away. He is not just going to disappear from their presence. He is going the way of the cross – to sacrifice His life (**John 1:29** – "Lamb of God") + Be Resurrected + Ascended to Heaven. Let me say this as gently as I can...THEY WILL BE LEFT WITH THE AFTERMATH OF HIS MINISTRY BUT NOT WITHOUT THE POWER TO GET THE WORD OUT AROUND THE WORLD!



Let's look at today's text. I will only underline and identify some key points in the text. Take good notes.

Persecution is coming! Keep pressing!

16:1 "I have told you this, so that you will not give up your faith." ² You will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time will come when those who kill you will think that by doing this they are serving God. ³ People will do these things to you because they have not known either the Father or me. ⁴ But I have told you this, so that when the time comes for them to do these things, you will remember what I told you.

To know the Father is to know Me – Trinity.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

"I did not tell you these things at the beginning, for I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me where I am going. ⁶ And now that I have told you, your hearts are full of sadness. ⁷ But I am telling you the truth: it is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But if I do go away, then I will send him to you.

Here is something else for us to wrap our heads around. The three Persons of the Trinity do work primarily in the different eras or "Dispensations" along the course of Redemption):

- **The Father:** Is Predominant in the Old Testament (In Creation, the Law, the Covenants).
 - **The Son:** Is Predominant in the Gospels (In the Incarnation, Atonement, Resurrection).
 - **The Spirit:** Is Predominant from Pentecost onward (In Pentecost, the Indwelling, Sanctification, Empowering the Church).
- THEOLOGY**

⁸ **And when He comes**, he will prove to the people of the world that they are wrong about sin and about what is right and about God's judgment.

This statement tells us what our "WHOLE" problem is in this life:

1. We are _____ about sin
2. We are wrong about what is _____.
3. We are wrong about God's _____.

⁹ They are **wrong** about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ they are **wrong** about what is right, because I am going to the Father and you will not see me any more; ¹¹ and they are **wrong** about judgment, because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

¹² **“I have much more to tell you, but now it would be too much for you to bear.** ¹³ **When, however, the Spirit comes,** who reveals the truth about God, **He** will lead you into all the truth. **He** will not speak on his own authority, but he will speak of what **He** hears and will tell you of things to come. ¹⁴ **He** will give me glory, because **He** will take what I say and tell it to you. ¹⁵ **All that my Father has is mine;** that is why I said that the Spirit will take what I give him and tell it to you.

[Look at that strong TRINITARIAN statement.](#)

Sadness and Gladness

¹⁶ “In a little while you will not see me any more, and then a little while later you will see me.”

[Look at the physical “play” on the words – He will die but rise again and they will see Him. Look also at the spiritual “implication” of the same words – He \(God\) will ascend, but the Spirit \(God\) will come.](#)

¹⁷ Some of his disciples asked among themselves, **“What does this mean?** He tells us that in a little while we will not see him, and then a little while later we will see him; and he also says, ‘It is because I am going to the Father.’ ¹⁸ What does this ‘a little while’ mean? We don't know what he is talking about!”

¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to question him, so he said to them, “I said, ‘In a little while you will not see me, and then a little while later you will see me.’ Is this what you are asking about among yourselves? ²⁰ I am telling you the truth: you will cry and weep, but the world will be glad; you will be sad, but your sadness will turn into gladness. ²¹ When a woman is about to give birth, she is sad because her hour of suffering has come; but when the baby is born, she forgets her suffering, because she is happy that a baby has been born into the world. ²² That is how it is with you: now you are sad, but I will see you again, and your hearts will be filled with gladness, the kind of gladness that no one can take away from you. [Can you see reference to the Spirit here too?](#)”

²³ “When that day comes, you will not ask **me** for anything. I am telling you the truth: **the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name.**”

[“In His Name” will be asking for what is **ALREADY** The Father’s will. Of course you will have it! We need to be in that close relationship with Jesus where we are in SYNC with the Father’s will.](#)

²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your happiness may be complete.

Victory over the World

²⁵ "I have used figures of speech to tell you these things. But the time will come when I will not use figures of speech, but will speak to you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ When that day comes, you will ask him in my name; and I do not say that I will ask him on your behalf, ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you. He loves you because you love me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I did come from the Father, and I came into the world; and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

Deep stuff! THIS IS SOLIDARITY!

²⁹ Then his disciples said to him, "Now you are speaking plainly, without using figures of speech. ³⁰ We know now that you know everything; you do not need to have someone ask you questions. **This makes us believe that you came from God.**"

³¹ Jesus answered them, "**Do you believe now?** ³² The time is coming, and is already here, when all of you will be scattered, each of you to your own home, and I will be left all alone. But I am not really alone, because the Father is with me. ³³ **I have told you this so that you will have peace by being united to me. The world will make you suffer. But be brave! I have defeated the world!**"

Again, Trinity. This is the **NKJV**: "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

APPLICATION !

APP: By now we should thoroughly accept (not perhaps thoroughly understand yet) the Trinity. God's perfect plan to guide us through the plan of redemption to the promise of RESTORATION included the mighty work of the Holy Spirit. Have you rejected the Holy Spirit as "something" that makes you act funny about your faith (or in the process of "worship")? The Holy Spirit is the KEY to use being able to finish the "finished" work of Christ. His was finished at the cross and ours (the church) will be finished when the knowledge of God is spread throughout the earth (Habakkuk 2:14). What is your plan to get the word out on a daily basis? You are blessed DISCIPLE! And, Jesus is with you to the end of the age!