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Keep in mind: Jesus was commanding the apostles not to be troubled as He was leaving to provide a place for them and He'd be sending the Helper—the Holy Spirit—to live in and through them. In **16:5-15**, Jesus focuses on what God would be doing even when the unbelieving world was unreceptive. Even though the unbelieving world hates Jesus and His disciples, they would not face the world's hostility alone. Their witness to the world would be accompanied and empowered by the witness of the Holy Spirit. What they were to 'do'? Believe in the Father. Believe in Jesus (**14:1**). Abide in Jesus (**15:1-11**). Love one another (**15:12-17**). Testify to the hostile world (**15:18-6:4**).

The Spirit is to our advantage (16:5-7) because He convicts the world (16:8-11) and guides us to 'all the truth' (16:12-15). The Spirit testifies to believers that the Good-News of Jesus is true (**Jn. 14:26, 16:13-14**) and then empowers them as they proclaim that Good-News to the world. The problem today is the Church has "filed away God's original strategy and come up with one of its own." It's not our job to convict the world; our job is to keep abiding in Jesus and practicing what we know from His Word.

Read 16:5-11. :5 "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'" Jesus' return to the Father should have filled their hearts with rejoicing (**14:28**), and from there He would send them another Helper, namely, the Spirit of truth (**14:16-17,26, 15:26**). Their questions had reflected a concern for themselves and not a concern for Him. They were concerned about His leaving them, not where He was going.

:6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow (pain of body or mind) has filled your heart [You grieve because of what I've told you]." They weren't really listening. He explains why they hadn't asked where He's going. Why? Because sorrow had filled their hearts. They felt like abandoned orphans. He knows He's giving them truth that was difficult to process.

In :7, He explains what they would have discovered had they asked. **:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away [it is best for you that I go away]; for if I do not go away, the Helper [Grk. Paracletos: one called**

alongside to help], will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." In **:7-15**, Jesus discusses the Holy Spirit's coming and work on this earth.

Look at the facts: Jesus' departure was for their own good. He would be preparing a place for them, and, He would be sending the Spirit! The Spirit could not be given until Jesus was glorified (**7:37-39 read**), until Jesus had died, risen from the dead, appeared to many eyewitnesses, ascended to heaven, been exalted to His Father's right hand, and His original glory restored. The Helper would then "regenerate believers, incorporate each believer into the one Body of Christ, and indwell each one." How could these blessings possibly come to them until the basis for them was established? "I've been your Helper up to this point. But I've been confined by the limitations of place and time. Now there will be another Helper who will come that He may be with and in you!" "Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son, and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done." The very same Spirit of God is present within us!! His ministry would be both to the world (**16:8-11**) and to believers (**16:12-15**).

:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." After the Spirit was sent by Jesus and the Father, He would convict—a legal term meaning to expose and/or convince by evidence—the world (not just the people of Israel) of three issues: "The gravity of sin, the reality of righteousness/justice, and the certainty of judgment." Apart from this work of the Helper, fallen human beings can't fully come to grips with those 3 issues. The Spirit's aim is to bring the defendant to see the deadly condition in which he/she stands, that his/her only hope is God's mercy and grace. We as Christians don't need to try and convince the world; the Spirit does that continually, often through the Church, like light in darkness. And, the purpose of the Holy Spirit's convicting is not condemnation but conviction of the need for the Lord Jesus. The Spirit brings to light the guilt and lack in every person's life. Unbelievers don't believe they are sinners in need of a Savior. They believe they're righteous enough. And, if they believe in a judgment, they believe they'll get by all right.

In addition to the Spirit's work, these are three things the world ought to see when it looks at the Body of Christ—forgiveness, justice, and accountability. The Spirit convicts, but it's always in connection with some truth about God. Remember, we're to testify of Jesus; the Spirit will convict. That's the reason when we have opportunities to speak Jesus' name, we realize the Spirit has been preparing that person/group. For us, Jesus took our guilt on the cross, gave us His righteousness, and our future is not judgment but an awards banquet, with Him forever! What great news to rejoice in and to share!

:9 "Concerning sin [singular] because they do not believe in Me." There is such a thing as sin (falling short of a target). The world's sin is that they don't believe in Jesus. It's not the role of the Spirit to convict the world of individual 'sins' because it's not our individual sins that separate us from God. Our message is that sin is real, it has consequences, and in His Son, the Father has graciously dealt with those issues. He/She who believes in Jesus is not judged. Our sins have been paid for. So it's not their sins, but unbelief that's the issue. The conviction is so they'll embrace the forgiveness that's offered in Jesus.

Apart from the Holy Spirit and His work, people don't see themselves as unbelievers, sinners.

When the Church is Spirit-filled, we talk about Jesus. What is the world learning at they watch forgiven, transformed people in the Church (us)?

:10 **“and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me.”** Righteousness means Divine justice satisfied. Jesus who knew no sin was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21). There is a standard of righteousness/justice which all unbelievers fall short of. The Holy Spirit enforces the absolute standard of God's character, by which all thoughts and actions should be compared. The Jews, Paul insisted in Rom. 10:3, did not know the righteousness that came from God and sought to establish their own; they thought of themselves as essentially righteous/just. What the world once saw in Jesus, it is now to see in us. And the Spirit through the Church and His work is what convinces the world there are absolutes in life that they're falling short of. We shouldn't try to 'be acceptable' to the non-Christian world. There should be a difference!

:11 **“and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”** That evening, Jesus spoke of this judgment as having already been done, but it would actually happen within His next 24 hours! The Spirit's judgment is always just and right (5:30, 8:16). Judgment occurs when an act or thought is evaluated by absolute truth. There is a judgment day. What makes one feel certain that there is judgment? It's the work of the Holy Spirit.

The ruler of this world is Satan; he was judged at the cross. If the ruler of this world has been judged, then what about earth's inhabitants? Jesus' death removed Satan's greatest weapon: fear of death, fear of judgment (Heb. 2:14-15, 1 Jn. 4:17-18). The power of Satan is already broken; it is only when the Church is living in the Spirit's strength that the world can best see it. On the cross, God judged sin completely and Satan was defeated. People in rebellion should take note of their leader Satan's defeat and judgment and fear the Lord Jesus who holds the power to judge. Jesus triumphed over Satan, serving notice to unbelievers of their judgment to come. All false judgment is related to him who was a liar from the beginning (Jn. 8:44). Yet keep in mind, the Spirit convicts the world not to condemn it but to liberate it. As Christians, we are neither prosecutors nor judges, but, we are witnesses. The Holy Spirit will confront humanity concerning their choices.

Read :12-15. :12 **“I have many more things to say to you** [There is so much more I want to tell you], **but you cannot bear them now.”** What a tender word this is. Sorrow over His departure, dismay over the prophecy of a traitor among them, along with the prediction of their own desertion, rendered them not ready for more spiritual truth. Why give them more if they aren't applying what they already have? Remember the crucial events—the cross, burial, resurrection, appearances, ascension, exaltation, and the sending of the Spirit—had not yet taken place, and “they could scarcely visualize them, let alone assess their profound significance.” Also, the disciples were still spiritually immature. So He promises them further revelation of truth through the Spirit. In 14:26, the Paraclete's task would not only remind them of

everything Jesus had said to them, but He would also teach them all things. He is the One who will say more than Jesus could say at the time. The child and Church of God, empowered by the Spirit, are living letters observed by the world. See 2 Cor. 3:1-3.

: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 (report, completing the process of declaring a truth clearly) to you what is to come.”** Notice, He convicts the world, but He guides the apostles. The Spirit of truth would bring to mind everything Jesus had taught them (14:26, 2:22). If you want to know who Jesus is and His thinking, all you have to do is read this book! Your understanding will gradually develop as you move through life, believing and acting on the truth you've received. The Spirit receives things and then conveys them, in line with what God has already said, and, in line with what we personally can comprehend at the time. Remember Jesus meets us where we are. The Spirit will do the same.

All(!) the truth—this is what the apostles taught and it led to the inspiration of what we call the NT. Jesus is speaking of a specific body of truth. These things include the meaning of Jesus' life, death, burial, resurrection, appearances, ascension, & exaltation as well as things yet in the future (14:26).

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The teaching of the Spirit is, like the teaching of Jesus, nothing less than the teaching, the truth, the very words of God. Jesus' very being is revealed as the truths of the Good-News are proclaimed. Thus the purpose of reading and studying the Bible is to see the glory of both God the Father and His Son Jesus.

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We are to proclaim His good news to a hostile world and share His love for the lost. The Spirit uses transformed Christians as channels of His love and life to a lost world. “Thank You, Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit for not leaving us alone. May we willingly grow in our understanding as You meet us where we are and take us on to greater understanding and application. May we be used to reach our lost, blind, perishing, unbelieving world.” Joel

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NOTES :7 They would experience the presence of God as never before.

:8 The Spirit convicts the world of what it is guilty of (sin), what it doesn't have (righteousness), and the result of what it does and doesn't have (judgment).

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Read :1-4.

:1 “These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.

:2 “They will make you outcasts [or They will have you excommunicated, expelled] from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God [he is thereby serving God!].

:3 “These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.

:4 “But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you [or will remember them, that I told you] of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning [I didn't tell you earlier] because I was with you.”

Read :5-11.

:5 “But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’

:6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart [Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you].

:7 “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away [it is best for you that I go away]; for if I do not go away, the Helper [Greek *Paracletos* (14:16,26, 15:26, 16:7, 1 Jn. 2:1), one called alongside to help; or Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

:8 “And He, when He comes, will convict (convince?) the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

:9 concerning [definite article?] sin, because they do not believe in Me;

:10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

:11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been [will have been?] judged.”

Read :12-15.

:12 “I have many more things to say to you [There is so much more I want to tell you], but you cannot bear *them* now.

: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 [about the future].

:14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose (reveal?) *it* to you [telling you whatever He receives from Me].

:15 “All things that the Father has are Mine [All that belongs to the Father is Mine]; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you [The Spirit will tell you whatever He receives from Me].

[Jhn 16:1-33 NLT] 1 "I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. 2 For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. 3 This is because they have never known the Father or me. 4 Yes, I'm telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn't tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer. 5 "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. 12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

JBP 16 ⁵⁻¹¹ but now the time has come for me to go away to the one who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ That is because you are so distressed at what I have told you. Yet I am telling you the simple truth when I assure you that it is a good thing for you that I should go away. For if I did not go away, the divine helper would not come to you. But if I go, then I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convince the world of the meaning of sin, of true goodness and of judgment. He will expose their sin because they do not believe in me; he will reveal true goodness for I am going away to the Father and you will see me no longer; and he will show them the meaning of judgment, for the spirit which rules this world will have been judged. ¹²⁻¹⁵ “I have much more to tell you but you cannot bear it now. Yet when that one I have spoken to you about comes—the Spirit of truth—he will guide you into everything that is true. For he will not be speaking of his own accord but exactly as he hears, and he will inform you about what is to come. He will bring glory to me for he will draw on my truth and reveal it to you. Whatever the Father possesses is also mine; that is why I tell you that he will draw on my truth and will show it to you.