

Guided by the Spirit
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John 16:5-15
Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

The Holy Spirit, like spirituality in general, is somewhat of a mystery to most people—just like our shadow, when we turn to see we lose it. The Holy Spirit need not be a mystery. The Holy Spirit is Jesus present with us to prove the world wrong and to guide disciples into his way of life.

I.

Where's Jesus?

John 16:5 “Where are you going?”

Upper Room Discourses: chs 13-17

-3x people ask, “Where are you going”

Peter (13:36) Thomas (14:5) Philip (14:8)

*They don't get it. We don't get it. (see 16:5)

Where is Jesus? Two options:

1. Dead and Buried/Eaten by dogs: Cameron and Crossan
2. Dead and Raised: Christian proclamation, but where?
- 3.

If number 1,

then “spirit of Jesus” is a dead Jesus whom we emulate;

if number 2,

and Jesus is bodily alive, where is he?

John and NT teach that Jesus is *bodily present* with the Father. Jesus is also *really present* in the world by the Holy Spirit. John is unique in using a more personal term for the presence of Jesus/Holy Spirit: Advocate/Paraclete.

II.

Jesus is With the World to Judge

John 16:8 “He will prove the world wrong”

3-Fold Role of Spirit: 16:8-11

1. Prove world wrong about sin = reject Jesus
2. Prove world wrong about justice = cross is God's victory
3. Prove world wrong about judgment = Satan defeated

Problem with Jesus present in the world for judgment

We live in an era of toleration:

- People don't like being judged = expect hostility
- People prefer darkness, don't like light = expect diversion
- Satan is loose but defeated = expect attacks

III.

Jesus is With Believers to Guide

John 16:13 "He will guide you into all truth"

Spirit's job is *guidance*: 16:13

- Greek word implies "going," Psalm 1 "walking"
- If you are with Jesus you are *going* somewhere
- "Feet out the door"
- E.g. sit at home and look at Mapquest

Spirit's job is guidance in the *way of Jesus*: 16:14

- Truth isn't something we find, but the way of Jesus
- Way of life in conformity to Jesus teaching
- E.g. Spirit is not my spirit, meditation
- Spirit is Jesus, mediation on scriptural Jesus

IV.

Paraclete/Spirit is Jesus Present on Earth

John 16:15 "He will take what is mine and declare it to you"

Jesus is bodily with the Father.

Jesus is really present in the Holy Spirit.

Paraclete in John: *parakaleo* in 4 meanings

Comes alongside

Intercedes

Comforts

Exhorts

Three things for you:

1. You are not alone: assurance
2. Read and pray to know what Jesus is doing: presence
3. Go and do what Jesus is doing: guidance