

John 16:4–15

Holy Spirit: Let Me Upgrade You

The Summit Church, Temple of the Holy Spirit

MPT: Jesus is leaving, but his departure isn't a loss ... it's the necessary step for the HS to come and continue Jesus' ministry in a deeper, more personal, and global way.

MPS: The job of the Spirit is to bring the reality of kingdom truth into our experience today. The HS is not a downgrade—he's the personal, powerful continuation of Jesus' ministry in and through us.

UFN: The desire for connection and confidence in the Christian life—truly experiencing the presence and power of Jesus personally.

Quick two-week series on the Holy Spirit before Revelation ... John 16

Member Read: Stand for John 16

^{4b}"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

INTRODUCTION

I've shared this, but I worked at Verizon while I was in grad school at seminary. I have stories for days, but I always found it fascinating how many people came into the store with incredibly basic issues:

- "Phone won't turn on." *Battery dead.*
- "Phone won't make a call." *Airplane mode.*
- "I can't check my email." *Asking for a password.*

- “I don’t know my password.” *I don’t know your password either.*

However, there was one issue that always baffled all of us in the store: every once in a while, someone would come in—phone **charged**, **passwords** all logged in, not on **airplane** mode, shows it’s **connected** to the internet—yet for some unknown reason, their **phone just wouldn’t do anything it was supposed to**—wouldn’t **make a call**, wouldn’t **send a text**, wouldn’t **connect to the internet**, **Instagram won’t refresh**, **maps won’t load** ... NOTHING. Infuriating, right? (And you think waving your phone at the heavens is gonna help.)

Everything *looks* right—the **settings** and **configuration** all look right—but the phone lacks **access**, **connectivity**, and **power**.

I think that’s similar to how a lot of people experience their faith. The **configurations** *look* good:

- *Salvation?* Check.
- *Church attendance?* Check.
- *Small group?* Check.
- ... but there’s still this **lack of connection** between **knowledge about God** and the **everyday experience of faith**. There’s this strange gap between **knowing God is real** and **actually experiencing his power and presence**—like your faith is more of a concept than a relationship.
- That **gap**, that **frustration**, that **ache for more** is exactly what the Holy Spirit was given to address. The Spirit’s role is to bring the **reality of kingdom truth** into our **everyday experience with God**.

Holy Spirit Today

Now, I know when I say the Holy Spirit, you’re flooded with all sorts of **thoughts** and **questions** (and for some of you, **concerns!**).

- Some of you just got *real* **excited** ... others just got *real* **panicky**.

That response is largely cuz people fall into two different camps on the HS:

- 1) **Uncomfortable**: Hush-hush. This is the crew who doesn’t quite know what to do with or how to relate to the HS. If you grew up more **Baptist** or **Presbyterian**, this is probably you.
 - a) **Any recovering Baptists here?** (Not gonna ask about **Presbys** cuz y’all won’t make any noise anyways ... you’ll just take notes.)
 - i) This camp believes in the HS, but you relate to him more as some kind of **force** or **power** that comes and goes ... and mostly helps you *not do bad stuff*.

- ii) You know and believe the HS *can* heal, *can* work miracles, *can* do the supernatural (you're OPEN) ... but you're cautious when it comes to actively pursuing him and seeing him work.
- iii) If we're being honest, the Reformed Baptist Holy Trinity is usually **Father, Son, Holy Bible**. So we end up living the Christian life like God's plan for today's church is **sermons** and **small groups**.

2) The second camp goes to the entire other end of the spectrum and focuses on **EXPERIENCES of the Spirit**. (Any Pentecostals in the house?)

If the first camp is **uncomfortable**, this one is **unconstrained**.

- a) These folks tend to emphasize the pursuit of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit—**signs, tongues, private prayer languages, ecstatic worship**.
- b) The problem with this camp is they can **end up seeking God's miracles more than a relationship with him**—they seek the “hand of God” more than the “face of God,” and **experiences of the Spirit** often end up trumping **very clear exhortations of Scripture**.

On one hand, you have a group of people who have NO CLUE how to relate to the HS ... and on the other hand, you have a group of people who put WAY TOO MUCH EMPHASIS on him.

Here's the thing: This tension isn't new. The disciples didn't fully understand the Holy Spirit either ... which is exactly why Jesus said something to them that must have sounded **absolutely insane**: Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

We've talked about this before, but just to emphasize, if you had to choose between the **Spirit living inside of you right now** OR **Jesus being your new pastor at the Summit**, which would you choose? **Who would choose Jesus?**

- OF COURSE WE'D CHOOSE JESUS.
- **Some of you think ChatGPT is awesome ... imagine having Jesus by your side.**
 - **Stocks to invest in?**
 - **School to go to?**
 - **Make a woman happy?**
- Yet, Jesus says, *“It's to your advantage for me to leave. It's better for you.”*

Here's why ... **one AA theologian explains it like this:** When Jesus was on earth, the expression of his Deity (fully God) always operated in the location of his humanity.¹

- In other words, you could see his Deity **only where his humanity** was located (fully man, which meant limitations).
 - People got healed *where he was*.
 - Miracles happened *where he was*.
 - Where his body was, you saw the supernatural activity he did.
- In taking on flesh, he limited the activity of his Deity to the location of his humanity.

Let's pretend Jesus walks in the room. **(What happens? I immediately walk off stage and take a seat, right?)** If Jesus were here, we'd all want to **take pictures**, ask him to **sign our Bibles**, take him to **lunch**. (By the way, I get first dibs.)

- But **because of his humanity, he could only go to one place at a time.**
 - However, if he leaves and sends the Spirit in his place, now he can go EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.
- **Jesus leaving isn't a downgrade; it's an UPGRADE!**
 - Long before Beyonce, Jesus said, "*Lemme upgrade ya!*"
 - Jesus says, "*I'm gonna leave, BUT I'm gonna send another of the same kind. So when y'all leave, I'm going home with everybody.*"
 - Jesus left so that the Spirit could come—and through the Spirit, Jesus becomes MORE present with us, not less!

So now the question is: What advantages does the Spirit bring that upgrade our everyday life with God?

WALKTHROUGH: John 14–16

Let Me Upgrade You: Four Advantages of the Holy Spirit

1. The Spirit Is the Presence of God in You

If you remember back to last week, Pastor J.D. reminded us how God's desire has always been to dwell with his people.

- In the OT, he filled the **tabernacle** with his presence.
- Later, he filled the **temple** with his glory.

¹ TY Tony Evans for this

- But when **John opens his Gospel**, he says something different: Jesus is the new tabernacle. . . God didn't just fill a tent or building; he came in the flesh and dwelt among us.
- BUT IT GETS EVEN BETTER: Jesus says, *"It's to your advantage that I go,"* because when he leaves, the Spirit comes . . . and now the presence of God doesn't live in a **tent**, a **temple**, or even just in **Jesus' physical body**. HE LIVES IN YOU—YOU are now the temple where God dwells!

That's why Paul says in **1 Corinthians 6:19**, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?"

- We often use that verse to talk about **taking care of our bodies physically**, like *"Don't have too many rolls or chips and queso"*—and, sure, that's an application of it—but this isn't about **carbs** and **cigarettes** and **fast food**.
- Paul's picking up on what Jesus said earlier: *"There's still a tabernacle. There's still a place in the world where God's glory dwells ... he's dwelling inside of you!"*

And see, **if God lives inside of you, then there's no area of your life that isn't sacred.**

- Your **job**? Sacred.
- Your **carpool line**? Sacred.
- Your **gym**? Sacred.

So before your feet hit the floor in the morning: *Holy Spirit, thank you that you are with me. Lead me today. Help me see what you are doing and what you want to do in and through me.* Some of you are "waiting on the HS to show up" in your life; stop waiting for the "spiritual moment."

You're carrying the "moment" inside of you!

- Before you go into that **meeting**: *Spirit, lead me.*
- Before you **yell at your kid**: *Spirit, work through me and help me exhibit the fruit of you living inside of me!*
- Students, before you **go to school**: *Spirit, help me be salt and light today.*
 - Students, you need to hear this: **There's no HS Jr.**
 - Next Gen: Cuz of the HS you aren't *just* the "next" generation ... you're the **NOW Gen!**

How would your Monday look different if you really believed the presence of God dwelled inside of you?

Which brings us to our second advantage:

2. The Spirit Is the Power of Jesus Through You

John 16:7, ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

The word translated as “helper, comforter, or counselor” is the word *paraclete*. (I always remember this cuz when it comes to sports, a “pair of cleats” HELPS you.)

- The image Jesus is after here is how the Spirit comes alongside to help, comfort, and counsel ... but also to empower.
- He’s saying, “*If I stay, I can do more miracles ... but if I leave, then **the same Spirit that I’m working all these miracles can come into every single one of you and give you power.***”

Act 1:8, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ...

- He doesn’t just **comfort** or **counsel** you, he **commissions** you.

Think about it like this: **Flight Attendant vs. Air Marshal**

- One is there to keep you **comfortable** (which is great).
 - The other is there **on a mission**.
- One serves snacks and says, “*Relax.*”
 - The other’s **alert and ready to act** at any moment.
- One is thinking, “*How do I **serve** and make this **smooth**?*”
 - The other is thinking, “*How do I **execute** and **secure** the mission?*”
- Most of us solely relate to the HS as a flight attendant—someone whose job is to make our life easier. But he didn’t move in just to keep you **comfortable** ... he moved in to keep you **on mission**.
- The Holy Spirit doesn’t just fill us for **personal peace** ... he fills us for **public mission**.

Lemme ask you: If the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, what *can’t* you do? We should constantly be asking, “*Spirit, how do you want to work through me today?*” In fact, where in your life have you settled for safe over Spirit-filled?

- And I’ll be honest with you: If you truly *desire* the **guidance** and **promptings** and **power** of the HS, he’s probably gonna lead you into some **places** and in some **directions** and to some **people** you don’t actually wanna go.
 - That **coworker** isn’t just annoying ... they might be your assignment.

- Your **job**, your **street**, your **gym** ... it's your mission field.
 - So start the spiritual conversation.
 - Share Jesus with someone.
 - Share your story.
 - Pray out loud for someone *on the spot*. No more of this "I'll be praying for you." How about you PRAY FOR THEM RIGHT THERE?
- Step into something that scares you, and ask the Spirit to meet you and empower you in it!

3. The Spirit Is the Voice of Truth to You

There's actually three specific ways he's the voice of truth in our lives.

a) The Spirit **illuminates** (he reveals truth)

When **Billy Graham got saved**, he said he honestly didn't feel much different ... until he opened his Bible—he said it was like someone "messed with it." **Cuz all of a sudden, it started to make sense.** That's called **illumination**!

- I can expose you to the Word of God, but I cannot expose the Word of God to you. That's why some of you have been coming for months and it's still not clicking. Only the Spirit can do that.

John 16:13: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

Now, when it comes to **illumination**, I do need to be clear on something that someone needs to hear today: **The Holy Spirit is not revealing new things to us.**

- Don't come up to me and say, "Hey, the HS told me something Jesus said 2,000 years ago that no one ever wrote down and it's really important for the church to hear." **That's not how this works.**
- One of the big mistakes in a lot of **charismatic circles** is that people start **chasing new ideas or "fresh words" from the Spirit, while neglecting what the Spirit has already said in the Word.**
- But Jesus is clear here: The Spirit doesn't come with his own agenda ... he's not a **freelancer**. He speaks what he hears from the Father and the Son ... he's not inventing new truth. He's **illuminating** the truth that's already been spoken and written.

b) The Spirit **reminds** (he brings truth back when you need it)

John 14:26: 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 have said to you.*

The Spirit brings back what you thought you forgot exactly when you need it most!

- Here's what I've learned, though: He can't bring to mind verses you haven't put there.
- We say around here we want you **so full of God's Word** that when life cuts you, you bleed his Word!

So in times of **temptation**, the Spirit reminds me of **1 Corinthians 10:13**: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

In the moment of **anxiety**, the Spirit whispers **Philippians 4:6–7**: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

In those moments where you seem to know the exact verse, that's not just your brain being **clever**; that's the Spirit being **faithful** in reminding you of truth.

c) The Spirit **convicts** (he shows where your life doesn't line up with truth)

John 16:8: *"And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."*

Here's what that means—real simple:

- **Sin** is talking about our unbelief. The #1 sin is not believing in Jesus. All other sins—lying, lust, greed, power—the root of those is not believing in Jesus.
- **Righteousness** is the reality that Jesus is alive at the right hand of the Father, and he's the only one who can make us right with God.

- **Judgment** means Satan's already lost; he **lost at the cross**. And now, if you belong to Jesus, your judgment and punishment has already fallen on him at the cross ... God would be unjust to punish sin twice.

Which means when the Spirit convicts you, he's doing that **not to push you away**, but to **pull you back home**. In fact, that's the easiest way to know whether something is from the Spirit or from Satan: One convicts (Spirit) and one condemns (Satan).

Tyler Staton, *The Familiar Stranger*: "The key to discerning between the Holy Spirit's whisper and the deceiver's scheme, then, starts with recognizing what the voice is doing to you as you listen to it."

- **Condemnation** says, "You're too far gone."
 - **Conviction** says, "Come back home."
- **Condemnation** says, "Keep hiding; stay in the dark ... you're too broken to ever change; no one could love you now."
 - **Conviction** says, "Come into the light ... there's mercy waiting; let Jesus heal you."

One of the greatest (and kindest) ministries of the HS is how he convicts our hearts, **because it is impossible to live in the power of the Spirit and as a prisoner to sin at the same time**.

- The Spirit is like **GPS rerouting you after a wrong turn**—not to punish you, but to get you home.
- So when you feel the Spirit calling out your sin, that's not guilt, that's an invitation— **respond, repent, and come back home**.

The Spirit **illuminates** what's true, **reminds** you of what Jesus said, and **convicts** you with mercy and truth. And he does all that with one thing in mind:

4. The Spirit Is the Spotlight on Jesus Through You

John 16:14: Jesus says, "[The Holy Spirit] will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

Put simply: HS's aim is to **glorify and point to Jesus**, not **hype himself**.

- If the HS served here, he'd be on the **production team**—he'd wanna **point cameras** at Jesus, **shine lights** on Jesus, blast volume so you can hear Jesus.
- A lot of you will tell us, "We don't talk about the HS very much around here." Well, on some level, the HS doesn't talk about the HS much. He just wants to talk about Jesus!

Actually, that's one of the easiest ways to determine if someone is operating in the Spirit or the flesh: *Who are they pointing you to? Who are they shining a light on?*

- In fact, let's get real uncomfortable—if the spotlight is always on them, they might be operating by an **evil spirit** instead of the Holy Spirit, and they're a FALSE PROPHET.
- Truly spirit-filled people don't try to get you to sow into **their ministry** that is completely centered around **their gifts** and **their talents** and **their charisma** and **their “prophetic words from God.”**
- The Spirit will always give **glory to Jesus**, not to **your giftings**.

Here's what I hope you walk away with: You need to realize the HS is a person.

- He's not an **invisible force** or an **“it”** or a **feeling** or **energy**.
- He's a person:
 - o He speaks (Revelation 2:7; Acts 13:2).
 - o He intercedes (Romans 8:26).
 - o He leads (Acts 8:29; Romans 8:14; John 16:13).
 - o He comforts.
 - o He convicts.
 - o He commands (Acts 16:6–7).
 - o He can be grieved.
 - o He can be resisted.
 - o He can be ignored.

He's not “it.” He's HIM. He's a person with emotions who **loves** you and **delights** in you and wants to take up residence **in your everyday life**.

So you need to know, when you reject God's Word, you're rejecting a person. Jesus said in **John 14:23**, *“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”*

- Be honest for a second: If you say you love Jesus, but you don't obey him, **you don't really love him**. The next verse says *“Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.”*
- If that's you, the reality is that your heart is condemned, you don't belong to Jesus, and you need to be saved.

- But here's the offer: If you'll repent and place your faith in Jesus, he'll **forgive your sin, fill you with his Spirit**, and **move in**. And when he moves in, everything changes. You won't just go to church; you'll carry the Spirit with you wherever you go.
- You won't just have *access* to God; you'll have his **permanent presence** in you.

And I don't know about you, but I **want more**. I don't want us to be a church that settles for **half-decent teaching** and **good music** and **weekly small groups** and just assumes that means we're walking in the Spirit.

I want us to be a people full of the power of God. Not because we figured out a **formula** or got the **configurations** right ... but because we were desperate for more of him.

- I want everything he promised.
- I want to walk in the fullness of his presence.
- I want to live in the power of the Spirit.
 - *Don't you?!*

PRAY

Father, do a fresh work of the Spirit in our lives today. Give us a fresh stirring ... a fresh filling of your HS, so we can **experience the advantages we have in him**. **Breathe on us again ... wake us up to everything you've already made available**.

Father, by the grave-robbing, kingdom-advancing, Christ-exalting power of the Holy Spirit, use us to make disciples in RDU and around the world.

We pray in Jesus' name ...