

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little.

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #204

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

CHAPTER 16

1. Jesus warns of persecution.
2. Threefold work of the Spirit toward the world
3. After His ascension, Christ to continue to reveal truth through the Spirit.
4. Jesus speaks of His death, resurrection, and second advent.

Part One-Verses 1-6

1. *There things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.*
2. *They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.*
3. *And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor Me.*
4. *But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.*
5. *But now I go my way to Him that sent Me; and none of you asketh Me, Wither goest thou?*
6. *But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.*

A more modern translation, the New Century Version, puts it this way: *I have told you these things to keep you from giving up. People will put you out of their synagogues. Yes, the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are offering service to God. They will do this because they have not known the Father and they have not known Me. I have told you these things now so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you.*

When John was writing this Gospel, there were already people who were giving up. When Pliny the Younger was a Roman governor, he was examining people to see if they were Christians. The Roman Empire and Emperor Trajan were persecuting Christians. Many of these believers, out of fear, said that they had been Christians but had ceased this belief many years ago. I fully believe that the Church is full of people today who will renounce the faith when persecution

comes, which it surely will come. We must be like William Tyndale who was persecuted because he was trying to get the Bible published in English. Tyndale spoke fluently seven languages, including Hebrew and Greek. He wanted the common man to be able to read the Bible, saying, "I defy the Pope, and all of his laws; and if God spare my life, ere many years, I will cause a boy that driveth a plough to know more of the Scripture than *thou* dost!" He was finally burned at the stake on October 6, 1536. He cried out prophetically, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes." It was the Tyndale New Testament that caused King James to set-up a committee of scholars to publish the King James Version, which is considered one of the most accurate translations from the original Hebrew and Greek. When Tyndale was being persecuted and his enemies were out to kill him, which they eventually did, he said, "I never expected anything else." Surely he knew of the Word of Jesus in the above passage and accepted his fate. We too may have to give the sacrifice of our lives.

Giving up the synagogue to us would be a small price, but to the Jews Jesus was talking to, this was a really big deal. Some of the Rabbis, according to Barclay, incorrectly taught the people that even prayer was not effective unless it was prayed in the synagogue. Besides, the synagogue was the center of Jewish life. Being excommunicated from the synagogue was like being ostracized by the whole community.

Part Two-Verses 7-11

7. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.
8. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
9. Of sin, because they believe not on me;
10. Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see Me no more;
11. Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

The Comforter of course is God the Holy Spirit. Jesus says that it is a good thing for the Son to go away because He will send the Holy Spirit. We know that the Holy Spirit was already on the earth. Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, for example, was filled with the Holy Spirit when John leaped in his mother's womb upon hearing the greeting of the Virgin Mary. What the Lord is actually saying here is that the Holy Spirit will come into close fellowship with these

believers when Jesus goes back to the Father. We see the fulfillment of this on the Day of Pentecost.

According to the words of Jesus, the Holy Spirit has a three-fold mission on earth: to reprove the world of sin, to reprove the world of righteousness, and to reprove the world of judgment. The Amplified Bible tells us that “reprove” really means to convict and convince and bring demonstration. Until the Holy Spirit convicts the world, we do not know we are sinners. We are spiritually dead in trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2:11). Without the Holy Spirit pursuing us, we would not awaken to our sinfulness and not realize we need Jesus. Sin causes people in the world to be hardened and spiritual blind. But a Christian who has relationship with Jesus feels exposed, embarrassed, confronted and convicted when the Holy Spirit reproves him of sin.

After we are convicted of sin and become genuine believers, the Holy Spirit convinces us of our righteousness through Christ. We all know that our righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). That’s why we need Jesus in the first place. His blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1st John 1:9). One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to show us our new condition and to declare, even when we feel so unworthy, that God has declared, and we are, the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus.

Finally, the Holy Spirit comes to convict the world of judgment. We all know that the world will stand before the Judgment Seat of God and Christians will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and that Satan will be judged for all the evil he has done.

Part Three-Verses 12-15

12. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.
13. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will show you things to come.
14. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine and shall show it unto you.
15. All things that the Father hath are Mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of Mine and shall show it unto you.

The Holy Spirit is the bearer of truth. We call this revelation. He gives us all truth. That is why it is so important to wait before the Lord and to be sensitive to His witnessing truth to us. If you are unsure, you need to check the revelation by the Word, seek spiritual counsel, run the supposed revelation by your spiritual authorities, and

ask again for a witness in your born again spirit. You will learn, if you do not already know, to judge a meeting by asking yourself if Jesus is being glorified-not men, not angels, not even the Holy Spirit for He does not speak of Himself.

According to Rick Renner, this word “*show*” or “*shew*” in the old King James, comes from a Greek word that means “*a guide who shows a traveler the safest course through an unknown country.*” We must remember that we are aliens in a strange land. This world is not our home. We need this guide and will increasing need Him as we approach the end of the age. The Holy Spirit will lead us, however, only if we give Him this right. Otherwise, we either quench the Spirit or grieve Him. The Holy Spirit often stopped believers, such as Paul, from going to certain regions or prompted them to go to others. By following the Holy Spirit and obeying the Word, we will have blessing and provision even in the difficult times ahead.

Part Four-Verses 16-33

16. **A little while, and ye shall not see me; and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me, because I go to the Father.**
17. Then said some of His disciples among themselves, What is this that He saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see Me: and again a little while, and ye shall see Me: and, Because I go to the Father?
18. They said therefore, What is this that He saith, A little while? We cannot tell what He saith.
19. Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask Him, and said unto them, **Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see Me, and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me?**
20. **Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice, and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.**
21. **A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come; but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.**
22. **And ye now therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.**
23. **And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you.**
24. **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

25. These things I have spoken unto you in proverbs; but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.
26. At that day ye shall ask in My name; and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you;
27. For the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me, and have believed that I came out from God.
28. I came forth from the Father and am come into the world; again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.
29. His disciples said unto Him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.
30. Now are we sure that thou knowest all things and needest not that any man should ask thee; by this we believe that Thou camest forth from God.
31. Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?
32. Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.
33. These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

According to Barclay, the Jews believed all time was divided into two ages: present time and the age to come. The Day of the Lord separated these two time periods. The present, to them, was bad and under condemnation. The Day of the Lord was even worse. It was a terrible day when the world would be torn to fragments, and it was often referred to as the “birth travail of the days of the Messiah.” The age to come was a golden age for the Jews. Jesus tells His disciples that it will be a day of joy and that that joy cannot be taken away. He also says that a believer will be able to ask anything in the Name of Jesus and will receive.

Jesus goes on to prophesy the scattering of the disciples when Jesus is arrested and says they will leave Him. Nevertheless, He says He is not going to be alone because the Father is with Him.

Then Jesus ends with one of the great verses of the entire Bible. According to Renner, “*tribulation*” in Greek describes a situation so difficult that it causes a person to feel “*stressed, squeezed, pressured, or crushed.*” “*Good cheer*” comes from the Greek “*tharseo*” and is often translated as “*take heart*” or “*fear not*” or “*be courageous.*” The word is spoken to encourage and strengthen someone who is

facing some kind of hardship or difficult ordeal. “*Overcome*” in the original language has the sense of “*I have overcome the world; I am still overcoming the world, and I will always be in an overcoming position in the world.*” Finally, the word translated “*world*” means “*all the human systems of the world.*” This same word is used in 2nd Corinthians 4:4: “*Satan is god of this world.*”

HOLY GROUND

Geron Davis

As I walked through the door I sensed His presence,
And I knew this was a place where love abounds.
For this is the temple, Jehovah God abides here,
And we are standing in His presence, on holy ground.

In His presence there is joy beyond measure,
And at His feet peace of mind can still be found.
If you have a need, I know He has the answer,
Reach out and claim it, you are standing on holy ground.

CHORUS

We are standing on holy ground
And I know there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in His presence,
On holy ground.