

THE CHURCH

Walking In The Comfort of The Holy Spirit Part 2

John 16:5-15

Week of February 6, 2022

Before Connect Group

- John 16:5-15
 - Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>
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But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 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. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:5-15, ESV

Sermon Notes

Hope is having clarity of the reality of your current position in the goodwill already poured out on you. Trust is stepping forward in confidence of the power and goodwill yet to be displayed.

What happens next? This is one of the greatest questions of concern throughout society. Some handle this question with confidence; Some handle this question with fear and anxiety; Some handle this with apathy. But no matter how one may handle this question, the truth is we simply do not know what is next and this is what creates the situation.

Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Last week we began talking about this idea of “walking in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.” And as I mentioned last week, we must understand the fullness of this Holy Spirit role in the church growth we are talking about here in our text. So I said I wanted to navigate this in two phrases. First, walking in the “hope” of the Holy Spirit. We talked about this one last week. Then, walking in the “trust” of the Holy Spirit. Which we will be talking about today.

- Hope is having clarity of the reality of your current position in the goodwill and power already poured out on you.
- Trust is stepping forward in confidence of the power and goodwill yet to be displayed.
- This “trust” in the Holy Spirit is one of the hardest aspects of the Christian life.
- Though you may acknowledge that Christ has saved you, you struggle to believe that he intends to bring joy to you.
- Though you may believe you have eternal life, you struggle to trust that the rest of this one will work out to His glory.
- Though you recognize that from the cross came the greatest blessing of life that has ever been poured out, you still can't believe that the suffering you are walking through right now can amount to anything good at all.
- However, here is the basic level truth for anyone who has put their faith in Jesus Christ.
- The same power that saved you from your sin and secured your eternal future, is the same power that washes over you in the next unknown moment. It is the same power that will be present in the next turn of events. It is the same power that will wash over you when your next tragedy comes to light, or victory is revealed.
- The trust that we have in what is next is intimately tied to the hope we place in what has already been done.
- This is meant to be encouragement to you. If you believe in the eternal victory in Christ, then there can be no other narrative for your life than victory.
- However, If the unknown of the future consumes your fear and anxiety, then you may need to revisit the faith you have placed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Here in the text of John 16 we can see some promises that Jesus has given his disciples about the unknown future that is coming and walking in the trust of the Spirit.

The Best Is In What Is Yet To Come

- John 16:5-7
- These words from Jesus are hard to navigate. I am with the disciples in this, it seems like an appeasement tactic to convince me that there is an advantage to not being with Jesus and someone else being with me. I cannot imagine a scenario where Jesus leaving me would be to “my advantage.”
- The Lord is not one to use tactics of appeasement. What He said is true. There is better in what is next.
- This is extremely hard to apply to the unknown, especially in a world like ours.
- But this promise is not attached to any situation or circumstance, it is attached to the presence of the “Helper”, the Holy Spirit.
- Why is this important to your growth and the growth of the Church?
- Because it means that you wake up every day with assurance of the good to unfold, not reacting and waiting for the events of each day to inform you.
- No matter the circumstances that are before us, we walk in victory not defeat. When it seems like there is no way out, like a stone rolled over a grave, we know that victory and life await us who walk in the trust of the Spirit.

The Gospel Is Still At Work in Every Moment Ahead

- John 16: 7-11
- This could be one of the strongest points to the work of the Spirit in the growth of the Church. Why? The very foundation for our faith in the Gospel, is that in the face of the greatest of unknown and the saturation of sin in our world, Christ entered and conquered all.
- *Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- The promise for those who walk in the trust of the Holy Spirit is that the Gospel is still doing and will do the work of salvation no matter what comes next. This is something that should dictate immense joy in our hearts.
- Vs. 9 - He will convict the world concerning sin.
 - The Gospel will continue to go out and convict hearts of sin.
 - If you remember early in this series we navigated Acts 2 and realized that the conviction of sin and repentance is at the center of Church growth. It is at the center of your growth. It is at the center of the true work of the Gospel.
 - I realize this is a weird twist to this promise, but every day you wake up one of the greatest gifts that you have in the presence of the Holy Spirit is that He will convict you of sin today! Why is this great? Because the conviction and ongoing repentance of sin is what sustains us in the joy and presence of the Father.
 - But the promise here is not just that he will continue to do that to you, but that he will continue to do that in people who have yet to believe!
 - The ministry that this church has ahead is unknown, but the promise is that the Gospel will continue in its power to transform hearts and transfer lives into the Kingdom of God!
- Vs. 10 - Concerning Righteousness:
 - The truth of who Christ is and what he has done.
 - The world has tried to make Christ out to be something less than Righteous. A teacher, a prophet...

- But Righteous is what must be true if our claims as believers are to hold up.
- The righteousness of Christ is the only way sins can be forgiven.
- The righteousness of Christ is the only way we can claim God has revealed himself to us.
- The promise here is that the Holy Spirit will testify over and over and over again of the righteousness of Christ!
- To you in the depth of your heart, and to those who need this truth in their lives to believe.
- How does this promote growth in the Church?
- It keeps us focused on the center of our identity. The moment the church becomes focused on anything other than the Gospel and the righteousness of Christ, we become a social club, or even worse... A Cult.
- Vs. 11 - Concerning Judgement:
 - The promise of trusting in the Holy Spirit is a continued reminder that the enemy has already been judged!

The Spirit Knows What is Next and Won't Let Us Down

- John 16:12-15
- The Holy Spirit is the one who knows all things to come and is the only one who can guide us in truth!
- The promise here is that you will be guided in truth. Not in any way walking in falseness.
- This should eliminate those who wander this life with a fear of failure or timidity over not being right.
- Am I saying you will never be wrong? Of course not, but I am saying that if you put your trust in the Spirit, you and your life will ultimately glorify God.
- Trusting the Spirit to unfold the things that are yet to come.
- This brings us back to the way I opened this sermon... "what happens next?"
- Part of the declaration here is that you do not need to know, because the Spirit does.
- Though this is true, this is very difficult. Why? Because it means that sometimes you have to take steps of faith without the details of their repercussions. Trusting that the Spirit is declaring the Glory of Christ in those faithful steps.
- This is truly the only way the Church grows... This is the only way you and I grow... We must walk every unknown, every unforeseen event in light of the Power of God through the trustworthy guidance of the Holy Spirit!

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- What is the relationship between trust and hope? How are they different? How are they similar? How do they relate to one another?
- The Gospel will continue to move and God will continue to stir in the hearts of man. What does this reveal to us about the sovereignty of God to endure any situation?
- Why do we fear trusting God? What are some of the reasons we give for our hesitancy in trusting God with our next steps? Are they more rooted in being scared or being prideful?
- How can we trust that the Lord's direction for our lives, even if we don't understand, is for our benefit and for His joy?
- Why do we know that we can trust the Lord? Where in our lives have we experience God's provision and leading through difficulties?
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Challenge For The Week

The idea of faith and hope are highly related and interconnected ideas, building on another. We have hope because we have faith and we have faith because we have hope.

- Take some time this week and take an honest inventory of your life and where you feel the Spirit calling you to go but are hesitant to follow Him. Write these areas and reasons down this week and pray over them as you seek to give them over to Christ.
- Following Jesus can be difficult sometimes. Yet, even then, it is a prime opportunity to go with one another and support one another. Who do you have that you can open up about your feelings and where God is calling?

