

# The Gospel According to John

## “The Incalculable Advantage of Jesus’ Departure”

John 15:26 through 16:15



## **John 15:26-27**

“When the Helper comes,  
whom I will send to you from the Father,  
that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father,  
He will testify about Me, and you will testify also,  
because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

## **John 16:1-4**

“These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

## John 16:5-11

“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. But 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 He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

## John 16:12-15

“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

# Main Idea

To our incalculable advantage,  
Jesus departed this world by way  
of the cross, ascended to the Father,  
and sent the Holy Spirit into the  
world to glorify Christ by testifying  
to His word and works.

# **To Our Incalculable Advantage**

Why is it to our incalculable advantage  
that Jesus departed this world?



**John 16:7**

**“But I tell you the truth,  
it is to your advantage that I go away.”**

**Why was Christ's departure advantageous?**

Because His death was necessary  
for our redemption.

John 16:5-7

“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. But I tell you the truth,  
it is to your advantage **that I go away.**”

Jesus was speaking of His impending death.

## John 16:5-7

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and **none of you asks Me, ‘Where are  
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Had Christ not departed  
by way of the cross, there  
would be no hope at all for us--  
no redemption, no lasting life.

### Mark 8:31

And He began to teach them that **the Son of Man**  
**must suffer** many things and be rejected  
by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes,  
**and be killed**, and after three days rise again.

### Luke 24:25-26

He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart  
to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!  
**Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these  
things and to enter into His glory?”**

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things **and to enter into His glory?**”

# **Why was Christ's departure advantageous?**

Because His death was necessary for our redemption.

**Because He went to His Father.**

## **John 16:8 and 10**

“And [the Holy Spirit]...will reprove the world...  
concerning righteousness, that I go to the Father.”

## John 16:8 and 10

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## John 16:8 and 10

“And [the Holy Spirit]...will reprove the world...

concerning righteousness, **that I go to the Father.**”

Jesus’ return to the Father was proof  
that He had accomplished His work  
and vindication of His righteousness;  
it was an entering into His glory.

## **Hebrews 1:3**

When He had made purification of sins,  
He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Jesus accomplished His work,  
ascended to the Father, and took  
His place of authority at the Father's  
right Hand having been restored  
to His pre-incarnate glory.

**John 17:4-5**

**“I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished  
the work which You have given Me to do.**

**Now**, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself,  
with the glory which I had with You  
before the world was.”

## **Philippians 2:8-11**

Being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled Himself by becoming obedient  
to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**For this reason also**, God highly exalted Him,  
and bestowed on Him the name  
which is above every name.

The Holy Spirit was sent  
to testify to and apply the  
finished work of the glorified  
Lord of lords and King of kings.

## **Matthew 28:18**

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,  
“**All authority** has been given to Me  
in heaven and on earth.”

The authority given to the Son included the  
authority to send the Holy Spirit into the world.

## **John 7:39**

...for the Spirit was not yet given,  
because Jesus was not yet glorified.

# **Why was Christ's departure advantageous?**

Because His death was necessary for our redemption.

Because He went to His Father.

**Because He sent the Spirit.**

## John 15:26

“When the Helper comes, **whom I will send to you from the Father**, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.”

## **John 16:7**

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I *depart*;  
for if I do not *depart*, the Helper will not come to you;  
but if I go, I will send Him to you.

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# To Our Incalculable Advantage

Why is it to our incalculable advantage that Jesus departed this world?

Why is the Holy Spirit needed?



**Why is the Holy Spirit needed?**

Because the task set before the church is impossible without Him.

## **John 14:12**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.”

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than these he will do; **because I go to the Father.**”

These greater works are made possible  
only because Jesus went to the Father  
and sent the Holy Spirit.

# **The task is simply too big!**

**John 17:18**

“As You sent Me into the world,  
I also have sent them into the world.”

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**John 17:18**

“As You sent Me into the world,

I also have sent them **into the world.**”

**Matthew 28:19**

“Go therefore and make disciples  
of **all the nations.**”

Consider that Jesus, in His humanity,  
was localized in His ministry;  
but the Spirit is not only *in every*  
believer empowering him but  
is Himself omnipresent!

# **The task is simply too dangerous!**

## **John 16:1-4**

“These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.

But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.”

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to you at the beginning, because I was  
with you.”**

The Holy Spirit was needed to empower the disciples to accomplish an impossible mission and to protect the disciples from stumbling when the mission gets dicey.

# **Why is the Holy Spirit needed?**

Because the task set before the church is impossible without Him.

**Because God cannot be known  
apart from Him.**

**John 1:10**

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,  
and **the world did not know Him.**”

**John 15:21**

“But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake,  
**because they do not know the One who sent Me.**”

**John 16:3**

“These things they will do **because**  
**they have not known the Father or Me.**”

### **1 Corinthians 2:14**

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised.

### **1 Corinthians 2:12**

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.**

The Holy Spirit is needed because,  
apart from Him, *no one* will know  
God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

# To Our Incalculable Advantage

Why is it to our incalculable advantage that Jesus departed this world?

Why is the Holy Spirit needed?

## What is the mission of the Holy Spirit?



# **What is the mission of the Spirit?**

To glorify Christ by guiding the  
Apostles into all the truth.

## **John 16:12-14**

“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

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on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak;

and He will disclose to you what is to come.

He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine

and will disclose it to you.”

The mission of the Holy Spirit was to glorify Christ by guiding the Apostles into all the truth and inspiring them to write His very words to us.

# Remember what Jesus had told them...

**John 14:26**

“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 said to you.**”

**2 Peter 1:21**

“...no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit** spoke from God.”

# **What is the mission of the Spirit?**

To glorify Christ by guiding the Apostles into all the truth.

**To glorify Christ by testifying  
to His words and works.**

## **John 15:26**

“When the Helper comes,  
whom I will send to you from the Father,  
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whom I will send to you from the Father,  
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This testimony is not merely a matter  
of making true statements but a matter  
of making Christ known so as to  
further Christ’s interests.

The mission of the Holy Spirit  
is to *apply* all that Christ has  
said and done *to us*.

# **The Spirit's work on behalf of Christ...**

He enlivens us.

He indwells us.

He seals us.

He assures us.

He leads us.

He intercedes for us.

He bears fruit in and through us.

# What is the mission of the Spirit?

To glorify Christ by guiding the Apostles into all the truth.

To glorify Christ by testifying to His words and works.

To glorify Christ by reproofing  
the world.

## **John 16:8-11**

“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

## John 16:8-11

“And He, when He comes, will **reprove**  
**the world** concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;  
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and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment,  
**that** the ruler of this world has been judged.”

This “conviction” is not referring to the *subjective* work of the Spirit to impress upon the soul its need of Christ; rather, it refers to the Spirit’s reproof of the world concerning its *objective* guilt.

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the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

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and concerning righteousness, that I go to the Father  
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that the ruler of this world has been judged.”

The issue is not simply “sins”;  
it is rejection of God Himself  
as revealed in His Son.

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the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;  
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and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment,  
that the ruler of this world has been judged.”

The world rejected Jesus and crucified Him,  
but the Father, in vindication of Jesus’  
righteousness, received Him and glorified Him.

## John 16:8-11

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the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;  
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and you no longer see Me; and **concerning judgment,  
that the ruler of this world has been  
judged.”**

If the ruler of this world ruler has been judged,  
what will become of his followers?

Consider that the very presence of the Holy Spirit is an indictment of a world that rejected Christ and sought to cast Him out.

# Conclusion

Ponder the advantages of Jesus' departure from this world.

Remember that you have been given the Holy Spirit to empower you for a mission.

Take courage!