

John 16: v.5-33. – “We can experience Joy in spite of our circumstances”

Read John 16 v. 5-33. First.

<sup>5</sup> “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> 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 depart, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup> of sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; <sup>11</sup> of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

<sup>12</sup> “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

<sup>16</sup> “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.”

<sup>17</sup> Then *some* of His disciples said among themselves, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father?’” <sup>18</sup> They said therefore, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not know what He is saying.”

<sup>19</sup> Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’?”

<sup>20</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

<sup>23</sup> “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

<sup>25</sup> “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; <sup>27</sup> for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. <sup>28</sup> I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup> His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.”

<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. <sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Introduction

Recently in the “Upper Room Teaching” Jesus has been teaching the following.

1. In Chapter 15: v. 1-17 Jesus taught about the disciple’s relationship with Himself. He taught that His people must remain in Him and persevere in His words so that they would bear fruit and avoid destruction.
2. In Chapters 15: v. 18 – 16:4 Jesus taught about the disciple’s relationship with the world. He taught the disciples that they would be hated by the world for belonging to Jesus and not to the world. However the Father has not given up on the world and expects us to reach them through the Gospel message.

We now come to chapter 16: v. 5-33 and in this section Jesus teaches us the relationship between the Disciples and Father God. Jesus brings the Upper Room teaching to a close by reminding His disciples that He is going back to the Father. We see that clearly in v. 5, 17, and 28.

At the time the disciples didn’t realize that to get to the Father Jesus would have to get there by the way of the cross. However later on as the disciples looked back they would fully appreciate the teaching of Jesus.

It is a bit like us. We don’t always understand what God is doing in our lives at the time, however when we look back, we can see the hand of God upon our lives, even in our mistakes.

Let us now come to the text and discover what God has to say to us through His word.

1. The going away of Jesus will ensure the coming of the Holy Spirit. ( v. 5-7 )

The disciples were sad that Jesus was departing and that they would not see Him again. However Jesus says that it is to the advantage of the disciples that He goes away. Jesus said that if He didn’t go away they wouldn’t receive the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit would help them to remain in the vine and to absorb the persecution from the world.

Jesus has already told His disciples that the Holy Spirit was going to be exactly the same as Jesus and would provide the same support to them. The only difference was that He could be everywhere at one time, through living in the hearts of all believers.

This is a big advantage.

A spiritual leader can only help one particular person or group of people at any one time. However the Holy Spirit can be working through believers wherever they are in the world.

The work of Jesus continues through the work of the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus teaches about the work of the Holy Spirit - v. 8-15.

- a) The Holy Spirit will convict the world. – v. 8-9.

In these verses we are told clearly by Jesus that the Holy Spirit will do three things. It will convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

Firstly we need to understand what this word “conviction” means. It is a legal word that means to “bring to light”. It also means to “expose” and “convince”.

One way of illustrating this word is to imagine a court of Law. We may never have been to a court of Law but we have probably seen pictures of a court on television.

Imagine that the believers in Jesus are the witnesses, the Holy Spirit is the prosecuting attorney, or solicitor, or barrister, and the non- Christians are the guilty prisoners.

However the purpose of the Holy Spirit is not to condemn the prisoner but to bring him to Salvation.

If the prisoner admits to his crime, then the attorney can point him to Jesus who would willingly pay the penalty instead of him receiving punishment.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring to light and expose the guilt within a person.

We need to be very clear that it is the work of the Holy Spirit through believers that will expose the sin in the hearts of people.

The Holy Spirit doesn't work like some independent ghost, going through Churches and other places zapping people concerning their sin. Some sincere Christians believe this. Some Christians pray “Send your Holy Spirit to convict the lost”

However the Holy Spirit is living inside every born again believer and that believer needs to witness about Jesus and the cross of Forgiveness in order for the Holy Spirit to convict of sin.

On the day of Pentecost, thousands of people became Christians through the preaching of God's word about Jesus. It was Peter's preaching that activated the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of people.

We need to make the effort to present the Gospel so that the Holy Spirit can work through us.

This is why it is so important to develop a “Holy” relationship with the “Holy Spirit” living in our hearts. He works through if we will let Him.

Notice in v. 9 what the sin is. “Because they do not believe in me..”

Yes it is the sin of “unbelief”. It is unbelief that condemns the lost sinner.

Turn back with me to John 3: v. 18-21. (Quote in N.K.J.)

<sup>18</sup> “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

<sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

The Law of God, that is the 10 Commandments, and the conscience of man will in some way convict the sinner of particular sins they commit, but it is the work of the Holy Spirit, through the witness of the believers, to expose the unbelief of a lost world.

A person can clean up his life, stop stealing, committing adultery etc., and still go to hell because they do not believe in Jesus and His work for them, by dying on a cross for their sins.

I hope that we are all clear that the Holy Spirit can do a work through all of us, by exposing or bringing to light people's unbelief. It is our job to present the Gospel.

b) The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of "Righteousness" v. 10.

Let us be clear about this, it doesn't say "unrighteousness", it says "Righteousness".

The question is whose righteousness does the Holy Spirit convince us about?

The answer is the "Righteousness" of Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God.

When Jesus was on this earth the world did not recognize Him as the perfect, sinless, son of God. They called Him a Blasphemer, a law breaker, a deceiver, and even someone with an evil spirit.

They certainly did not recognize Jesus Christ and His "Righteousness"

The Holy Spirit convinces the sinner that Jesus is fully God and the perfect Holy Son of God.

c) The Holy Spirit convinces of judgment – v. 11.

Don't confuse this statement with Acts 24: v. 25 about future judgment. Here Jesus is referring to His judgment of satan.

Quote John 12:v. 31.

<sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Jesus was referring to His judgment of satan that came into effect by His death on the cross. Satan is the prince of the world but he is a "Defeated Prince"

Satan has already been judged and the verdict so to speak has been announced. All that remains is the execution of that judgment when Jesus Christ returns.

So to sum up the teaching of Jesus here we could say this.

When a Non- Christian is truly under conviction by the holy Spirit, he or she will see the evil of unbelief, they will confess that they do not measure up to the righteousness of Jesus Christ and they will realize that they are under condemnation because they belong to the world and the devil.

(Quote Ephesians 2: v. 1-3)

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the

spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,<sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Warren Wiersbe says in his commentary “Witnessing is a great privilege, but it is also a serious responsibility. It is a matter of life or death. We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us to the right person, give us the right words, and enable us to glorify Jesus.”

d) The Holy Spirit will guide believers into all truth – v. 13-15.

Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit will also guide them into all truth.

This all truth we are told is about Jesus and God the Father.

The logic here seems to be that because the Holy Spirit leads the disciples into all the truth about Jesus that they are able to remain in Him, persevere and bear fruit for God’s glory.

As the disciples testify to what they have received from the Holy Spirit about Jesus, the world will be convicted concerning sin, righteousness and judgment.

Jesus is glorified as we proclaim the message of the gospel.

The Holy Spirit’s work is to convict, the disciples work is to testify and the Churches work is to continue that work.

The Holy Spirit has led the disciples into all truth, so there is no more truth about Jesus, it is only what we read in the scriptures. There is everything we need to know about Jesus in the Bible.

When you compare John 14:26 with John 16:13 you will notice the wonderful way that God arranged for the writing of the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit would remind the disciples of what Jesus had taught them. This gave us the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth, this gave us the epistles or the letters in the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit was also going to show things to come, this refers to the prophetic scriptures, especially the book of Revelation.

So we see that the work of the Holy Spirit of God is never different from Jesus Christ and His words or any of God’s words in the Bible.

It says in John 15:26 – He shall testify of Me, and in 16:14 He shall glorify Me.

Anybody who claims that the Holy Spirit has led them to do anything that is against the example of Jesus or the teaching of the Bible is WRONG.

Where the Holy Spirit is at work there must be TRUTH.

3. Jesus’ going away will bring in a new age of lasting JOY – v. 16-33.

Jesus concludes his final teaching in the upper room. He deals primarily with the emotions of the disciples.

They were unhappy and confused about the teaching of Jesus. They were also afraid. They were normal people just like you and me.

In this section there is a recurring theme, and that is the word “Joy”. We find it in v. 20-22, and in v. 24 and v. 33. The disciples at that time were not experiencing very much “Joy”, however Jesus was about to change that.

In this section Jesus explains how the disciples could have “Joy” in their lives.

Jesus gives the disciples and us three ways in which we can be assured of Joy in our Christian life.

a) The first is to understand a principle that Jesus explains.

The principle that Jesus is trying to explain to his disciples in v. 16-22 is that God brings “Joy” in our lives, not by substitution but by transformation.

Q. What do I mean by that? Well, let us look at the illustration Jesus gives concerning a woman having a baby.

The same baby that caused the pain in child birth, also caused the “Joy” afterwards.

God didn’t substitute something else to relieve the pain of the mother in child birth. Instead God uses what is there already but transforms it.

It is the same in the Christian life. God takes impossible situations, adds the miracle of His grace, and transforms the trial or sorrow into “Joy”.

The life of Joseph is an example of how God transformed his hopeless situation into one of “Joy”

Joseph was sold as a slave, and eventually put into prison for something he didn’t do. However God transformed his life and he ended up controlling Egypt and being responsible for not only feeding that part of the world but continuing the Messianic line through to Jesus.

The way to bring “Joy” into our situation is to let God transform it as we submit to His will and purpose for that situation.

In the text Jesus is talking to the disciples who have sorrowful hearts. He says that He will see them again and their hearts will rejoice. They will also have a “Joy” that nobody will be able to take away.

We know the full story, the disciples eventually had a joy after the resurrection of Jesus, and a joy after the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and are enjoying a full joy in heaven today.

b) The second way in which the disciples could be assured of joy is to believe in the promise of Jesus. ( v. 23-28 )

The big question we need to ask here is what is Jesus promising about prayer?

The first thing we need to establish is what Jesus means by “In that day”.

It is very likely from the evidence of other scriptures that Jesus was referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says that a day was coming when they would not ask Him questions. Instead, they would pray to the Father and He would meet all their needs.

This was the promise Jesus was giving His disciples and they needed to believe it. The Father loved the disciples and would hear their requests and meet all their needs.

While Jesus was on the earth He met all the needs of the disciples. Now Jesus was going to return to the Father, He would meet all their needs through prayer.

In the Upper room talk Jesus emphasized prayer and made it clear that it is one of the secrets of a fruitful Christian life.

There is a “Joy” in prayer, both in the time we spend in prayer but also in the answers we get to prayer. We all don’t pray enough and we need to pray more, especially corporately as a Church.

- c) Finally the third way in which we can be assured of “Joy” in our Christian life is to “overcome the world” and have “Peace” – v. 29-33.

You will notice that in v. 29-30 that the disciples suddenly start to understand what Jesus has been teaching them.

The disciples not only said they understood the teaching of Jesus but gave assurance of their faith and trust in Jesus.

Jesus replied and warned them of hard times to come, but also that in those hard times that they might have “Joy” and “overcome the world”

Jesus was clear to say that only “In Him” would they have peace. We can’t look to anybody else in the hard times, except to Jesus.

George Morrison defined “Peace” as “the possession of adequate resources”.

In Jesus Christ we have all the resources that we need. The secret is to appropriate those resources. Therefore we must remain in Christ.

Finally Jesus said that He had overcome the world.( v. 33)

Warren Wiersbe said in his commentary that we are either “overcome” or we are an “overcomer”.

Do you know how to overcome the world?

Well, John tells us in 1 John 5: v. 4. (Quote it here in N.K.J.)

<sup>4</sup> For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

The world wants to overcome us, this is why satan uses the world to persecute believers. The world wants us to conform to its standards and doesn’t want us to be different.

When we yield to Jesus Christ and trust Him, He enables us to be “Overcomers”

We need to claim our spiritual position in Jesus Christ and believe Him for “VICTORY”

So to summarize:

There is Joy when we permit God to transform sorrow into Joy.

There is Joy when God answers prayer.

There is Joy when we overcome the world.