



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 16:5-15

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5 But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’
 6 Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Paraclete [‘Counselor’] will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 About sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; 11 and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. 12 “I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. 15 Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you. (John 16:5-15)

SUMMARY: Often, we interpret John’s depiction of the Spirit through the lens of Paul’s spiritual gifts or of Luke’s Pentecost narrative, resulting in distortion. It’s crucial to realize that John’s teaching sharply contrasts with both Paul and Luke; Paul’s diverse spiritual gifts are absent, replaced by the unique gift of the Paraclete. Luke’s concepts of ‘filling,’ ‘pouring out,’ & ‘clothing’ by the Spirit of Power find no mention; it’s the Spirit of Truth in John’s Gospel. To truly understand John’s perspective, let’s allow John to be John. At John’s Pentecost, the Spirit manifests as Jesus’ breath, unlike Luke’s mighty wind and burning fire (Acts 2). The Paraclete is sent to teach, remind, testify, convict, glorify, and guide. The crucial question is: Are we are willing to be guided into all truth? John argues against ecstatic spiritual experiences; John’s Jesus rejects the idea that heavenly ascent leads to visions of God. Instead, Jesus Christ alone descended to reveal God to humanity. Among the Gospels, John has the final word. Applying John’s message means forsaking ecstatic experiences and embracing guidance from the Spirit of Truth.

QUESTIONS:

1. Think about three major New Testament authors – Paul, Luke (Luke’s Gospel & Acts), & John (Gospel). Each of them wrote concerning the Holy Spirit, but from “different angles (perspectives).”
 - a. What do you think was Paul’s major point concerning the Holy Spirit?
 - b. What was Luke’s major point about the Holy Spirit (in his Gospel & Acts)?
 - c. What do you think was John’s major point concerning the Holy Spirit?
 - d. Is there a particular title for the Spirit that encapsulates the focus of each? What is it? Discuss.

2. John 16:8 says the Paraclete-Spirit will “convict the world about sin, righteousness, & judgment”
 - a. In this context, what does “convict the world about sin” mean? What is “convict”?
 - b. Jn. 16:9 says, “[convict] about sin, because they do not believe in me [i.e., Jesus];” So, what is “sin” here?
 - c. Jn. 16:10 says “[convict] about righteousness, because I’m going to the Father...” What’s “righteousness”? How is it linked to Jesus “going to the Father”? Discuss.
 - d. Jn. 16:11 says “[convict] about judgment, because the world-ruler has been judged.” What’s this mean? Who is “the ruler of this world”? Is he already judged (if so, when)? Is he judged in the future? Discuss

3. Jn. 16:13 says: “the Spirit of truth...will guide you into all the truth.”
 - a. What is the scope of “the truth” which the Spirit will guide believers into?
 - b. Is it “all truth” in an all-encompassing way?
 - c. Does it include scientific truth (e.g. $e=mc^2$)?
 - d. Is it truth vs. lies/falsehood (e.g. who committed a crime)?
 - e. So, what is “the truth” into which the “Spirit of truth will guide us”?
 - f. How can we cooperate/respond to the Spirit in order to be “guided into all truth”? Discuss