

**Men's Sunday Night Live**  
**Lesson 16 - John 16:1-15**  
**Finding Identity and Purpose**  
**What is the Spirit Doing?**

The disciples could not understand why Jesus had to leave them, so He showed them that His return to the Father made possible greater blessings because of the coming of the Spirit. The Christian life cannot be lived in the energy of the flesh. We need the Spirit of God if we are going to live lives that glorify Jesus. Here our Lord described how the Spirit works through the believer.

The world is no friend to the Christian. Jesus warned His own of the coming persecution. Paul, in his unsaved state, is a good picture of the kind of person talked about in vs. 2. The reason Jesus did not tell them this fact sooner was because He was with them to protect them.

He now explained the work the Spirit will do in the world through the church. Keep in mind that the Spirit does not come to the people of the lost world but to the people of God. His Spirit is here, reminding mankind of its awful sin. This is the sin of unbelief.

The disciples must have felt their ignorance of the Word, so Jesus assured them by explaining the teaching ministry of the Spirit. He had mentioned this in 14:26 and 15:26. "*Not speak of Himself*" does not mean that the Spirit never talks about or calls attention to Himself. He wrote the Bible, and there are hundreds of references to the Spirit in its pages! This phrase means that the Spirit will not teach whatever He pleases, but will get His leading from the Father and the Son. The Spirit teaches us truth from the Word, and in so doing, glorifies Jesus.

Any Christian who surrenders to Jesus can be taught by the Spirit. Read Ps. 119:97–104 to see how God can teach the humble Christian. It is not age, experience, or education that counts so much as a willingness to learn and live the Word.

**Read John 16:1-15 and answer the following questions**

1. What purpose did Jesus have in saying the things He did in 16:1? Explain?
2. How would the disciples be treated, and what would the people who were involved think about it? ( See 16:2) Why would people think this way? Does this type of thinking exist today? Give an example.
3. How would Jesus' statements help the disciples in the future? Why do you think Jesus didn't say anything to his disciples till now? (See 16:4)
4. How would it benefit the disciples for Jesus to leave? (See 16:7)
5. What would the Holy Spirit do? In what three areas would He do so? (See 16:8)
6. Define the word "convict." What does it mean that the Holy Spirit would convict the world in each of the three ways noted? (See 16:9-11)

7. Why did Jesus withhold information from the apostles? When would He reveal that information to them? (See 16:12-13)

8. From verses 13-14, list three things Jesus tells the disciples about the Holy Spirit?

9. How does the Holy Spirit speak to you today? What is His purpose?

10. What belonged to Jesus, and what does this tell us about His nature? (See 16:15)

## **The Work of the Holy Spirit** **By Billy Graham**

**First**, the work of the Holy Spirit is to convict us of our sin. *“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”* He uses a mother’s prayers, or a tragic experience, or a pastor’s sermon, or some other experience to convict us of sin and of our need to run our lives over to Jesus Christ. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. He points to us and says, “You are a sinner. You need to repent.” We don’t like to hear that, but that is the work of the Holy Spirit. Without that work we could never have our sins forgiven, we could never be saved, we could never go to Heaven.

**Second**, the Holy Spirit gives new life. The Bible says that we are dead in our sins and trespasses. Our spirit within us, made in the image of God, is dead toward God. The Spirit gives us new life in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *“No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.”* You must be born again.

The Holy Spirit is the One who does the work of making you a born-again person. It is a supernatural act. Paul said to Titus, *“not by works of righteousness which we have done”* -not all our good works and all the good things we have done are going to save us- *“but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”* We are saved by the mercy of God, by the grace of God. It is something I didn't earn, something I didn't work for. It is the gift of God, the gift of salvation.

**Third**, the Holy Spirit indwells us. As you read this, you may realize that you are spiritually dead, *“I will put my Spirit in you. I will come to live in you.”* Your body becomes the temple where God dwells by His Holy Spirit. That is the reason we should never take anything unclean into our bodies. That is the reason we should discipline our bodies. God loves your body. He doesn't want it polluted by fleshly lusts and the things to which you give yourself. The Bible says, *“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?”*

**Fourth**, The Holy Spirit gives you power to serve Christ. *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.”* I couldn't do the work I am doing without the power of the Holy Spirit. I am a communicator of God's message. He called me and gave me that gift. What counts is the message that according to the Scripture Christ died for our sins, He rose again, He is coming back again, and He is ready to come into your heart by the Holy Spirit and make you a new person.

**That is the Gospel.**