

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 37 (September 9-15, 2018)

The ministry of the Holy Spirit at work within each believer will continue to be the subject in this week's devotions.

Sunday, September 9 (read John 16:12-15)

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear." (John 16:12)

I am thankful that Jesus could not reveal His entire future plan to me at age 12 when I asked Him to forgive my sins and to live inside my heart, an act that guarantees my eternal home in Heaven (v. 12). My young mind and heart were not mature enough in the Lord to understand His future plans. I'm still glad that I have so much more to learn that I face each new day with great anticipation. I would hate to think that I have already **experienced** all the excitement and joy of new knowledge. Therefore, my heart's desire is for God to enlighten **your** heart and mind so that you, too, can know the love He has for you. Today's text teaches how the Holy Spirit continues to add to your current faith and knowledge if you are open to His leading. We will look at this more closely in the days ahead.

Monday, September 10 (reread John 16:12-15)

"But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13a)

God wants His children to understand **all** of His Word, but this happens only as we walk with Him and obey His teachings daily. The Holy Spirit enters at conversion and continues to work within us until the Day when Jesus calls us home. As you can see in today's printed verse, it is the Spirit's job to grow us from babes in Christ into mature Christians. In doing so, He speaks only the Word of God so that we can understand God's **past** acts on our behalf as well as what is going to happen in the **future** (v. 13b). This same Spirit has led many of today's preachers to use a verse-by-verse method of explaining His Word (see Nehemiah 8:8). This assures that all glory goes to Jesus for everything that is accomplished (v. 14a).

Tuesday, September 11 (reread John 16:12-15)

"He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." (John 16:14)

Today's printed verse puts an exclamation on everything that Jesus has said in this passage. He receives glory when the Spirit uses what you have already surrendered to God as a foundation for more truth! In other words, when you walk in all the light you now have, God promises to show you more truth throughout your life on earth. Sadly, the opposite of that is true too. When you willfully disobey known truth from God, the flow of new information stops until you yield in obedience to Him. Everything that you have committed to Him belongs to the Father (v. 15). From that current knowledge, the Spirit will lead you into **all truth** as you walk with Him (v. 13). I pray that the Spirit will use these devotions and your personal Bible study to help you gain more truth.

Wednesday, September 12 (read John 16:16-18)

They kept asking, "What does He mean by 'a little while'?" We don't understand what He is saying." (John 16:18)

In today's text, Jesus is turning His earthly ministry over to the Holy Spirit as He prepares for His crucifixion (v. 16). He is telling His disciples that the **visible** Christ is going to the Father who will send the **invisible** Spirit to continue the work within the disciples, but His followers do not have a clue what He is saying to them (v. 17). Jesus has already taught them that the **world** will not see and experience the

Wednesday, September 12 (cont)

workings of the Spirit (John 14:18-19), but **they**, as well as more than 500 chosen believers will see the risen Christ (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-8). Today, we are still asking one another, "What does He mean by 'a little while'?" We are looking for His **return to earth** to set up His kingdom. Preceding this, all true Christians will be caught up into heaven in the rapture (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). No one knows the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36), but we do know from all the signs that it could certainly happen in "a little while." I pray that you are among those who long for His appearing, because the "crown of righteousness" awaits you (2 Timothy 4:8)

Thursday, September 13 (read John 16:19-24)

"I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy." (John 16:20)

In the printed verse above, Jesus is predicting His resurrection appearances to His disciples, but this verse has meaning for us today as well. We are living in a time when the world is rejoicing in victories over Jesus and His Word. Christians in other lands are already being crucified, burned at the stake, and beheaded for their faith. So far, we have seen only a few violent acts in America, but these more barbaric forms of murder will arrive soon. Our politically correct politicians refuse to admit that the kingdom of Islam is at war against the kingdom of God. The wonderful news is that our victory is assured through the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). You mothers can understand the illustration Jesus gives regarding childbirth (v. 21). The Church is about to give birth, so endure the pains of childbirth for a little while longer. He is coming soon!

Friday, September 14 (reread John 16:19-24)

"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 16:23)

Because we know how the story ends, we should be able to rejoice as we observe the signs of His return all around us. These are difficult days, but we have **joy** that the world cannot take away (v. 22) as well as **peace** that cannot be lost (John 14:27). Since Jesus knows that the politically correct world will make life difficult for true Christians, He repeats His sevenfold promise to give us whatever we ask in order to thrive during these last days (v. 23, 24, 26; see also 14:13, 14; 15:7, 16), but now, He tells us we can talk directly to the Father (v. 23). Knowing this, why is it so difficult to pray to the Father in the Name of the Son? He is waiting for us to "approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Now is our time of need!

Saturday, September 15 (read John 16:25-33)

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can now approach the Father in His Name without fear (v. 25-28; see also Hebrews 4:16). The entire Trinity is at work on our behalf! I pray that you, like His disciples, finally realize the privileges you have as a child of God (29-30). Persecutions will soon distinguish true Christians from nominal church members (see Matthew 13:21). Like Jesus, you do not need to feel alone, for God is with you (v. 31-32). Tough days are coming to Christians in America, just like they have already come to other countries. Don't be afraid, however, because Jesus has overcome the world (v. 33). Praise His Name! The government will soon be on His shoulders (See Isaiah 9:6-7)!