

# John 15:26–16:15 — “The Work of the Spirit: Witness, Conviction, and Glory”

The Holy Spirit continues Jesus’ work alongside believers by testifying of Jesus, convicting the world, and glorifying Jesus—so we are never alone in our calling.

## Biblical / Cultural Context

Jesus is still speaking in the Upper Room on the night before the cross. He has warned the disciples that the world will hate them because it hated Him first. In the first century, believers would look small and weak compared to religious leaders and Roman power, but Jesus assures them that God’s work never depends on human strength. The Father will send the Holy Spirit after Jesus departs, and the Spirit will continue and expand Jesus’ mission.

## Passage Outline

- **I. The Spirit Testifies to Christ Alongside Believers (John 15:26–16:7)**
- **II. The Spirit Convicts the World of Unbelief, Righteousness, and Judgment (16:8–11)**
- **III. The Spirit Guides God’s People and Glorifies Christ (John 16:12–15)**

## I. The Spirit Testifies to Christ Alongside Believers (John 15:26–16:7)

 **When believers witness for Jesus, they are never doing it alone—the Holy Spirit is the primary Witness who empowers their testimony.** Jesus promises “the Helper,” the Comforter, the Advocate, who comes from the Father and is sent by the Son. God has given the world two reliable witnesses to Christ—the Holy Spirit and faithful believers. Jesus also tells them hard times are coming, not to scare them, but so they won’t stumble when persecution hits. Their sorrow is real, but Jesus says His departure is actually to their advantage because the Spirit will come, strengthen them, and continue Christ’s work with greater reach.

-  **Step out to witness with confidence, knowing the Spirit is working with you.**
  - *Have we held back out of fear, forgetting that God supplies the power?*
    - **Rely on the Helper, because Christ’s mission continues through the Spirit working in and through believers.**

## II. The Spirit Convicts the World of Unbelief, Righteousness, and Judgment (John 16:8–11)

 **The Spirit's conviction is aimed at the world's greatest need—belief in Jesus.** Jesus says the Spirit will convict the world of **sin** (singular), and He clearly defines that sin: “because they do not believe in Me.” The Spirit exposes unbelief through the preaching of the gospel, showing people their need for a Savior and calling them to believe in Christ for eternal life. The Spirit also convicts the world of **righteousness** because Jesus goes to the Father—His resurrection and return prove He is the righteous One God accepted and of **judgment** because Satan, the ruler of this world, is judged—meaning the power behind the world's rebellion has been defeated.

-  **Let the Spirit's message drive you to Christ, not confusion.**
  - *Have we misunderstood conviction as constant guilt instead of a call to believe and rest in Christ?*
    - **Rejoice that the Spirit points people to Jesus as the righteous Savior who has already defeated the enemy.**

## III. The Spirit Guides God's People and Glorifies Christ (John 16:12–15)

 **The Spirit's goal is not to draw attention to Himself, but to open God's truth and make Jesus known.** Jesus tells the apostles they cannot bear everything yet, but the Spirit will guide them into all truth, bring Jesus' words to remembrance, and reveal “things to come.” This promise is directly tied to the apostles because God would use them to give the New Testament—truth that is complete, authoritative, and sufficient for the church. Today, the Spirit does not give new revelation; He illuminates what He already revealed in Scripture so believers can understand it and apply it as they grow.

-  **Stay rooted in Scripture, because the Spirit guides through what God has already written.**
  - *Are we looking for experiences while neglecting the Word that points us to Christ?*
    - **Follow the Spirit's lead by staying close to the Bible, because His work always magnifies Jesus.**

 Father, thank You that we are not alone. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to testify of Jesus, convict the world of unbelief, and guide us into Your truth. Help us witness without fear, stay anchored in Your Word, and live in a way that glorifies Christ. **In Jesus' Mighty name, Amen.**