

John 16

- I. 16:1-4 The Coming Persecution
- II. 16:5-15 The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
- III. 16:16-22 See Him, Not See Him, See Him Again
- IV. 16:23-33 Praying in Jesus' Name

I. 16:1-4 The Coming Persecution

- A. Jesus reveals not simply that His disciples can expect persecution, but that religious people will be a primary source of it. Consider Paul before His conversion:

Acts 26:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹"Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

- B. Persecution has not gotten better since Paul. It may have gotten worse:

Year	1800	1900	2000	mid-2008	2025 estimate
Average Christian martyrs per year	2,500	34,400	160,000	175,000	210,000

Source: <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/globalchristianity/resources.php>

II. 16:5-15 The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- A. 16:6-7 They were sorrowful because they knew Jesus was leaving. But Jesus was not going to leave them alone to face the world.

i. Application: Loneliness

"The eternal quest of the human being is to shatter his loneliness."

– Norman Cousins (1915-1990), journalist, author

- a) Seek out other Christians whenever you are lonely. You are part of God's family, part of the body of Christ. It is your privilege to stay constantly connected with others. You need never feel alone.
- b) Beware of self-pity. It will weaken your will to do the right thing. Elijah the prophet thought he was the only one left on earth who faithfully served God and he was discouraged. God reminded him that others were out there and strengthened him.
- c) Remember that you are never really alone for God is with you. The Spirit indwells you as He does every Christian. And Jesus made us the following promise:

Matthew 28:20 (NKJV) ... lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- B. 16:7 *I will send Him* Jesus must be God. The Holy Spirit sends us. We can send one another. We cannot send the Holy Spirit, but Jesus did. Only God can send God.
- C. 16:8-15 The work of the Holy Spirit is not primarily an emotional work, though some people certainly seem to have that idea. As Jesus explains here, His focus is on our conscience, our mind and our will.

“The Holy Spirit has come to convince the mind, to exercise the conscience, and to cause the will to act in accordance with the desires of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.”

– Harry Ironside

- D. 16:14 How does the Spirit glorify Jesus? By taking what is His and declaring it to us.
- i. The Holy Spirit gave us the New Testament by means of human authors after Jesus left.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to reveal to us God's will, His heart, His desires.
 - iii. The Holy Spirit makes us like Jesus as we submit to His sanctifying work within us.
 - iv. The Holy Spirit has revealed that we are being prepared for Jesus as His bride.
 - v. The Holy Spirit has revealed “things to come” so that we now can understand the prophetic plan of God better than the disciples of Jesus did on the day He left.

III. 16:16-22 See Him, Not See Him, See Him Again

- A. How will His disciples “see Jesus”? There are several ways we can answer that:

- i. The first disciples all saw Jesus shortly after He died in His resurrection appearances:

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NKJV) ³For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

- ii. The disciples then saw Jesus as the Holy Spirit came to dwell with them and made Jesus real to them. He also dwells with us and does the same for us. Therefore we can agree with the statement in Hebrews 2:9: “But we see Jesus ...”

- iii. And when He returns for us, in a little while, we will also see Him face to face.

1 John 3:2 (NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

- iv. At the Second Coming all will see Him, but that will not be such a joyful day for everybody:

Revelation 1:7 (NKJV) Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

IV. 16:23-33 Praying in Jesus' Name

- A. 16:24 God is deeply interested in our joy. He wants us to be joyful people.

John 15:11 (NKJV) These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

*Ask and you will receive
joy to our hearts.*

Answered prayer is one of the ways He wants to bring

- B. 16:27 *the Father Himself loves you* You should always be deeply convinced of the radical, intense love God has for you.

Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899) was a great evangelist, but he grew up on a farm in Massachusetts never really mastered proper English. He once spoke at a series of meetings at Cambridge University in England, where he was not very highly respected. When the students of Cambridge learned that he was coming to this elite center of education and culture, some of them decided they were going to sit right in the front row and disrupt his service. When Moody came to the platform the first thing he did was look at these young men. Addressing them directly, he said to them, "Young gentlemen, don't ever think God don't love you for he do!" They were so stunned by Moody's straightforward sincerity that they couldn't say a word. Moody went on to preach the love of God for a broken, hurting world. At the end of it, several of these young men came to Christ and served the Lord all their lives – on into old age.

- C. The Father's love for us allows us to make our requests known directly to Him when we come in Jesus' name. God is more than happy to freely give to us.

Romans 8:32 (NKJV) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- D. Yet certain things He only gives in answer to prayer. Why? So that He can teach us and prove to us from continuous experience that we are dealing with a living God.

*"Prayer ... is a God ordained method of demonstrating the reality of God and His definite interest in the affairs of His people."
– Harry Ironside*

- E. 16:32 I think maybe Jesus detected a little overconfidence in His guys.

- F. 16:33 *that you may have peace* Jesus wants us to have complete peace in Him:

John 14:27 (NKJV) Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NKJV) Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.