It is to Your Advantage That I Leave

John 16:7

In John 16:7, Jesus is addressing his disciples about his impending departure. This news undoubtedly brought sorrow to the disciples, as they had come to rely on Jesus' presence and teachings. However, Jesus assures them that his departure is ultimately for their benefit, as well as the benefit of all believers. How exactly was this departure beneficial for them? It was beneficial because it marked the beginning of a new phase in God's redemptive plan. It would set in motion the work and presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling, living within the believer and empowering them to continue the work of Jesus.

Jesus' departure paved the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Throughout his ministry, Jesus had promised his disciples that he would not leave them as orphans and that he would send them a Helper, the Holy Spirit. John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans." This is a statement from Jesus that He will not leave them alone. "Even though I will not be with you physically, I will not abandon you." The term orphan is important because it carries with it the understanding that Jesus will not leave alone, without guidance and support.

This promise is fulfilled after Jesus' departure when the Holy Spirit is sent on the day of Pentecost. It is noteworthy to lift up that the Holy Spirit did not arrive for another ten days after the ascension of Jesus. For ten days the disciples had to wait for a promise from Jesus to be fulfilled. For ten days they were hiding in a room. Most people think it was only the 12 in the upper room after the ascension of Jesus. There were 120. Imagine if you will, 120 disciples in hiding. They were praying but they were hiding. They waiting on the Holy Spirit, the promise of Jesus, but they were hiding.

It must be clear that even though they were hiding they were actively seeking God. They were praying and trusting in the promise of Jesus. There will be times when we will have to wait on the promises of God. There will be times when the church will have to wait on the promises of God. But, we must wait in active anticipation, wait prayerfully as these disciples did. What this lifts up is the need for the Holy Spirit to give comfort to those who need it.

What is not visible or appreciated is, even amid their troubles; even though they were in the midst of persecution. Jesus did not abandon them. The Holy Spirit was not yet in them.

However, the Holy Spirit was in their midst. Jesus had already said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name I am in the midst.” The Holy Spirit was present. Jesus was present. It was a time when the power of Jesus was needed. Let it be known that it was a time when the power of Jesus in the presence of the Holy Spirit showed up.

The presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within the believer is filled with potential if we trust in His presence. It is crucial that we not only grasp the fact that the Holy Spirit lives in us. It is important that we understand that He is alive and living in us.

What this means is that we are not passive vessels but active participants in the work of Jesus Christ. Jesus being alive in us means that our lives can become more aligned with the will of God because of the living reality of the Holy Spirit’s presence. Understand this, it is not just about having the Holy Spirit reside within us. It is about allowing the Holy Spirit to use us for God’s purposes.

The presence of the Holy Spirit within believers is a significant advantage. Before Jesus’ departure, the disciples relied on his physical presence for guidance and teaching. Now they would have a constant companion, a helper living in them. The Holy Spirit would guide them in all truth, and empower them to carry out their mission of making disciples.

One of the most important aspects of the Holy Spirit’s presence in us is. We are never alone. We do not have to feel lonely. We do not have to wonder if anyone cares about us. We do not have to deal with our doubts and our fears alone anymore. In those moments of uncertainty, we can turn to the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance. This constant support of the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith and gives us what we need to persevere through those troubling times.

Even though Jesus’ departure was sorrowful to his disciples, it was ultimately for their benefit and the benefit of all believers. It marked the beginning of a new phase in God’s redemptive plan. It was the beginning of the Holy Spirit going to dwell in all believers. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit provides guidance, comfort, and empowerment for believers in their journey of faith. The Holy Spirit ensures that they are never alone. The Holy Spirit equips us for effective ministry. Jesus’ departure was necessary for the coming of the Holy Spirit, which is truly advantageous to all who believe.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool