Jesus' Departure and the Coming of the Holy Spirit

John 14-16

I have asked the church to read John 14-16. I would like to give a little background, which I hope will help you understand it in more depth. Chapters 14-16 teach the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. It should also be a reminder to us that we are not alone in our daily struggles. Just like Jesus was concerned about the well-being of His disciples then, Jesus remains concerned about us. He did not leave them alone, and Jesus has not left us alone to fight our battles.

The thirteenth and fourteenth chapters of the Gospel of John offer significant insights into the teachings of the Holy Spirit and the necessity of His departure. These chapters lay the groundwork for understanding the impact of Jesus announcing His crucifixion and the reason it was necessary to teach the disciples of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

In Chapter 13, Jesus tells the disciples of His betrayal by Judas and His impending crucifixion. This revelation disturbs them and turns their world upside down. Now, they are in a state of turmoil and shock. What are they going to do without Jesus? How can they continue without Jesus? The disciples are distraught as they consider their future and the upcoming events.

In John 14:1-4, Jesus seeks to address the disciples' concerns by reassuring them that He will never abandon them. However, He must leave if He is to prepare them for their future. Jesus has already planned for their future well-being. He assures them they will not be left alone. This is our assurance as well. Jesus has not left us alone to fight the battles of this world. We too, have the power of the Holy Spirit to teach us, comfort us, and reveal the truth of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. This pivotal moment marks Jesus' attempt to comfort and guide his followers through a tumultuous period.

In the teachings of Jesus, Chapter 14 stands out as a central moment as Jesus prepares his disciples for the imminent arrival of the Holy Spirit. In this Chapter, Jesus teaches the disciples about the Holy Spirit, the nature and role of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' teachings are intended to prepare the disciples for the drastic changes that are about to unfold in their lives, both spiritually and emotionally. Through His words, Jesus prepares them, and gives them a sense of anticipation as they look forward to this "Comforter" this "Holy Spirit" Jesus is going to send them. This new "Person" will take His place. Someone who will never

leave them alone. The “Holy Spirit” will be in them. Walking with them, teaching them, guiding them, and strengthening them to do all that Jesus instructs them to do through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus teaches His disciples when He leaves He will send another to take His place, the “Holy Spirit” who will empower them with wisdom, guidance, and a deeper relationship with Him and the Father. Jesus’ words convey the assurance that the Holy Spirit will be a never-ending source of comfort and support, equipping the disciples for the challenges that lie ahead.

Jesus’ teachings laid the foundation for a profound shift in consciousness, urging the disciples to open their hearts and minds to the influence of the Holy Spirit. This not only applies to the disciples then. It applies to us today. I encourage each of you to open your minds and hearts to the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life. The Holy Spirit is indeed your comfort and your strength. Through His guidance, Jesus fosters a sense of receptivity and expectation among the disciples, setting the stage for the profound spiritual change to follow. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will gain a deeper relationship with Jesus. (see 1 Cor. 1:10-12) A relationship we all desire.

The introduction of the Holy Spirit in the life of the disciples marked a turning point in their lives. Opening up your life to the Holy Spirit will likewise change your life’s journey significantly. As you open your life to the influence and moving of God’s Holy Spirit prepare for the internal changes that He will bring. Prepare for your life’s perspectives to change. Prepare for a new understanding of what is important to change. Prepare for the Holy Spirit to open the doors of heaven so you can see the things that God has prepared for those who love and obey Him. The teachings of Chapter 14 prepare you for Chapters 15 and 16. Chapter 13 lays the foundation for your understanding of the purpose of 14 through 16.

Chapter 14 sets the stage for understanding the role of the Holy Spirit. It is equally important to understand that the coming of the Holy Spirit is tied to the crucifixion of Jesus. That Good Friday and the Cross is the price paid for God sending the Holy Spirit. We must always remember every good gift comes with a price. Every ounce of strength we are given comes with a price, every blessing we experience comes with a price. Your salvation came with a price.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool