# The Role of the Holy Spirit Series – John 16

**A Lesson on the Holy Spirit – What Jesus Said About Him**

**John 16**

**These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.**

**Background:** Jesus in the previous chapter warns the disciples about their relationship with the world. The world is not going to love them because they hated Christ. If they persecuted Christ, we will be persecuted also. But if they receive Jesus, we will be received as well. He mentions that the world hates him without a cause but that he will send the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth that will testify of Christ.

Here in chapter 16, he tells the disciples don’t be offended or surprised if they kick you out of places and are so deceived that they think coming against you will please God. They are blind. He tells them now so they can be prepared. He didn’t need to tell them before, because he was walking with them and that provided comfort and assurance. But now he needed to warn them because he was about to leave.

**Observations:**

Jesus tells them about these things for three reasons:

* To prepare them for the future, so they won’t stumble or fall away from the truth and faith.
  + Offended means to fall away.
* So they would remember that he told them so there would be no surprise to them when it happens.
* So they would rely on the Holy Spirit and hold onto peace.

So, I asked AI hasn’t this already been fulfilled? Indeed, the examples include:

* Saul’s persecution of believers (Acts 9)
* Stephen being stoned (Acts 7)
* Nero and state sponsored persecution
* All the Apostles with the exception of John were martyrs

My next question was isn’t this going to happen again? Indeed, reference Revelation 6:9-11, Revelation 13:7.

Finally, I asked AI to provide evidence that what Jesus described is actually happening today. The response included describing how Pharisees were blinded by pride, self-righteousness and tradition and sincerely thought persecuting believers was defending God.

Today, attacks or excluding others still happens even though they think they are doing good (modern day Pharisees).

* Legalism and tradition – they condemn believers who don’t look or worship exactly like them.
* Political or cultural self-righteousness – Pharisees allied with Rome – thus mixing politics with religion. The same thing is happening now.
* Christians can be attacked today for standing on Biblical truths about morality, family, and justice.
* Blindness to mercy – Matthew 23:23. Today we can judge harshly and reject people who are struggling or mistreated.

**5“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

Observations:

* Because He is going to be with the Father, if we love Jesus, we should be happy he is leaving rather than sorrow and fear. Nevertheless means despite all of this.
  + Because the Father is greater in position and our High Priest will be before Him.
  + Because it is a fulfillment of the prophecy and the process.
  + Because we love Jesus and rejoice in his restoration and his glory with the Father. He is our friend and we rejoice in his exaltation and reward (John 15:13-15).
  + Because as we follow him, we shall be exalted too; the process continues to move toward the promised return of Christ in victory.
* There is a divine process at work here. It is a divine plan communicated from Genesis to now. The plan is still in effect. The sequence again is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. After the resurrection and ascension of Christ, the Helper or the Holy Spirit will come.
  + When we follow this three-step process and believe in the death, burial and resurrection, we should receive the Holy Spirit inside and He will begin to perform His work inside of us.
* Therefore, truly it is to our great advantage that Jesus go through the cross, the grave and the resurrection. It is to our advantage that he is with the Father.
  + To say goodbye, to suffer loss, to have to deal with some situations may be painful and seem like defeat. However, I’m finding that what I may be dealing with may be to my advantage.
  + My job loss was to my advantage for example. I’m better now because of it.

**8And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

**Convict the world of sin.** To convict or reprove is to convince and bring to light a fault. The Holy Spirit will expose the world of its sin of unbelief in Jesus Christ.

* Without belief in Jesus, our sin remains. The Holy Spirit helps us to identify our sins. When this happens, we can begin the process of being delivered by seeing our need for Jesus.
* Until we see the need and see ourselves in the light of God through the revelation for the Holy Spirit, it will be hard….very hard to seek Christ for help.

**Convict the world of righteousness.** Since Jesus is in Heaven with the Father, the Holy Spirit brings to light when we are not in right standing with God. When Jesus was on earth, he was able to show the disciples and the people from his teachings how to be in right standing with God. Now that he is gone, the Holy Spirit takes on that role.

* David Guzik -- The ascension of Jesus to heaven demonstrated that He had perfectly fulfilled the Father’s will and had proven Himself righteous — and exposed the lack of **righteousness** in the world that rejected Him. The Holy Spirit shows the world the **righteousness** of Jesus and its own unrighteousness.
* Jesus obedience to the will of the Father and his step-by-step fulfillment of the divine plan of God (spiritual principles) demonstrates to us righteousness through Jesus Christ.
  + From his baptism through John the Baptist, through his example in the wilderness, to the cross, etc., Christ leads the way into right standing with God through our belief in Him.

**Convict of judgement.** The Holy Spirit will reveal the judgement coming to the world because satan who currently has dominion and influence in the earth today is judged. If we follow after satan, we will be judged accordingly, and the Holy Spirit reveals this.

* David Guzik - Normally conviction is followed by judgment. When the Holy Spirit works, there is an in-between step: the revelation of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which can satisfy the judgment for the convicted person.

Even here Jesus outlines at a higher level a divine order and principle:

1. When we realize our sin,
2. God provides a plan for us to be restored in right relationship with God which removes the consequences of sin,
3. Then we escape the judgement to come upon satan. We have peace.

We recognize our need, we believe unto righteousness, we have peace with God.

It also works in the same pattern for unbelievers, with opposite results:

* You never realize the need to change or see your sins,
* You don’t believe in Christ and follow the steps to righteousness,
* Then you don’t escape the judgement to come; you have no peace.

**12“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. 13However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority,* but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. 15All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.**

How awesome! Christ has more to tell us but in His absence, the Holy Spirit will do the following:

* Guide us into all truth. It is God’s truth because he is not coming in His own authority. Likewise, we cannot operate in our own authority either!!
  + The Holy Spirit’s ministry is revealing Jesus to us, to bear testimony of Jesus (John 15:26).
  + John 15:26 -- But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
* Whatever he hears he speaks. Where does the Holy Spirit hear it from? Heaven!
* What does God and Jesus want us to hear from the Holy Spirit?
  + The future, what’s coming.
* The Holy Spirit will operate in a fashion that will glorify God. If we follow the truth and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will bring God glory as well.
  + You cannot bring God glory in your flesh (Romans 8:7-9).
  + We have power when we operate under the authority and power of the Holy Spirit.
* How will the Holy Spirit bring God glory?
  + By taking what Christ has for you and revealing to you.
  + By working through you and guiding you through your situations so that the things to come in your life speaks of the power and goodness of God.

So, I wanted to dig deeper into the judgement comments. I asked AI…here is the response:

Satan is judged for several reasons, all tied to his rebellion against God and his role in leading humanity into sin:

1. **Rebellion Against God**
   * Satan was originally a created angel who exalted himself against God (Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 28:12–17). His pride and rebellion brought judgment upon him.
2. **Deceiving Humanity**
   * From Genesis 3 onward, Satan’s strategy has been to twist God’s Word and draw mankind into sin. He is judged as the great deceiver (Revelation 12:9) who brought death, destruction, and separation from God into the world.
3. **Usurping Dominion**
   * Humanity was given dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26–28), but through Adam’s sin, Satan became the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31). Jesus’ coming reverses this—He reclaims authority through the cross and resurrection.
4. **Accusing the Brethren**
   * Satan stands as the accuser before God’s people (Job 1:6–12; Revelation 12:10). His judgment means his accusations will no longer hold power against those redeemed by Christ’s blood.
5. **Defeated at the Cross**
   * Most directly in John 16, Jesus points to His coming crucifixion and resurrection. At the cross, Satan’s power is broken. Hebrews 2:14–15 says that through death Jesus destroyed “the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.”

👉 So, Satan is judged because **his rebellion, deception, and authority have been overthrown by Christ’s victory at the cross.** His final sentencing will be carried out at the end of the age when he is cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

So we have two destinies in contrast:

* Those in Christ – victory and reward and inheritance.
* Those rejecting Christ – share satan’s fate of judgement, separation, destruction.

Last major point I saw was Jesus stating that the Holy Spirit will take what is His. What is His that He gives to us?

Jesus is saying the Spirit will reveal the fullness of what the Father has given Him. That includes:

* **Truth** – Jesus is *the Truth* (John 14:6), and the Spirit guides believers into all truth (John 16:13).
* **Life** – Christ has resurrection life, and through the Spirit we share in it (Romans 8:11).
* **Authority & Victory** – Jesus triumphed over sin, death, and Satan. The Spirit applies that victory in us (Romans 8:37).
* **Inheritance** – All that belongs to Christ as the Son also belongs to us as co-heirs (Romans 8:16–17).
* **Revelation of Christ Himself** – The Spirit makes Jesus real and present in our hearts (John 14:26; 15:26).

So the Spirit’s ministry is to **take the riches of Christ—truth, life, victory, inheritance, revelation—and communicate them to believers. This brings God glory by reflecting God’s character in the world.**

Questions to ChatGPT

This is a rich and powerful reflection on John 16 and the role of the Holy Spirit. You've already laid a solid foundation on the three core functions Jesus outlines: convicting the world of **sin**, **righteousness**, and **judgment**. Let’s explore each of these a bit deeper, adding some perspective and practical application.

**1. Convicting the World of Sin**

**Deeper Insight:** The Holy Spirit doesn’t just point out moral failings; He focuses on **the root** — **unbelief in Jesus**. Sin isn’t just about wrong actions, it’s about being in the wrong position spiritually — separated from God. The greatest sin, then, is rejecting the solution: Jesus.

**Application:**

* For believers: The Spirit continues to shine a light in our hearts, not to condemn us, but to **transform us**. He gently reveals the areas where we’re not trusting Jesus — maybe pride, fear, or control.
* For unbelievers: He awakens their conscience and reveals the emptiness of life apart from God, often through circumstances or a growing restlessness.

👉 **Challenge**: Ask yourself, “What area of my life am I not fully trusting Jesus in right now?” The Holy Spirit often convicts not to shame, but to **invite** you into deeper freedom.

**2. Convicting the World of Righteousness**

**Deeper Insight:** When Jesus was physically present, righteousness was embodied. Now, the Holy Spirit points us to the **standard of righteousness** — Jesus Himself. He not only reveals what’s wrong (sin), but also what’s right — **the character and life of Christ**.

David Guzik’s insight is key: the resurrection and ascension of Jesus prove that **He is the standard**. Our “goodness” is not enough. The Spirit convinces us that we can’t earn righteousness — we **receive it by faith**.

**Application:**

* For believers: The Spirit grows us into Christlikeness. He helps us walk out what has already been credited to us — righteousness through Jesus.
* For the world: He shows that morality or religion alone isn’t enough — only Jesus' righteousness satisfies God.

👉 **Challenge**: Let the Spirit search you: “Am I trying to earn God’s favor, or living from the righteousness Jesus gave me?”

**3. Convicting the World of Judgment**

**Deeper Insight:** The Spirit doesn’t just warn of future judgment — He proclaims that **judgment has already been passed** on Satan. His defeat at the cross is final. The world’s system (which often seems to be winning) is actually under judgment.

This gives us urgency and peace at the same time — **urgency to reach the lost**, and **peace in knowing God wins**.

**Application:**

* For believers: We live from victory, not for victory. We don’t fear the enemy or the world’s judgment — we stand under God’s righteous judgment in Christ.
* For unbelievers: The Spirit warns that the time of decision is now. Neutrality is not an option — if you're not with Christ, you're against Him.

👉 **Challenge**: Consider your daily walk. Are you living as someone who already has **peace with God** and victory over the enemy?

**Final Application Summary**

Jesus describes a spiritual **progression** that mirrors the gospel’s power:

1. **Conviction of sin** → you see your need.
2. **Conviction of righteousness** → you receive the solution.
3. **Conviction of judgment** → you walk in peace and victory.

This is a divine pattern not just for salvation, but for daily Christian living. Each day, the Holy Spirit is:

* Calling us back to deeper faith in Jesus,
* Teaching us to walk in His righteousness,
* And reminding us we are on the victorious side of eternity.