

Who better to teach us about the Holy Spirit than Jesus himself. In John chapter 16, Jesus' disciples are anxious because Jesus is going to leave them soon. In response, Jesus tells them that it is better that he leaves, because then he can send the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, and he has a very important job to do...

### **#1 - The Holy Spirit is essential for us to see our sin (vv8-11)**

The first thing Jesus teaches us about the work of the Holy Spirit is that he will convict the world of their guilt before God in three ways: their rejection of Jesus' divinity (v9), and his righteousness (v10) and their resulting condemnation (v11).

The Holy Spirit will therefore continue and expand Jesus' mission on earth to a global scale. Jesus intends for millions of people all over the world, through the centuries to hear the gospel, be convicted of their sin, and turn to Jesus in repentance - something which Jesus incarnate as a human being on earth simply could not manage. But by his Holy Spirit, Jesus can be at work in many, many people throughout the world, at the same time!

This is also a good reminder that whilst the Christian is encouraged to speak about Jesus, their conversion is dependant on the work of the Holy Spirit.

### **#2 - The Holy Spirit is essential for us to see our Saviour (vv12-16)**

The second thing Jesus teaches is that the work of Holy Spirit is essential if the apostles are to faithfully write down all Jesus has taught them in the past, and all Jesus will teach them in the future (vv12-13). We can have confidence in our New Testament scriptures, only because the "Spirit of truth" ensured their accuracy (Cf 2Peter1v21).

The purpose of the Holy Spirit at work in the apostles then, and in the Christian believer today, is summarised for us in v14: He is there to bring glory to Jesus Christ. This has been helpfully described as the "floodlight ministry" of the Holy Spirit. His aim is to help people see Jesus, by illuminating the truth about Jesus in the writings of the apostles and in the life of the believer, so that Jesus gets all the glory he deserves.

Without the work of the Holy Spirit, we would have no conviction of our guilt before God Almighty, no New Testament in our Bibles, and no hope of experiencing the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour.