

## Children's Moment

June 28, 2015

**Title:** Holy Spirit is Our Guide

**Object:** Magnet and small metal car

**Scripture:** "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." (John 16:12-13)



I have something pretty amazing to show you this morning. I am going to move my pocket knife from this spot on this card over to this spot on the card without ever touching it. I'm not going to tip the card to make it slide over there either. In fact, I want a couple of you to hold this card for me so that you won't think I am tipping the card. Okay, are you ready for this amazing feat? (*Place the magnet under the card where the small metal object is and move it to the point where you want it on the card.*)

Wow! That was pretty amazing, wasn't it? How did I do that? Oh, I can't fool you. I used a magnet, didn't I? Most of you know about the power of a magnet and you know the effect that it has on metal objects. You couldn't see the magnet, but you knew that it was there because you could see the power of the magnet working on this pocket knife, guiding it across the card.

Did you know that we can have a power within us that will guide us in our life just like the magnet guided this knife the card? That power comes from the Holy Spirit. When Jesus knew that it was time for Him to leave the earth and return to Heaven, He called His disciples together to teach them about what they could expect when

He was gone. He told them that when He left, the Holy Spirit would come to be their guide. When we decide to follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our life. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we know that He is there because we can feel His power and see Him working in our life. Just like we could see the power of the magnet on my knife, we can see the Holy Spirit guiding us in our daily life and leading us to the place God wants us to be.

If I hold the magnet way over here, it doesn't have any effect on the knife, does it? The knife has to be close to the magnet before it feels the effects of its power. You and I have to stay close to God before the power of His Holy Spirit can work in our lives. The closer we are to God, the more we feel the power of the Holy Spirit working in our life. Let's pray and thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

Dear Lord, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to guide us in the way you want us to go. Help us to stay close to you, so that we can feel the power of your Holy Spirit in our life. Amen.

John 16:12-15

### **Holy Spirit's Revelation**

Before we delve into John chapter 16, I would like to take us back, back to Jesus' first miracle found in chapter 2 of John. We all know the story of turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. Jesus tells the servants to take this newly created wine to, depending on your translation - the master, governor or headwaiter of the wedding feast. He tastes the wine made by Jesus and calls for the bridegroom and in verse 10 we read what he says, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." The situation is the same in our passage found in John 16 this morning; the best has been kept until the last. Jesus had an amazing revelation for the disciples and for us.

How can I say what Jesus is now saying is the best? After all, Jesus had taught the disciples for three years; about heaven, about the works they were to do, about prayer, whatever they asked in His name He would do, about being spiritually fruitful and about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had taught them that once He returned to heaven the Holy Spirit would comfort them, convict the world of sin and direct the lost to Jesus to find salvation. At this point near the end we begin our probe of John 16 verses 12 to 15. Christ promises even more teachings to come. Read along with me in John 16 beginning in verse 12. Jesus says to the disciples, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will

declare to you the things that are to come.” (John 16:12-13) Even though Jesus had taught many important things there was still more that needed to be taught and a time for remembering. The disciples were on overload and could not bear any more at this time so he tells the disciples, “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.” Jesus was returning to the Father, so it would now be the work of the Holy Spirit to communicate these new teachings once Jesus was gone. The disciples needed to stop, take a deep breath, enjoy Christ and let tomorrow take care of its self. Sometimes when we are on overload, we need to stop and seek God and then be patient, take a deep breath and wait upon the Spirit for the answer. The Holy Spirit will guide us, if we seek Him.

## **New Revelation**

As is often with the scriptures there is more than it appears from a surface reading. It is not just that the Holy Spirit will guide the disciples, although this is true, just as He guides believers today. It is not just that the Holy Spirit will give spiritual wisdom to understand the scriptures, although He certainly did this for the disciples and does this for us. To understand the true sense of what Jesus is saying we need to take a closer look at verse 13. As we prepare to do this, first I would like to ask a question of you. What Bible translations do we have here this morning? Please raise your hand if you have the New American Standard translation? New English Standard? King James? Revised Standard Version? New International Version? New King James? As we can see there are a number of translations. Now look in your Bible at verse 13 and see if the first part of the verse reads, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

Before you respond with a quick “yes.” I am looking for one word that some translations omit. Does your translation say, “he will guide you into all truth or “he will guide you into all **the** truth?” In the Greek the word “**the**” is a definite article and the word “**the**” indicates that the Holy Spirit is not going to guide the disciples in general truths, but in specific truths, into definite truths concerning Christ. Jesus is saying, the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide the disciples and others, others meaning those who were not part of the original twelve, Luke, Paul and James in writing the New Testament. This is the promise by Christ that the Holy Spirit would be the source and instrument for God’s revelation of the New Testament scriptures. Now you can see that the word “**the**” is important in verse 13. If your translation does not have the word “**the**” before the word “**truth**” write it in – it changes the meaning from the general to the specific.

### **Character of Revelation**

If the disciples fully understood what Jesus was saying this would have been startling! As Jews they would have been aware of the unique and divine nature of the scriptures. At this time the scriptures consisted of what we now call the Old Testament. The scriptures were God’s great gift to Israel. How could there be a need for more scripture? God had been silent for over 400 hundred years. How could anything be added? Yet, this is exactly what Jesus is saying in verse 13. More scripture will be given because God incarnate had come and people needed to know what God had done through Christ and who Christ is. Nothing has changed; people today still need to know Christ.

We know the New Testament writers considered the Old Testament as divine because they quoted it over 300 times in the New Testament. Thus showing the

Bible is one continuous story. Peter declared the Holy Spirit inspired the Old Testament, writing in 2 Peter, “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21) This would be true of the New Testament as well.

This new teaching of the Holy Spirit would result in the writers of the New Testament recording the words of God and they can be broken into three parts: historical, doctrinal and prophetic.

### **Historical Revelation**

First we can see the historical elements of the New Testament in verse 13, “**he (meaning the Holy Spirit) will guide you into all the truth.**” Or made a little clearer Jesus is saying, the Holy Spirit will guide people in the eternal truth of Me, the Christ, the Messiah. The Holy Spirit will bring to the minds of the writers the historical events surrounding Jesus. The New Testament records all the historical events of Jesus’ birth, life of ministry, His death and His resurrection. These are the subjects of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and also the Book of Acts.

Christianity is different from any other religion for it is founded on historical revelation. Belief in the scriptures and Christ is not a “leap of faith” but a “step of faith” based on a deep and strong foundation of historical fact and truth. The concepts and ideas of Christianity are based upon facts, indisputable facts – and this is different than all other religions. Many others claim they are based on fact, but history has proved these to be manufactured and not accurate or true. On the other hand history has consistently proved the Bible true. We can see

revisionist history all around us today - Churches redefining the Bible, historians rewriting history to bring it into line with the political correctness of today. But, the history of the Bible is consistent and proves itself true over and over and over.

The story of Jericho is an example. Historians and archeologists used the story of Jericho saying when a city is besieged by an army, history show the walls cave in, not out. So, they said the story of Jericho in the Bible is myth. First, it is myth because of the problem with the walls falling outward and second because they did not believe there was an actual City of Jericho. The city was discovered in 1907 and excavated in the 1950s and as the Bible had recorded and the excavation showed, the walls had, indeed, fallen outward. Of course, unbelieving men had to come up with reasons other than God; an earthquake, the walls were poorly engineered, etc. Science is supposed to let the facts speak for themselves and these facts lead to the proper conclusions. This is also the proper way to view and study the scriptures; letting scripture interpret scripture. However, in the late nineteenth and then on into the twentieth centuries we saw a movement in many areas of science, most areas of government and education of drawing the conclusion desired and then seeking facts to support these desired conclusions. This continues this very day, but beginning in the mid-twentieth century and accelerating through today churches began doing the same thing. They did not want to hold to the teachings of the scriptures because they do not want to accept God's definitions of sin – because it is just too convicting and politically incorrect. These churches are developing man-made standards and seeking scripture to support it and if those verses cannot be found the scripture is rewritten or jettisoned in order to come to the preconceived conclusion.

For Satan to continue his influence on the world he supports the undermining of the historical facts about Christ, with the greatest effort spent on discrediting the resurrection of Christ. There is no other religion that believes in God who became man for the salvation of the world; died on the Cross - to pay the penalty for mankind's sin rose from the dead and lives. God did something on the Cross of Christ. God did not just teach an idea. God did not just present some vague concept of who He is. God presented to the world the only way to atone for the sin of mankind. What God showed the world was solid, historical and undeniable. On the Cross God revealed His love and judgment at the same time. Any understanding of the historical Christian faith that departs from the historical basis of what Christ did on the Cross and what the Holy Spirit inspired to be written in the scriptures is heresy.

### **Revelation in Doctrine**

Secondly, these verses show there is a doctrinal element in the New Testament. We see this is what Jesus says in verse 14, **“He (again referring to the Holy Spirit) will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”** In chapter 14 Jesus made this clearer, **“the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”** (John 14:26) The Holy Spirit brought to the writers of the New Testament the words of Christ. Christ had spoken so many things to the disciples over three years, but the Holy Spirit brings to the minds of the writers the important things that Jesus wanted reduced to writing for all believers, for all time, until His return. It is the New Testament scriptures and their reflection and use of the Old Testament, which in their totality is the doctrine of Christ. Now, is



that not amazing to think about!

Beginning in the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans - Christian doctrine is developed and explained. This doctrinal development is carried through all the epistles as problems are dealt with concerning the new church, false teachers and false teachings, false doctrine and problems with theology. The New Testament continues with books of pastoral guidance beginning at the First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Timothy and continues through the Epistle of Jude.

We must also understand that while it is true, as Christians, we must stress historical facts and it is the basis of these historical facts, including the Cross and resurrection that makes Christianity different from all other religions; what is also important is what these facts mean. God the Father sent Jesus to bring salvation, but it is also important because through Jesus we know God the Father; God is love, justice, compassion, mercy and many other attributes. It is a historical fact that Jesus died. This fact is not all that important, for all men die. What is important is why Jesus died. What is important is what happened after His death! What is important is what this all means! Once the Holy Spirit begins to reveal Christ to a person it becomes critical to that person to understand why Jesus died and the purpose for His resurrection. This is when the teaching of the scriptures becomes important. This is when Christians go to work in helping teach the Word of God. The epistles were inspired by the Holy Spirit to teach why Jesus Christ died. They were written to illustrate the implications of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Simply put, Jesus died for our sins. Further Jesus died for our sins, in our stead, or we say, He atoned for our sins. Even further, Jesus died that through the power of the Holy Spirit He calls people to conform to His image and

live with Him forever. These are just some of the many doctrines taught in the epistles. It is these doctrines that guide the new life of a Christian.

### **Revelation of Things To Come**

We have explored the historical and the doctrinal aspects of the Gospel According to John in chapter 16, verses 12 to 15 now here is the final element – prophetic. Again we go back to verse 13, **“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”** Did Jesus speak the truth here? Do we have the New Testament? The answer is “yes” on two levels. First we have the New Testament and but at the time Jesus spoke verses 12 to 15 the New Testament was still in the future, still to come. Secondly, the New Testament speaks of things still to come. Things that the New Testament says will happen in the future are reliable because things in the Old Testament that were to come have come and some things in the New Testament that were in the future when it was written have come about as well. So the things written of in Matthew 24 and Mark 13 and Romans 11 and 1 Corinthians 15 and on and on can be trusted to happen in God’s time. Then there is the last book of the Bible, The Revelation of Jesus Christ much of which is yet to come. We can have complete confidence these things will come just as God had planned from before the beginning of time.

People ask, “Are we in the end times?” “What will come when the Lord returns in power at the end of the age?” If one becomes too preoccupied with prophecy and end times and the second coming – it can be debilitating. People can become so fascinated with what is to come that they do not live for Christ now. I believe

the most important thing we get out of prophecy is that it tells us God is still working in history, still working in people this very day and His plan will be accomplished. This then means each Christian; you and me included, is important because we are part of the unfolding of God's plan for redemption. What we do each day, then, is part of God's master plan that will lead to the day the Lord returns. When the Lord returns there will be a permanent separating of believers and unbelievers. Even unbelievers will acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, but salvation will be something no longer available to them.

### **Revelation in Action**

These verses in John tell us why there is this revelation, verse 14 reads, **"He (Holy Spirit) will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."** The Holy Spirit did not reveal these great truths about Jesus in order that you and I might know things others do not. The Holy Spirit gives believers spiritual understanding, but the knowledge is there for all. The Holy Spirit takes the teachings of Christ and declares them to all in the form of the New Testament. The Holy Spirit revealed Christ's teaching to the writers so we would have the truth in our day and live lives that glorify Christ. Live to bring God glory as a witness of the truth! We are to live revealing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to a lost and dying world that desperately needs Christ.

As you read, study and meditate on the Word of God. The Holy Spirit continues His ministry first, to bring you into the wisdom of God in order that you might live in increasing obedience, bringing Him glory and serving His people. And, secondly, that you will use the Word of God as Paul instructed in 2 Timothy, and as your pastor, **"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to**

judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **3** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **5** As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:1-5) Every Christian has a ministry that God calls them to fulfill. To know the Word of God and **not** live it, model it and preach it is disobedience and that is sin. To know the Word of God and live it, model it and preach it brings God glory! Do not hesitate seek the power of the Holy Spirit and live to the fullest and then your life will bring God glory! Enjoy a life in Christ and preach the gospel to anyone who will listen. I pray that both your life and mine is glorifying Jesus. Amen!

As you meditate on what you have heard today I believe it adds depth and meaning as we close by singing -