

AHH LIFE!

## REFLECTING ON JESUS' UPPER ROOM DISCOURSE

Water from Rock, January 9, 2018, Tim Smith

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*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

John 10:10

### INTRODUCTION: On Hearing the Voice of God

John 12:27-33

<sup>27</sup>*"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.* <sup>28</sup>*Father, glorify your name."* Then a voice came from heaven, *'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'* <sup>29</sup>*The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.'* <sup>30</sup>*Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.* <sup>31</sup>*Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.* <sup>32</sup>*And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'* <sup>33</sup>*He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die."*

### TODAY'S TEXT: John 16:12-15

<sup>12</sup>*"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.* <sup>13</sup>*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.* <sup>14</sup>*He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.* <sup>15</sup>*All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."*

***"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now."***

1. The Greek word bastazo translated "bear" is the same word used for Jesus' "carrying" His cross (John 19:17). There are things that night that were too confusing or profound for the disciples to "bear" without the promised help of the Holy Spirit.
2. The disciples' fear and confusion makes it hard for them to understand the many things Jesus has told them. And on a deeper level, they will not understand Jesus or the realities of the New Creation until the Holy Spirit comes upon them.

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...will speak...will declare...*

1. Note the future tense of the verbs: guide, speak, and declare. Jesus says that the Spirit will do this as *“he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”* The Holy Spirit will teach and guide believers for “a deep understanding of what Jesus means for one’s own time.” (Raymond Brown *The Gospel According to John*)
2. The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, will take over as their teacher and enable them to grasp the richness of the revelation in Jesus.
3. Compare Paul’s words: *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God”* (Romans 8:14). See also 1 Corinthians 2:9-10: <sup>9</sup>*“But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him’ – <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.”*
4. The *“Spirit of truth”* will *“guide”* (hōdegeo) but it is Jesus who is the *“way”* (hodos) and *“truth”* itself. The Holy Spirit does this as He makes us one with Jesus *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”* (Colossians 2:3).
5. Andrew Murray writes in *The Spirit of Christ*: *“Let us lay our own will and our own wisdom captive at the feet of Jesus and wait in faith and holy stillness there. The deep consciousness will grow strong that the Spirit is within us, and that His Divine Life is living and growing within us.”* The Spirit does not give us a set of rules or a formula, but gives us Jesus!
6. A. W. Tozer writes in *Jesus, Our Man in Glory*: *“Christian believers make a great mistake when they refer only to the Bible as the Word of God. True, the inspired Bible is the Word of God speaking to our hearts and to our souls. But in referring to the Word of God, we do not mean just the book—printed pages sewed together with nylon thread. Rather, we mean the eternal expression of the mind of God. We mean the world-filling breath of God!”* Tozer distinguished between being *“Bible taught”* and *“Spirit taught”*.

*he [the Spirit] will declare to you the things that are to come*

1. The expression *“things that are to come”* is paralleled in the next two verses by the phrase *“he will take what is mine”*, suggesting that the future events have to do with Jesus; that which is still in the future, i.e. Jesus’

crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. God's ultimate revelation in the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension has not yet occurred, and the disciples have not yet entered into the new birth by the Spirit. When that revelation is complete the Spirit will guide them into all the truth that is in Jesus.

*He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

- The Spirit will glorify Jesus by revealing the truth revealed in the glory of Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus has revealed the Father and now the Spirit reveals the Father by revealing Jesus to us.

*All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

1. The Spirit will lead us into a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and His revelation of the Father: "*All that the Father has is mine.*" Note: in washing His disciples feet, Jesus could say: "*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father*" (John 14:9).
2. A. W. Tozer writes in "*The Pursuit of God*": "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" (John 1:1). An intelligent plain man, untaught in the truths of Christianity, coming upon the text, would likely conclude that John meant to teach that it is the nature of God to speak, to communicate His thoughts to others. And he would be right...God is speaking. Not God spoke, but *God is speaking*. He is by His nature continuously articulate. He fills the world with His speaking Voice. That God is here and that He is speaking – these truths are back of all other Bible truths; without them there could be no revelation at all. God did not write a book and send it by messenger to be read at a distance by unaided minds. He spoke a Book and lives in His spoken words, constantly speaking His words and causing the power of them to persist across the years."
3. See: the problem of Selective Auditory Attention or Selective Hearing.

## CONCLUSION

1. The first part in hearing God speak is choosing to hear Him. It is a deliberate choice on the part of the hearer. Jesus says 15 times, "*He who has ears, let him hear.*" We hear what we are vitally interested in.
2. The second part in hearing God's speak is being ready to listen to and to do whatever He tells us. A person who says to God, "Tell me what you want to say, and I will decide if I want to do it," is unlikely to hear God.

