

Growing in the Spirit

Reading: John 14: 15 - 31

Introduction

The Final discourses, as they are known, in John chapters 14 -17 contain teaching from Jesus that appears nowhere else. In chapter 14 and again in chapter 16 Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit. He is to be Another Counsellor as Jesus was the first. He is called the Spirit of truth, for He will inspire and lead us into the truth. The World cannot accept him, because it is blind to his presence, but those who love the Lord will know his presence within.

Though Jesus is going away, He promises that in his place will come the third person of the Trinity. He will not leave us like orphans, but will send the Helper or Advocate from Heaven. Growing Spiritually for the disciples meant experiencing the fullness of the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son and now God the Holy Spirit. For us as well, we are to become homes for the Holy Spirit in our lives. When we do the loving obedience that Jesus speaks of and a greater understanding of the truth will be a supernatural experience, not just a natural one.

Discussion Starters

- What especially strikes you as important about the teaching of Jesus here? What do we understand he is saying about the Holy Spirit?
- What do you think prevents us from experiencing the work of the Spirit in our lives? What do you sense He would want to do in you?
- How do you understand the doctrine of the Trinity? How might you explain it to someone else?
- Do you think your experience of God is more natural or supernatural? How would you explain a more supernatural relationship?

Prayer Time

Please pray for needs that are known and shared amongst you. Pray also for our willingness to grow, in people of all ages, in our experience of the Holy Spirit.

