

3. What seems to jump out at you as you begin to study this chapter?

Let's make our way through John 16 one more time, soaking in these truths and seeing what relevance Jesus' words have for us today.

The Spirit's Ministry-Read John 16:5-15.

4. Jesus will send the *Counselor* (John 16:7) to the disciples after His departure. The meaning of His name reveals that His ministry to them (and us) will be one of comfort and counsel. Define and prayerfully meditate on the various meanings of the names His Greek name can be translated into.

Comforter:

Counselor:

Advocate:

Intercessor:

Helper:

Strengtheners:

Jesus was limited to one body; therefore He could only be in one place at one time. But His Spirit has no such limitations. All believers have uninterrupted fellowship with the Spirit at all times wherever they go (John 14:17) thus Jesus' statement, *It is for your good that I am going away.* (John 16:7)

5. Comment about the wonderful ministry of the Spirit in your life that you anticipate needing in the coming days ahead.

6.
 - a. What threefold ministry does the Spirit have in the hearts of unbelievers (the world) from verses 8-11? Restate them using your own words.

 - b. What is it about the Spirit that you want to remember as you have opportunity to witness of Jesus by word and deed to the unbelievers among your family, friends, neighborhood, work environment?

7. Jesus had so much more to tell the disciples but they could not grasp it all at that time (verse 12).
 - a. How would it be that they would come to understand what Jesus wanted them to know in the days ahead (verses 13-15)?

 - b. Many years later John and others would write the books of the New Testament by inspiration of the Spirit giving them the thoughts of God. (Also read 1 Corinthians 2:6-7, 10.) How does knowing this affect the way you read this and other books in your Bible?

To Ponder: The Spirit is still at work today helping us understand the mind of God as revealed to us in the Bible. What actions/attitudes are necessary for you to have as you read your Bible?

Separation and Sorrow-Read John 16:16-22.

The disciples were focused on their own struggles as they wondered how long “a little while” was. Notice that Jesus did not answer that question for them. He did say He was going away (to the Father) and they would not be spared from this sorrow. In this section Jesus is speaking figuratively about His death and resurrection.

8.
 - a. What do you think they better understood after considering the process a mother goes through as she gives birth to her child?

 - b. What was the substance of the joy the disciples would later come to know?

- c. Give an example of a time when the very thing that caused great sorrow in your or someone else's life later brought lasting joy.

- d. Are you going through a time of sorrow? What comforts you from this passage as you bring to Jesus questions like, *Dear Lord, how long? Why? What is Your plan?*

The Father's Love-Read John 16:23-33.

It is during times of great trouble when we often wonder where God is in all of our difficulties. Jesus directed the disciples' attention to the *Father* (an intimate term) who was not distant even as their world seemed to be spinning out of control.

- 9. How and why will the disciples have direct access to the Father (verses 23-28)?

- 10. Notice the disciples' final statement of faith (verse 30). Shortly after these words are spoken to Jesus they will fail Him (verses 31-33).
 - a. What did Jesus tell them would happen to their resolve? (We will read more about that in a few weeks.)

 - b. Jesus knew they would fail. Yet, what gracious gift did He say they could receive from Him?

 - c. What do you see in these verses that would make it possible for the disciples (and us) to take heart at times like these? Also read Lamentations 3:19-26.

- 11. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the benefits you have as a believer who has been invited into a personal relationship with the Father, the Spirit and the Son.