

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT Part 1 **John 15:26-16:4**

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us to Witness (15:26-27)

Believers to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17)

- He abides with you (14:17) = through the ministry of Christ see Matthew 3:16-4:1 & 12:14-32
- Mat. 3:16-4:1 = The Spirit of God descended upon Him and then led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted.
- Mat. 12:14-32 =
 - I will put my Spirit upon Him (12:18) quoted from Is. 42:1
 - If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God (12:28)
 - Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (12:31-32)
- And will be in you (John 14:17) = referring to the then future indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- Indwelt by the Spirit of truth (14:17)
 - Who will bear witness of Me – John 15:26
 - He will guide you into all truth – 16:13
 - He will disclose to you what is to come – 16:13

He will bear witness of Me (15:26) = i.e. to you apostles and in turn the apostles will bear witness of Christ to the world. See verse 27.

Because you have been with Me from the beginning (27) = this is a requirement to be counted among the twelve. – Acts 1:15-26

- From the time of His baptism to witness to be a witness of His resurrection.

Jesus Warns of Future Persecution (16:1-4)

Outcasts from the synagogue (16:2) = ostracized from Jewish society. Compare with John 9:18-23.

Previous warnings of coming persecution – Matthew 10:16-23

- In the midst of wolves (10:16) = literally surrounded by wolves indicating the wolves would outnumber the sheep.
- Persecuted by false religions and false Christian leaders (10:17)
- Persecuted by governments (10:18)
- As we are faithful in times of persecution, the Holy Spirit will strengthen us (10:19-20)
- Christians will be hated by all in the pagan system (10:21-23)
 - Flee to the next city (23) = Example: Paul fled from Thessalonica, to Berea, and ended up in Athens (Acts 17:10-15)

Everyone who kills you (John 16:2) = Of the Twelve only John was not killed.

- Persecution began soon in the early church:
 - Peter and John were arrested – Acts 4:1-3
 - The apostles were flogged – Acts 5:40
 - Stephen was put to death – Acts 7:24-60
 - Herod kills James the brother of John – Acts 12:1-2
 - Herod has Peter arrested – Acts 12:3-19
 - Paul gives an overview of his many trials and persecutions – 2Cor. 11:22-33

Note: The indwelling Holy Spirit will give us the words to say in times of persecution. – Mark 13:9-11

- The example of Peter and John – Acts 4:5-20
- All the apostles – Acts 5:27-32
- Stephen – Acts 7:51-60

Some examples from church history:

- 110 AD – Ignatius bishop of Antioch as he was about to be thrown to the wild beasts said: “May the wild beasts be eager to rush upon me. If they be unwilling, I will compel them. Come crowds of wild beasts; come, tearing and mangling and wracking of bones and hacking of limbs; come cruel tortures of the devil; only let me attain unto Christ.”
- 160 AD – Polycarp bishop of Smyrna was brought before the Proconsul and told to renounce Christ or die. He responded: “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never once wronged me; how then shall I blaspheme my King, who has saved me.”
- Feb. 4, 1555 - John Rogers sang Psalm 86:17 as he was tied to the stake to be burned: “Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, because You O Lord have helped me and comforted me.” Among the onlookers were his wife and 11 Children, the youngest of whom was an infant he saw for the first time as he was burned at the stake.
- Oct. 16, 1555 - Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley were burned at the stake by order of Queen Mary, aka bloody Mary. Latimer tried to encourage Ridley saying: “Be of good comfort Mr. Ridley, and play the man! We shall this day light such a candle by God’s Grace, in England, as I trust never shall be put out.”

Closing thought: John 16:3-4