**He Will Guide You In All Truth**

Based on [John 16:12-22](http://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn16.12-22)

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Easter 5

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This text is based on the Gospel lesson where Jesus is speaking to his disciples the night before his death, and he’s preparing them for what’s about to happen. **He says that they won’t understand what he’s about to do; that he’s eager to tell them but they won’t be able to “bear it” now, they won’t *comprehend*.** But he will send the Holy Spirit, who will give them comprehension of all that he’s done, and all that he’s about to do. He says the Holy Spirit will, “**Take what is mine, and declare it to you**.”

At first blush, these sound like mysterious words, don’t they? “**He will take what is mine and declare it to you.**” Isn’t that the job of Canada Revenue, not the Holy Spirit? Well, no, the Spirit is not the taxman, but he kind of is. He doesn’t **redistribute the wealth of the nation**, but he has the special role of redistributing the treasures of Jesus.

Two things in life are certain right?...death and taxes. Both are represented in our Gospel reading today. Jesus is preparing his disciples for his departure, his exodus, his death. **The disciples don’t get it at this point, but they get the clue that Jesus is planning on leaving them in order to suffer, die and be buried, but that they shouldn’t be troubled by this**; because what he has, the knowledge, and the wisdom, and the truth about God’s Plan to Save the world, the Holy Spirit will “tax” that Truth from Jesus and redistribute it to the Apostles, so it can be there’s while Jesus is away.

This truth...Jesus says they cannot ***bear*** it now. **It doesn’t mean that they will break down and start crying, like when grief is too much to bear**. It means that if he were to reveal the whole counsel of God to them right now, their minds would not be able to comprehend it, or understand it rightly.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...you know how the song goes. **Jesus is saying to his disciples, there is a time to hide and a time to reveal every matter under heaven.** And now is not the time to reveal, but when the time comes the one to do it is the Spirit. For the disciples, they are like children, and so Jesus feeds them spiritual milk...someday they will be ready for solid food, and the Spirit will provide.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that is the role of the Holy Spirit, to redistribute the truth of God’s Word. First to the apostles; then to you. Please recognize this, because the role of the Holy Spirit is totally misunderstood by most people. Most of us think that when something that looks bad turns out good, that was the Holy Spirit at work, doin’ his job. Here’s an illustration: **Let’s say you misplaced your car keys, and so spent a half an hour looking for them, the whole time cursing your luck, thinking about how you’re going to be late for work again, and that your boss is going to rip you a new one**. Then you find your keys, get in the car and get on the highway to go to work, speeding, cutting people off, mumbling to yourself about being so stupid, when you see flashing lights ahead. And you see multiple police cars and fire trucks and ambulances. **You slow down and see a multiple car pileup that happened about thirty minutes ago,** and if you hadn’t lost your keys you wouldn’t be on your way to work on time, you’d likely be in a stretcher heading to the hospital, if indeed you survived at all.

Now when something like that happens, you thank God, no doubt about it. Pull over get on your knees and praise the Lord for your deliverance; and ask for forgiveness for cursing your luck earlier. **But Jesus didn’t send the Holy Spirit to make sure you misplace your keys at the right time.** First of all, what does that say to those who found their keys on time that morning and are now in the ICU? **But second, and most importantly, Jesus doesn’t say “when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you through all traffic.”** He will come to guide you in all truth.

The Holy Spirit causes rain to fall on the righteous and unrighteous alike; he gives various and sundry gifts to various and sundry people, to those who deserve it by faith and those who don’t. The Spirit is always **at work. But his work is not to be retro-fit into the material blessings and lucky breaks we receive in the world.**  All good things come from God; that shouldn’t surprise you to receive them. To human eyes, we are not aware of the how, when, where and why God causes rain to fall some places and not others. We don’t turn to our “luck” to find the Holy Spirit; we turn to the Word of God, **given by the authority of the Father, to be distributed, that is declared to you, by the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit has one job that he is to be recognized for. His job, his work is to guide you in all Truth. That means **when someone declares God’s Word, it is the Holy Spirit who declares; and when someone hears the word and understands it and believes; that is the Holy Spirit doing his job**, plugging away; creating, giving, and sustaining faith, not from scratch; but through the Word.

Ladies and gentlemen, don’t search for the Holy Spirit behind the coincidences and chance outcomes in your life. It is enough to know (1) that all good things come from God, and (2) all evil from our own sin, the world and the devil...there’s no need to parse it out further. Yet, **the world seems to think the Holy Spirit is a playfully shy girl at a dance who waiting to be noticed, hoping you’ll be able to pick her out of the crowd but crushed if you fail to see her.** The world is wrong. The Holy Spirit wasn’t sent to play “Where’s Waldo” with your eyes. He says, “**You want to find me, look at what Jesus has done, hear his Word and I will be there for you to bear it and believe it aright.**”

After Jesus rose from the dead, some of his disciples were on the road to a town called Emmaus. And they were troubled about what happened at the cross...just as Jesus predicted they would be. They were not able to bear his death, to comprehend it’s meaning. They thought he was dead and gone, and so... “now what.” **They were sad. But Jesus says, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!** Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. And after they broke bread, their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus (Luke 24:13-35).

That’s the Holy Spirit at work, the opening of the eyes to God’s plan to save through Jesus. It’s in every corner of the Bible, on every page. The Spirit, doesn’t create new knowledge; he takes what the disciples have seen and heard from Jesus and failed to understand, and makes it all snap together after all has finally been revealed on the cross and at the empty tomb. The Spirit is the One who makes it "click", the one who moves you from stubborn unbelief to, "**OMG, I get it...and it all fits**."

The Holy Spirit takes what Jesus has done, packages it into one big slab of salvation and, like Canada Revenue, redistributes what first belongs to Jesus over to the apostles who have since written the New Testament, the revelation of what was hidden in the Old. The apostles wrote the New Testament to put all that Jesus had done it into a meaningful “bearable” context for you. And they did so by the Authority of God, through the speaking of the Holy Spirit.

Christian friends, if you want to find the Holy Spirit, you don’t have to go far. You don’t have to always be on the lookout for lucky breaks and chance circumstances that happen to the righteous and the unrighteous alike. If you want to find the Holy Spirit, go to where he promises to be...go to the Word. Open your bible and struggle to understand what your reading there. And I guarantee the Holy Spirit will be there to guide you in all truth and open your eyes. **Not that my guarantee is worth a scrap, but Jesus’ guarantees and promises it right here in the Gospel.**

He promises to send his Spirit for that purpose and that purpose alone, to bring all of God’s work together in your heart and mind so that you can bear the truth about what Jesus has done, and believe. The Holy Spirit doesn’t want to take credit for anything but your *belief*, your belief in God’s plan to save his people through Jesus Christ. And like a mother who amidst the joy of new life forgets the pain of childbirth; so too you will see the joy of the new heaven and the new earth prepared by Jesus, distributed to you who--by the Spirit--believes.