

# Agent of Change

John 16:5-15

In Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples (John 13-17), he addressed a number of issues. He announced his imminent departure from the earth (13:33; 14:1-6). He urged his followers to obey his commandments (14:12-15; 15:1-11) and to love one another (15:12-17), and to beware of the hostility of the world (15:18-27). While giving these instructions and promises, Jesus alluded to the coming of the Holy Spirit (14:16-17, 26; 15:26).

Although the disciples did not ask for more information and details about the Holy Spirit, Jesus went on to tell them more about his role in the lives of the disciples and the lives of believers throughout all time. In John 16:5-15, Jesus explained that *the Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus and the Father to convict the world and to teach believers about Jesus.*

## **The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus and the Father (5-7)**

Jesus again pointed out that he was leaving (5).

The disciples were apparently so focused on their own grief that they had little interest in where Jesus was going (5-6).

Though painful and difficult, Jesus explained that his departure was necessary and even advantageous because of who would take his place (7).

The Holy Spirit, the Helper or Counselor, was sent by Jesus and the Father (7).

## **The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin (8-11)**

The Holy Spirit has a three-fold ministry to the world (8). The Holy Spirit serves as a prosecuting attorney by pointing out the guilt of those who do not believe in Jesus.

The word, convict, involves showing someone his or her sin with a view to securing repentance.

Failure to believe on Jesus after he had come is the great damning sin (9).

Righteousness normally refers to right conduct and standing before God, which the world does not have. It can also refer to self-righteousness which is far more inferior to what God offers. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of self-righteousness (10).

The Holy Spirit also points out that since Satan, the ruler of this world, has been defeated and condemned, his children can expect the same treatment unless they believe in Jesus (11).

## **The Holy Spirit teaches believers about Jesus (12-15)**

The disciples were not able to receive any more spiritual truth at that time (12).

Jesus is the truth (14:6); the Word of God is truth (17:17); and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (13).

The Holy Spirit would reveal what the Father and the Son wanted him to reveal (13).

The Spirit would glorify Jesus by telling about him, just as the Son did for the Father (14).

The Spirit would take what the Father had given the Son to teach and do and explain the significance to the disciples (15).

## **Principles to Practice**

Jesus did not leave us on our own. He sent the Holy Spirit to take up residence in our lives.

The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God and the people of God to convict the world of sin.

The Holy Spirit teaches believers about Jesus and helps us grow in our knowledge of and love for God.