

Lesson Four: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

On the night before Jesus was crucified, Jesus made a special promise to the 11 disciples (Judas has already left the room) regarding the Holy Spirit and the guidance they would receive from the Holy Spirit. John 16:12-15

Breakdown of John 16:12-15

16:12 I have many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now.

16:13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;

Spirit of truth Jesus has already mentioned the Spirit of truth earlier. See 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26-27. The Spirit of truth is called the Helper/Comforter and is the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus left this earth, the Holy Spirit would come to them and Help them.

Guide you into all the truth All the things Jesus wanted to tell them that night would come later through the Holy Spirit. When Jesus died on the cross, the Old Covenant would become null and void. The New Covenant would become effective. This promise tells us how Jesus would reveal the content and teachings of the New Covenant to the world. The New Testament exists today because of this promise.

All the truth All that Jesus had to reveal would come to these 11 men (and a couple others) over the course of the next 60-70 years. At first these things were not written down, but eventually the disciples/apostles themselves saw the need and began to commit these revelations from the Holy Spirit to writing.

“All the truth” rules out later “revelations” such as the _____, the Book of _____, the pronouncements of the _____.

The Bible is clear that what was given to the Apostles of Christ should not and could not be changed. Galatians 1:6-9, Revelation 22:18-19

16:14-15 What the disciples/apostles would receive from the Holy Spirit was the same as if Jesus himself was speaking and Jesus and the Father are in full agreement.

The fulfillment of this promise of the Holy Spirit comes about 50 days later in Jerusalem at the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2.

Jesus is arrested later in the evening and is tried and crucified the next day. Three days later He rises from the dead and shows himself to his disciples for the next 40 days at various times and places. Finally he ascends back to heaven. Just before He ascends he gives his disciples the Great Commission.