



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: Ministries of the Holy Spirit**

**Date: February 15, 2026**

**Scripture Text: John 16:12-33**

**Notes:**

Today we pick back up with our look at the book of John. The time of Jesus' crucifixion is approaching. We jump back into chapter 16 as Jesus is sharing His parting instructions to His disciples. He is explaining to them that He will be leaving soon (His ascension back into heaven). Even though they were sad at the news that one day He would leave them, another would come in His place, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would be the One to help them remember the things He taught them as they teach others. The work of the Holy Spirit was introduced in [John 16:5-11](#). Jesus continues His discussion by describing three ministries. Let's take a look at these three ministries.

**I. The Revelation of the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-15)**

Things were getting ready to change, big time! Jesus is telling them He is leaving and the Spirit of truth was coming. This was not what they had expected. They were looking for a Messiah to establish an earthly kingdom. Jesus has been talking of a "kingdom of heaven". Now He was talking about leaving them. They were overwhelmed and not able to receive more. To prepare them for when they would receive more, Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit (Spirit of truth) would be there to guide them into all truth.

- The truth the Holy Spirit would guide the Apostles to would eventually become the epistles that make up the majority of the New Testament.
  - How many writers of the New Testament epistles can you name? Who's your favorite?
  - According to [2 Tim. 3:16](#), "All Scripture is 'God-breathed'". What does it mean that all scripture was inspired by God?
  - How did the Holy Spirit help the writers as they penned the epistles?
  - Based on what has been discussed, what confidence can we have in trusting the word of God?
- The Bible is inerrant (free of error), infallible (incapable of erring), and authoritative (the final and supreme standard).
  - Given these characteristics of the Bible, how much can we depend on it?
  - Given these characteristics, how much time do you spend reading it?
  - What do you do that shows you value the word of God?
  - How can spending more time in God's word help you live according to His will and ways?



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### **II. The Impartation of the Holy Spirit (John 16:16-22)**

Jesus moves on to discuss His crucifixion and resurrection. He states, “you will no longer see Me (crucifixion and burial) ... you will weep and lament”. He then tells them, “a little while, and you will see Me (resurrection) ... your grief will turn into joy”. Their joy was temporarily fulfilled by the resurrection but made permanent at Pentecost with the impartation of the Holy Spirit.

- With the impartation/indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live the Christian life Christ desires us to. Not only does the Holy Spirit lead us in truth, He also is the agent for victorious living regardless of circumstances.
  - Describe a time the presence of the Holy Spirit empowered you to endure a difficult time.
  - [Gal. 5:22-23](#) lists the Fruit of the Spirit. How many can you name?
  - How well are you practicing the Fruit of the Spirit?
- Jesus concludes [vs. 22](#) with the statement “no one will take your joy away from you”.
  - From 1-5, how would you rank your joy?
  - Do you feel you are experiencing the joy filled life Christ intended you to live?
  - How can demonstrating Christ’s joy be a witness to others?
  - If you are not experiencing joy, what do you need to do to regain it?

### **III. The Intercession of the Holy Spirit (John 16:23-28)**

To pray *in Jesus’ name* means to pray for things ‘for His sake’ or in line with his purposes. Jesus tells His disciples that after his resurrection, they will begin approaching the Father directly in their prayers, and whatever they ask the Father that is in line with Jesus’ purposes for humankind and the glory of God (‘in My name’) will be given to them.

- Jesus is saying that as a result of His redemptive work, and by the presence of the Holy Spirit, we have direct access to our heavenly Father through prayer.
  - How good is your prayer life?
  - How would you describe what prayer is?
  - Why is prayer an important part of the Christian’s life?
- [Rom. 8:26-27](#) describes how the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf.
  - What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to intercede for us?
  - There may be times when we are overwhelmed, tired, anxious, hurting and just don’t know what to pray for or how to pray. Don’t let that stop you! Seek God out in prayer, and even if you don’t know what to say, the Holy Spirit does!
    - What can you do to have a more fruitful prayer life?
    - How can you have a more intimate relationship with God through prayer?