

Searching the Scriptures / 32 / The Role Of The Holy Spirit / Part 2

Today we want to investigate the role of God the Holy Spirit. In John 16:13-15 Jesus said: *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”* I would like to discuss three different aspects of the Holy Spirit’s ministry as found in these verses:

1. He Will Guide You into All Truth
2. He Will Show You Things to Come
3. He Shall Glorify Jesus Christ

He Will Guide You into All Truth

We read in 1 John 5:6, *“And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.”* Also, the Lord Jesus declared in John 16:13 that the Holy Spirit will guide believers into all truth. The Greek word for “guide” <3594> is also translated into English as “lead”. It is only used five times in the New Testament; and two of those times refer to many of the religious leaders, whom Jesus characterized as being “blind leaders of the blind” in Mat 15:14 because they were not saved and were leading others away from salvation with their erroneous teaching.

God gives us more information concerning the Holy Spirit’s wonderful ministry to every single Christian through the use of the word “guide”. In Acts 8:30-31 we read that the Apostle Philip encountered a high-ranking official from Ethiopia sitting in a chariot and reading in Isaiah 53, and Philip asked, *“... Understandest thou what thou readest?”* The Ethiopian answered, *“How can I, except some man should guide <3594> me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.”* The Bible records that Phillip went on to answer his questions about Isaiah 53 and “preached unto him Jesus” in Acts 8:35.

Just as Phillip helped the Ethiopian understand the Gospel (which is a role of all believers), the Holy Spirit guides every true Christian into all truth from the Scriptures as they learn more and more about their blessed Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He Will Show You Things to Come

Next we want to consider this statement in John 16:13, *“He will shew you things to come.”* What does that phrase mean? Actually, the same word “shew” is found in all three verses of John 16:13-15. The Greek word for shew <312> is also found as “declare” in Acts 20:27, *“For I have not shunned to declare <312> unto you all the counsel of God.”* Paul is declaring what every Christian is supposed to teach – all of the Bible and only the Bible.

John 14:26 explains the important role of the Holy Spirit in teaching us the truth from the Bible and causing us to remember it: *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”* Bear in mind that the “all things” here mean all “spiritual things” in the Scriptures (1 Cor 2:13). A good illustration of this is found in John 12:16 which

tells us: *“These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.”*

He Shall Glorify Jesus Christ

Our last section concerns the work of God the Holy Spirit in glorifying God the Son, even as the Son glorifies God the Father, as we learn from John 17:1, *“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee...”* We read in John 14:26 above that God the Father sent the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ, and John 15:26 also reminds us, *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me...”*

How does the Holy Spirit testify and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ? 1 John 5:6 gives us a clue: *“And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.”* The same Greek word is used in these two verses and is translated as both *“testify”* and *“beareth witness”*. God and His Word are *“truth”*. The Holy Spirit testifies and bears witness through every word in the entire Bible, as John 5:39 instructs: *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*

I realize that we have been speaking of the Holy Spirit’s particular role within the Godhead today, but we must never forget that no Member of the Triune Godhead operates independently of the other Two, as we see from 1 John 5:7, *“For there are three that bear record [or bear witness, or testify] in heaven, the Father, the Word [Jesus Christ], and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”*