

THE PROMISE OF THE COMFORTER

BIBLE TEXT : John 16:1-33

LESSON 237 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 16:1-33 (KJV)

¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

² They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

³ And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

⁴ But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵ But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

⁶ But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me;

¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Words of Caution

¹ Jesus warned His disciples not to be offended in Him because of coming difficulties, John 16:1;

John 15:11 (KJV)

¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

Matthew 11:6 (KJV)

⁶ And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Matthew 26:31 (KJV)

³¹ Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

Mark 14:27 (KJV)

²⁷ And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

Zechariah 13:7 (KJV)

⁷ Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that* is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

² Persecutions unto death were predicted by Jesus for their future, John 16:2;

Matthew 10:17-18 (KJV)

¹⁷ But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;
¹⁸ And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Matthew 24:9-10 (KJV)

⁹ Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

¹⁰ And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

1 Corinthians 4:11-13 (KJV)

¹¹ Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

¹² And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

¹³ Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto this day.

Revelation 2:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

³ Jesus told His disciples they would be persecuted because of wicked men who knew not God, John 16:3;

John 15:21 (KJV)

²¹ But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

2 Timothy 4:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

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.

¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

¹⁵ All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

¹⁶ A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

¹⁷ Then said *some* of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

¹⁸ They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.

¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

²⁰ Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

²¹ A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

²² And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

¹⁵ Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

II The Promise of the Comforter

- 1 Jesus promised He would send the Comforter from the Father, in His stead, after He was gone, John 16:7;

John 14:16-17 (KJV)

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
¹⁷ *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26 (KJV)

²⁶ 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.

John 15:26 (KJV)

²⁶ 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:

Luke 24:49 (KJV)

⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

- 2 The Comforter would guide, comfort, and instruct the Church of God; and carry on God's plan of salvation in the world, John 16: 8-15

2 The Comforter shall take of the things of God and show them to the believers, John 16:12-15

Ephesians 1:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:17-18 (KJV)

¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Nehemiah 9:20 (KJV)

²⁰ Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and witheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

1 Corinthians 2:13 (KJV)

¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 John 2:27 (KJV)

²⁷ But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Revelation 1:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Luke 12:12 (KJV)

¹² For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

²³ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

²⁴ Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

²⁶ At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

²⁷ For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

²⁸ I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

²⁹ His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

³⁰ Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

³¹ Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

³² Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

III Sorrow of Departure

1 The disciples were perplexed by Jesus' words of departure, John 16: 4-6, 16-19;

John 3:8 (KJV)

⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 (KJV)

⁵ As thou knowest not what *is* the way of the spirit, *nor* how the bones *do grow* in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

2 Jesus promised His disciples their sorrow would be turned into joy, John 16:20-23;

Luke 24:17-35 (KJV)

¹⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of communications *are* these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

²² Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

²³ And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

²⁴ And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

²⁶ Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

²⁹ But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

³⁰ And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them.

³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

³² And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

³³ And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

³⁴ Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

³⁵ And they told what things *were done* in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

Psalms 45:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of

needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

¹⁵ With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

Isaiah 61:3 (KJV)

³ To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

3 The comfort of God was promised for the troubled days ahead, John 16:24-33;

2 Corinthians 1:3-6 (KJV)

³ Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

⁶ And whether we be afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation.

NOTES:

Parting Advice

As the climax of Jesus' life approached, which was His death and resurrection, it became necessary for Him to further enlighten His disciples concerning that momentous event. He had told them previously that He must die, but they did not yet realize the full significance of such statements. They became sorrowful at such persistent talk by Jesus that He must die, and consequently Jesus sought to alleviate somewhat their misgivings and sadness. He had been the expounder of the doctrines regarding the Kingdom of God to them; He was their Lord and King; and without Him all hope and inspiration was gone, so far as they were concerned. Jesus knew the proper method of helping them, and so instructed them in that which soon must transpire.

He told them the truth of what must transpire and what they must endure in the days ahead. "To be forewarned is to be forearmed," and such forearming is what Jesus sought to accomplish in His disciples. Jesus went to some length to tell them what to expect, and said, "These things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them." (John 16:4; **John 15:18-27 (KJV)** ¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. ²³ He that hateth me hateth my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. ²⁶ 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: ²⁷ And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me

from the beginning.)

The sailor at sea, warned by his barometer of a coming storm, prepares his ship for heavy weather. His foreknowledge of a coming storm enables him to prepare for it, whereas without such knowledge, his lack of preparation might cost him his ship and his life. It is so with the child of God. Warned by the Word of God of the wrath of God that will soon come against the world, he prepares himself for that which will come.

The foreknowledge and truth of what is coming to pass upon the earth, as it is revealed through the Word of God, does not frighten the Christian. On the contrary, his faith in God is increased because God has revealed the truth to him, and he is emboldened and strengthened by it. Life may become exceedingly difficult, even for the Christian; yet he knows that God's Word is true and that if he remains faithful, God will bring him into a safe place. (**Psalm 107:23-30 (KJV)** ²³ They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; ²⁴ These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. ²⁵ For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. ²⁶ They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. ²⁷ They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. ²⁸ Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. ²⁹ He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. ³⁰ Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven).

The Promise of the Father

Jesus knew it would take more than just the letter of truth to sufficiently encourage His people in the trials ahead; so He told them of the "Comforter" who would come to comfort the people of God. (John 16:7; **2 Corinthians 3:6 (KJV)** ⁶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.) This Comforter is the third Person of the Godhead — the Holy Spirit. He would be their source of inspiration and comfort in the absence of Jesus. Jesus told His disciples that it was expedient that He go away, for if He did not go, the Comforter would not come to them. Therefore, while the disciples were saddened by the prospect of no longer having the fellowship and presence of Jesus with them, they were comforted by the knowledge that they would not be left alone. The promise of the Comforter, combined with the foreknowledge of what must transpire in their lives, became a great source of strength and inspiration which enabled them to resist all persecutions and in the end obtain eternal life. The knowledge that Jesus had previously told them of these things was a bulwark no discouragement could tear down.

Divine Teacher

God's Word informs us that the Holy Spirit has the responsibility of guiding, leading, and instructing the body of Christ through God's ordained leaders. No earthly church, group, organization, or individual has ever instituted any of those divine instructions — or ever will. This has been the sole responsibility and privilege of the Holy Spirit, and none other. The Holy Spirit is the infallible Teacher and Revealer of God's great plan of salvation to His ministers and to His saints.

John the Beloved says of this One who would teach God's people: "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same

anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." (I John 2:27; **Isaiah 8:20 (KJV)** ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them. **Nehemiah 9:20 (KJV)** ²⁰ Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst. **1 Corinthians 2:13 (KJV)** ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.)

It should be remembered that the primary and most important method the Holy Spirit uses to instruct the people of God is through the medium of the Bible. God has exalted His Word above His name, and we read of this matter, "For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name" (Psalm 138:2). God's Spirit is not in conflict with the Word of God, and the Scriptures bear this out. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). Furthermore, the Spirit and the Word must agree: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (I John 5:7).

The Comforter is the One who opens the Word of God to that person who will listen, and so encourages his faith in God that he will believe unto salvation. The disciples had Jesus to strengthen their faith with His counsel, encouragement, and mighty miracles; the believer has the Holy Spirit to do the same for him today.

No doubt, most Christians have thought at some time or other that they would have liked to have lived in the days of Jesus Christ, and to have been a witness of the great things that He performed. They thought of the great inspiration they would have obtained from such a contact with Jesus. That such inspiration would not be lacking in the days following the ascension of Christ, God sent the Comforter to dwell with men. The Spirit has been the inspiration for us of the Christian dispensation, as Jesus was the inspiration for those of His day. Jesus said of the Comforter: "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" (John 16:14, 15).

Thomas doubted the witness of the other disciples that Jesus had risen from the grave. Only after Thomas met Jesus face to face did he believe Jesus was indeed alive. Jesus told him, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). While we have not seen Jesus with our mortal eyes, we have heard the voice of the Spirit of God, and have believed that which the Holy Spirit hath revealed to us of Christ.

The Earnest of Our Inheritance

It should be realized that the knowledge of sins forgiven — a state of justification before God; and even the blessedness of entire sanctification — the second work of grace in the believer's heart; do not bring the indwelling Comforter whom Jesus promised. The Spirit of God is a witness to the believer that he is saved and has been adopted into the household of faith. **(Romans 8:14-16 (KJV)** ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **2 Corinthians 1:22 (KJV)** ²² Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. **1 John 5:6-10 (KJV)** ⁶

This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. ⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. ¹⁰ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.) The Spirit of God likewise bears witness to our sanctification, and we then possess more of the Spirit's power and presence with us. **(1 Corinthians 2:12-13 (KJV))** ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **2 Thessalonians 2:13 (KJV)** ¹³ But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **1 Peter 1:12 (KJV)** ¹² Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.) But it is at the time of the Biblical experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost that the Comforter comes to abide in the temple of the human body and soul. This is clearly shown by the command Jesus gave to His disciples after His resurrection: "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). The disciples obeyed this command; and while tarrying in prayer on the Day of Pentecost, they received the Comforter. **(Acts 2:1-21 (KJV))**

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? ⁸ And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ⁹ Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. ¹² And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? ¹³ Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all *ye* that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: ¹⁵ For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; ¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: ¹⁸ And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: ¹⁹ And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood,

and fire, and vapour of smoke: ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: ²¹ And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.)

The receiving of the Holy Ghost by the 120 gathered in the upper room was in accordance with the prophecy of Joel. (**Joel 2:28-29 (KJV)** ²⁸ And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: ²⁹ And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.) Jesus said He would come to all who desired Him, and Peter reaffirmed this in the sermon he preached on the Day of Pentecost, from which we read: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38, 39).

It is this receiving of the Holy Spirit that Paul was referring to when he wrote: "In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory" (Ephesians 1:13,14).

Promise of Return

Jesus did not leave His disciples without hope of seeing Him again after His death. He comforted them with the statement: "Ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you" (John 16:22). This statement can be called a double prophecy or promise. Not only were the disciples to see Jesus again after His resurrection, but they would see Him again as He will appear in the great day of resurrection.

They were indeed to have sorrow, and that very soon, for Jesus was soon to suffer death on the cross. That event, which was so tragic to them, plunged their hearts into much grief as He had warned them it would; but they already had His promise that their joy would return, and that that joy would not be taken from them. That promise was fulfilled; for when they saw the reality of His resurrection they were filled with a supreme joy because of His triumph over death. That joy has ever since been the hope and the backbone of the Gospel.

No man can take away that joy from a child of God, for he knows that his Lord does live. He will return again for those of His own who are yet alive and for the righteous dead. Of all the religions in the world today the Gospel of Jesus Christ stands alone in its irrefutable proof of the resurrection of its Founder. Infallible proof of the truth of God's Word and of the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ is given by God through the Holy Spirit to those who will believe. Herein is the joy that shall come to all who believe the Gospel, even as it came to Jesus' disciples as He had promised.

Asking and Receiving

Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." So we have the wonderful privilege of going to God in prayer, and in the name of Jesus asking and receiving our petitions from Him. This marvelous and inspiring discourse was closed with the words that have since been a great source of hope and strength for the people of God: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.

In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did Jesus warn His disciples not to be offended in Him?
- 2 From what source did He say persecutions would arise against them?
- 3 Why was it necessary for Jesus to go away?
- 4 Who is the Comforter? and what does He do?
- 5 To whom will the Comforter come?
- 6 Why were the disciples sad?
- 7 When would their joy return? and for what reason?