

**CCF Study Notes**  
**Tuesday 7 AM Study**  
**25 April 2006**  
**John Chapter 16**

Before beginning to read from John Chapter 16 let's spend some time in prayer, considering the realities of this day and age. Let's ask God that we might:

1. Not **stumble** at what the world is doing to us;
2. **Understand** and **embrace** the work of the Holy Spirit;
3. **Follow** the Spirit as He leads us into all truth;
4. Be **patient**, understanding the times;
5. **Ask** the Father concerning all things;
6. **Believe** both the word and person of Jesus Christ, and
7. **Live victorious lives**, knowing that Jesus has overcome the world.

Chapter 16 concludes the teaching portion of Jesus' private ministry. The foundation for life – Jesus Christ – was set out in chapter 14. The rule of life is set out in chapter 15. The basis of our inevitable victory is laid out in chapter 16. The foundation was laid in the past. We live in Christ in the present. But where is this all heading? Unless we grasp where we are headed, what is the basis of our victory, and what resources are ours along the way we will not truly enter into the victory that Christ has already won. Properly understood, this is one of the most encouraging chapters in all of scripture.

Jesus told us what the world would do to us. Not only will we be religious outcasts, but people will think they are doing God a favor when they kill us. We might stumble at this and be disheartened unless we **remember** that Jesus told us of these things in advance. So why do "God's people" turn against us? The answer is simple: they don't know either God the Father or Jesus Christ, His Son. Why hadn't Jesus warned His disciples of this earlier, when He first called them?!? Jesus had protected them! (Verses 1-4). How is it that we are to remember what Jesus has said to us? (Hint John 15:25-27) The first rule of life is that we must look at everything that happens to us through the lens of God's word. Otherwise we will misconstrue the events and stumble in our walk.

We have an advantage the Apostles didn't have while Jesus was with them! The Holy Spirit is with us. While Jesus walked with them, Jesus could be present in only one place. The Holy Spirit is present in many places at once! Notice the threefold work of the Holy Spirit in the world. What does the Spirit convict people of? How or why does the Spirit convict people? (Verses 9-11) Each of these has a converse for the Christ-follower. We are free from the guilt of sin because we believe Christ. We know that Jesus is righteous and we will one day enter fully into His righteousness because He is now with the Father.

Thus we affirm the righteousness of God in all things. Lastly, we escape judgment because we are no longer ruled by Satan, by sin or by the fear of death.

On the positive side we have the Spirit to lead **us** into all truth. The Spirit leads us into various truths as we are ready to bear them. Thus the Spirit tailors our diet to our ability. We need to be careful not to assume that all people are ready to hear all truth. What are the things of Christ that are given to us? (Verses 12-15) Our richest blessings are often the truths which come from God through Christ.

This finite time that we spend on earth cannot compare with an eternity in heaven. Yet it is often these brief periods of suffering or confusion that cause us to stumble or turn from Christ. When will the Apostles see Jesus again? (Verses 16-18) Do we sometimes experience the same separation anxiety?

We have every reason for joy now, though sorrows may come our way. We know what the outcome will be. More importantly, both now and in the future, we have the privilege of asking anything of our Father in heaven. God never says "No!" to His children. He may say, "Later!" He may say, "I have something better!" When we ask, we receive.

Jesus wants us to be clear as to where He is and where we stand. Jesus is with the Father. We have direct access to the Father. This is what makes prayer so very powerful. The last and most significant lesson Jesus leaves with His apostles is a lesson about the power of prayer. Why don't we pray much more? (Verse 25-28) We have no excuse...

As we clearly understand where Jesus is our faith is put on firmer ground – the ground of God's word, His promise, and the person of Jesus Christ. (Verses 29-30)

The realities of the days that lay ahead for the apostles motivated Jesus' teaching. They would be scattered. They would abandon Jesus. Yet they were to have peace because the Father never abandoned Jesus – even in death. And we have Jesus' word on it: we will have tribulations in this world. How are we to handle these troubles? We are to face all our troubles in the firm conviction that Jesus has already overcome the world. That's why Jesus is in heaven – He overcame the world. And we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. So exactly how can we be victorious in life? (Verses 31-33)

Let's ask for a fresh outpouring and filling of the Holy Spirit so that we can stand strong until the battle is done, standing in His strength alone. He's coming back for us!

P.S. MP3s of recordings of these studies in John and copies of these notes are now posted at <http://www.apu.edu/~jstoker>. The MP3s are not streamed, and are 13-14 Megabytes in size. These will easily download via DSL connections but not via dialup connections. These studies are now available via podcast as well, for the really trendy folk among us.