John 16 the Holy Spirit

John 16:5-16

The work of the Holy Spirit is often talked about and discussed. Some of the views are seen on television and heard on commentaries on the radio. Some claim that there are two baptisms – water baptism – done when a person gets saved – and is no more than a testimony of faith – the other – they say – is to be baptized by the Holy Spirit and then you will get the gift of speaking or praying in tongues.

Paul has something to say in the matter of speaking in tongues:

**1 Corinthians 14:22-25 (NIV)**   
22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers.   
23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?   
24 But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all,   
25 and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

Grafton experience with families who came out of the Assembly of God when their Pastor taught you were not saved unless you spoke in tongues. They left the Assembly of God because they did not accept what their Pastor was teaching and I had a good ministry with these families at Bethel in Grafton.

In our confession of faith we acknowledge one baptism and not two baptisms. When we believe we receive the Holy Spirit. This does not mean we cannot be as the old time Lutheran theologians said, be “filled with the Holy Spirit” – and that while we have the Holy Spirit as believers, we can ask for and receive what Jesus called the filling of the Holy Spirit.

It seems to me that those who teach being baptized with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues want to produce some emotions that create hype and a lot of which is fleshly and not Christ centered. Just watching the Pentecostal preachers reminds me of people who are putting on a show and striving to get the emotions fired up.

On the other hand, I think we Lutherans could show more enthusiasm – something which comes from the heart and not the flesh.

I do not see Paul and the other disciples jumping all over the place – Paul even wrote that he had the gift of tongues – but it is better to speak in words which can be understood – I take this is mean praying in words which can be understood. And it does not mean getting messages which add to Scripture as some have taught. The Word of God warns against adding to the Scriptures.

We learn from our text what the work of the Holy Spirit is all about. And the text is directly from the words of Jesus – and we cannot beat this!

We begin with John 16 verses 5 and 6:

**John 16:5-6 (NIV)**   
5Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.

Peter once asked the question about Jesus going away. After all, he as the other disciples did not understand what Jesus was talking about. They did not understand that Jesus would suffer at the hands of sinners; die, rise again and ascended to His Father (and ours) in Heaven.

**John 13:36 (NIV)**   
Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

He told Peter, you will come later. At that point there was no possible way for Peter to die and have his body changed into the likeness of Jesus resurrected body, there was no way this could happen until Jesus rose and lived again! This of course is in the mind and heart of Jesus. The disciples would inherit all Jesus would do for them – as we will now after we die!

So, Jesus changes the direction of the question by changing the subject. He changes the conversation to zero in on the feelings of his disciples and all others who followed Him and believed His message of salvation.

They did not understand that Jesus would suffer at the hands of sinful people, they did not understand that Jesus would be put to death on the Cross of Calvary and they did not realize He would die there and would come back to life, coming back in a glorified body.

He had announced time and time again that He would leave them and because they did not understand, they were filled with grief. The loved Jesus and wanted at times to even build a tent to live with Jesus – They did not understand but Jesus of course did understand. **And Jesus identifies with their grief. It is a look into the loving and caring heart of Jesus. And it is a message to us as well – when we grieve – Jesus identifies with us and loves us. PTL! Especially, I think that the Lord comes to us in times of grief. Other times too of course but certainly in times when we have lost a loved one, or face some other situation that grieves us.**

**John 16:7**  
But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Listen: We need to understand - in those days of the Old Testament up to Jesus death, resurrection and ascension - the Holy Spirit did not live in the bodies of any believer. He did come to some who were selected to have His power, and His direction, for a purpose to glorify Jesus. He would now come to all believers – until after Jesus resurrection and ascension into Heaven to be at the Father’s right hand – Now the Holy Spirit dwells in the very heart and body of the believer!

In the book of Acts we learn of three Pentecost’s:

1. When the Holy Spirit came to the Israelite believers in Acts 2 – at least 120 believers plus!
2. When the Holy Spirit came on the Gentiles in Acts 10. He came to Cornelius.
3. And when the Holy Spirit came on those who were baptized only with water in John 14. Water baptism is no more!

Now the Holy Spirit comes to all who believe. He comes in the waters of Holy Baptism and through the Sacrament of the altar – and certainly through the preaching and teaching of the Bible – the very words of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit and even the sharing of the Word in some way.

The word counselor means that the Holy Spirit would come into the life of all believers and He would lead people to the Cross of Jesus and to Jesus resurrection and His ascension and to the fact all believers after death here will receive a body like Jesus – a spiritual body.

I like the words of the Catechism that summarizes the work of the Holy Spirt and it does this in a few short words:

The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies: (Page 84 in the Small Catechism).

**The Holy Spirit is the counselor of the believers: He walks beside us and guides us through the Word of God:**

**1 John 2:1-3 (NIV)**   
1My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.   
2He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus explains to them and to us – the work of the Holy Spirit:

**John 16:8 (NIV)**   
When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

There are two sources that make us feel guilty. One is the Devil! He points to our sin and our sinful actions and gets us to doubt our relationship to Jesus. The Bible tells us he is a liar and the father of lies and that he prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He gets Christians to doubt! Christians can go fishing in the lake of forgiven sin. And he binds the unsaved to think it is too late for them to be saved – they are too great a sinner. Satan hounds and nags: James tells us to flee from the devil and he will flee from us!

The other source that points to our sin and makes us feel guilty – is the Holy Spirit. He is the author of all truth. He points to the Cross and the forgiveness we have in Jesus – He gives us peace and leads us to repent of our sin and the sinful nature – so it is for anyone – we do not listen to Satan and we listen to the Holy Spirit. He shows us we are made righteous in Jesus and that there is no judgment waiting for us.

**John 16:9 (NIV)**

in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; when an unbeliever hears the Word of God – it’s teachings on sin, death, and hell – this calls them and enlightens them and justifies them and saves them.

For the Christian the Word of God convicts and gives a conscience which tells the person of sin and keeps them tuned to what the Lord wants for them. This is sanctification – the life after accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**John 16:10 (NIV)**   
 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; The Holy Spirit enlightens the believer – and shows them that Jesus righteousness is our own. We belong to Jesus and He belongs to us. And the chief way we realize this is when we are in the Word of God and through daily reading of His Word and regular worship attendance.

**John 16:11 (NIV)**   
and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Here Jesus gives a warning. The temptation for Christians (true) is to follow the advice of Satan who was and is a liar from the beginning of time to this day. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit would speak the Truth!

**John 16:12 (NIV)**   
I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

They would not be able at the time to understand but when the Holy Spirit comes to a person, that person will understand and be able to bear the message of Jesus.

**John 16:13 (NIV)**   
But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

When people get enamored with the Holy Spirit – they put Him first – ahead of Jesus and the Holy Spirit becomes more important – it seems to me – when Jesus tells us here that the Holy Spirit points to Jesus – He points to people being called, enlightened. And sanctified.

**John 16:14 (NIV)**   
He (the Holy Spirit) will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

**John 16:15 (NIV)**   
All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

**John 16:16 (NIV)**   
In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." After the disciples died, they saw Jesus – face to face.

I believe every Christian has the Holy Spirit – if a person does not have the Holy Spirit that person is not saved. I do believe in the filling of the Holy Spirit – not just one filling; but many fillings. We can ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit!

We can ask Jesus to fill us with His Holy Spirit – and our goal is to give a testimony of faith in Him – by showing love and concern for others.

A good illustration of not having all the benefits the Lord wants for us is about a man who scrimp and saved to buy a ticket to the United States – he had enough money for the ticket and with what was left over he bought crackers and cheese – Every day he would eat a bit of the crackers and cheese and just watch the other passengers eating the delicious food covered in the dining room. Upon leaving the ship the steward asked him if the food offered on the ship was offensive to him. The fellow replied that he was not offended – and told the steward he had enough money for the ticket and a little left over for the crackers and cheese. Upon which the steward told him that the meals were included in the ticket! **I think this is often the way we treat the things of the Lord and display our unbelief in what He can do for us. What do you think?**