

PROMISES *for* PILGRIMS

BLOOD-BOUGHT PROMISES FOR PILGRIMS,
ON THEIR WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND.

A Sermon Series On: The Farewell Discourse & Final Prayer of Jesus | John 14-17

The Promise of An Advantage | John 16:5-15

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As a follower of Jesus Christ, you are commissioned to testify of Jesus Christ to a hostile world, and to bear lasting fruit that glorifies Him. Humanly speaking, it's an impossible task, but Jesus said that His going away would provide an advantage for His followers that would make our ministry effective.

The impossible task: In our own strength, persuading people who are dead in sin and hostile to Jesus Christ to believe His gospel. We desperately need an “advantage.”

***Sumfero* (John 16:7) – Greek for advantage, profit, or benefit.**

Reconciling John 16:5 with John 13:36 – “...none of you asks me, where are you going.”

The promise of the advantage was Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit. The sending of the Spirit:

- 1. Gives evidence that Jesus completed the work the Father gave Him to do.**
- 2. Provides believers with unique and constant intimacy with Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Brings a ministry of conviction to the world through believers in Jesus Christ. The Spirit works through believers to convict the world of its:**
 - A. Sin of unbelief**

B. Lack of righteousness before God

C. Wrong and deceived judgments about spiritual things

4. Enables believers to understand, remember, and apply God's truth.

For the apostles, this meant reminding them of what Jesus taught and revealing additional truth.

For followers of Christ today, this is the Spirit's work of illuminating the truth God has previously revealed in His Word.

Questions to Consider

1. What are some of the realities which show our need for God to work through believers in the mission of making disciples?
2. Have you ever thought it would be easier to obey Jesus if you could see Him and hear Him speak directly to you, as He did with the first disciples? What other "advantages," apart from the Spirit and the Word, have you imagined would make it easier to obey, and why or why not are they actually advantages?
3. Did the Holy Spirit use any believer(s) to convict you of the sin of unbelief? Has the Holy Spirit used you to convict someone of the sin of unbelief?
4. Discuss how you would explain righteousness to an unbeliever, and that person's need for the righteousness of Christ. What verse(s) would you use?
5. What "judgement" is in mind in John 16:11? What are examples of ways in which Satan has deceived unbelievers that you know? Are there verses that you could use in a conversation with that person?
6. John 16:12-15 describes the Holy Spirit's work in leading the apostles to remember and understand the teachings of Jesus during the days of the early church, when the New Testament was not complete. What does the Holy Spirit use to guide believers today in the truth (cf. Psalm 119, Ephesians 2:19-20, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)?