

IT'S PERSONAL

HOPE

PART 4

Hope for the day

READ JOHN 16:1-15

INTRODUCTION

In this passage, we see Jesus discussing something very difficult with His disciples: His departure from them. The disciples had spent the last three + years of their lives following Christ as He ministered to the nation of Israel but also to them personally. He was their brother and their friend. He was their Savior and they did not want to lose Him. There was the thought in their minds that He was going to establish His Kingdom while He was with them and they desired to see that and experience it. There were so many emotions that it must have been difficult to think of a time when they wouldn't have Jesus with them in person.

Jesus knew that this would be difficult and so He promised them the "Helper". This is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is referenced as our "Comforter" as well as our Helper and it is important to see that it is through our worries, He is there with us. We do not need to worry or be anxious (Philippians 4:6-7) because the Spirit is with us. That passage in Philippians also tells us to give thanks in everything and that peace will be given to us. No matter the problem or the trial that we find ourselves in, the Spirit is able to give us peace when we give thanks to God for everything.

The peace that surpasses all understanding comes when we trust that God is sovereign over all and that He knows, and is in control of, all things. This should change how we view the Spirit. It certainly gave the disciples hope and comfort knowing that even though Jesus was no longer going to be with them, there would be a comforter and a helper that would offer them peace that surpasses all understanding. We have access to that same Spirit and can have that same peace when we trust in God and His will for our lives. When we thank Him, praise Him and glorify Him, He blessed us by giving us His Spirit to be our helper and our comforter. Without the Spirit, this life has the potential to overwhelm and destroy, but with Him, we are given strength to continue on in the battle.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why would it have been difficult to hear Jesus speak of His departure? Why do you think that Jesus held back some of the information from the disciples at this time? (16:12)
2. How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples? Why? What encouragement can we take away from what Jesus had to say?
3. Read Philippians 4:6-7. What do these verses encourage us to do in times of anxiety? What does it mean to give thanks in all things?
4. What does peace that surpasses all understanding look like? Is it ignorance? Is it denial? How can we share the peace with others who are struggling?
5. What does it mean for God to be sovereign over all things? Why is that important?
6. What are the things in life that you need to hand over to the Spirit so that He can be your comforter? Why is it hard?

WRAP UP

Comfort can be sought from a lot of different sources. There is only one source that can offer peace through the trials. The Holy Spirit is there to offer us hope that we will be taken care of ultimately if we trust in God and His will for our lives. It can be difficult to trust the Spirit because we cannot see Him but it is so important for us to place our trust in Him and be thankful in all things so that He can guide us, correct us, and give us peace.