

# 4 *The Transformer*

John 16:5–15

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*Purpose:* To realize the power of the Holy Spirit that is available to us as we face the struggles and problems of life.

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Imagine purchasing an airplane and using it only to travel on the ground, or trying to use a chainsaw without knowing how to start it. Each of these have capabilities to do remarkable things, but they are not being used in the way they were intended. They are missing out on the real power and potential that each provides. Jesus said that the real power of the Christian life is the guidance and protection of the indwelling Spirit of God in each believer. Yet for many believers, the Holy Spirit is not considered on a day to day basis. If we are to experience the abundant life that God offers, as well as the power that is available to transform our lives, we must understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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1. What would you want to tell your family or closest friends if you knew that you had only a short time to live?

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2. Read John 16:5–15. Jesus said that it was for the disciples' good that he go away and that the Counselor come. Why was the Spirit's presence more profitable to the disciples than Jesus' presence?

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**Question 2.** The Counselor mentioned in verse 7 is obviously the Holy Spirit (see 15:26; 16:13–15).

Verse 5 seems to be a contradiction. Someone did ask Jesus where he was going. Back in John 13:36, Peter said, "Lord, where are you going?" However, Peter was not concerned about Jesus' destination but about being parted from him. Instead of rejoicing because Jesus was going to the Father, he was sorrowful about being left alone.

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3. In what ways is it more profitable today to have the Holy Spirit actively present than to have Jesus here on earth? Explain.

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## Emblems of the Holy Spirit

Emblems of the Holy Spirit, The.

1. Water. Joh 3:5; 7:38,39.

- a. Cleansing. Eze 16:9; 36:25; Eph 5:26; Heb 10:22.
  - b. Fertilising. Ps 1:3; Isa 27:3,6; 44:3,4; 58:11.
  - c. Refreshing. Ps 46:4; Isa 41:17,18.
  - d. Abundant. Joh 7:37,38.
  - e. Freely given. Isa 55:1; Joh 4:14; Re 22:17.
2. Fire
- a. Purifying. Isa 4:4; Mal 3:2,3.
  - b. Illuminating. Ex 13:21; Ps 78:14.
  - c. Searching. Zep 1:12; 1Co 2:10.
3. Wind
- a. Independent. Joh 3:8; 1Co 12:11.
  - b. Powerful. 1Ki 19:11; Ac 2:2.
  - c. Sensible in its effects. Joh 3:8.
  - d. Reviving. Eze 37:9,10,14.
4. Oil. Ps 45:7.
- a. Healing. Lu 10:34; Re 3:18.
  - b. Comforting. Isa 61:3; Heb 1:9.
  - c. Illuminating. Mt 25:3,4; 1Jo 2:20,27.
  - d. Consecrating. Ex 29:7; 30:30; Isa 61:1.
5. Rain and dew. Ps 72:6.
- a. Fertilising. Eze 34:26,27; Ho 6:3; 10:12; 14:5.
  - b. Refreshing. Ps 68:9; Isa 18:5.
  - c. Abundant. Ps 133:3.
  - d. Imperceptible. 2Sa 17:12; Mr 4:26-28.
6. A dove. Mt 3:16.
- a. Gentle. Mt 10:16; Ga 5:22.
7. A voice. Isa 6:8.
- a. Speaking. Mt 10:20.
  - b. Guiding. Isa 30:21; Joh 16:13.
  - c. Warning. Heb 3:7-11.
8. A seal. Re 7:2.
- a. Securing. Eph 1:13,14; 4:30.
  - b. Authenticating. Joh 6:27; 2Co 1:22.

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4. What did Jesus say the Spirit's ministry would be toward the world (vv. 8–11)?

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**Question 4.** The Spirit's work toward the world is to "convict" the world of some important things. The word translated "convict" means to present evidence so as to convince. Those who hear the gospel are convinced by the Holy Spirit of certain facts about themselves and about Jesus. Even those who reject the gospel are convinced of its truth. Their rejection is a matter of the will. They deliberately choose to reject what they have been convinced is true.

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5. How does the Spirit do the same work in the hearts of unbelievers today?

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6. “The prince of this world” mentioned in verse 11 is Satan. In what way does Satan “now stand condemned”?

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7. Why is it important for the Holy Spirit to convince the world that their “prince” is already condemned?

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8. Read 1 John 4:4, Rom. 8:31, Col. 2:15, and Heb. 2:14. What are the implications of these verses for the believer today?

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9. What can we infer from verses 8–11 about our part in evangelism?

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10. The Spirit's ministry is one of communication. What specific things did Jesus say the Spirit would communicate to the disciples in verse 13-14?

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11. In what ways does the Spirit guide us into all truth and bring glory to Jesus Christ today?

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**12.** Sometimes we don't want to hear the truth that the Holy Spirit is guiding us into. In what areas of your life are you ignoring or quenching the Spirit's leading?

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