

# **The Neglected God**

**(John 16:5-15)**

## **Introduction**

**A) I believe there is something missing in church life today and it is crippling us desperately!!**

**B) Let's examine the early church.**

During the those early days people made faith commitments and their lives were radically changed. The Bible talks about people selling real estate in order to fund ministry, spending evenings together around the dinner table talking about Jesus, abandonment of sinful life-styles, etc.

In contrast today, you see people make a faith-commitment to Jesus Christ, but in reality, there is not much difference between how your neighbor lives their life and how you live your life.

No difference exists between your spending habits, your conversation, or your marriage than that of your neighbor. Except for a couple of hours on Sunday morning and an occasional prayer before a meal, no real difference is evident.

**C) What's missing?** We have neglected or forgotten the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our churches.

Believers individually and churches collectively, become irrelevant when our lives and our ministry becomes purely a human creation. We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Holy Spirit.

For some reason, we don't think we need the Holy Spirit. We don't expect the Holy Spirit to act. Or if we do, our expectations are often misguided or self-serving.

Given our talent set, experience, and education, many of us are fairly capable of living rather successfully (according to the world's standards) without any strength from the Holy Spirit.

Even our church growth can happen without Him. Let's be candid: If you combine a descent speaker, a talented worship band, a few creative events, people will attend your church.

**D) For the next couple of weeks, we are going to talk about the Holy Spirit.** It will be both theological and practical.

However, the goal is a renewed commitment by both you and me to submit ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Holy Spirit is more obviously active in places where people are desperate for Him, humbled before Him and not distracted by their pursuit of wealth or comforts (like we are).

**E) Contextualize John 16**

# **I. The Purpose of The Holy Spirit** **(John 14:15-18)**

## **A) A Constant Companion (v. 15-16)**

When was the last time I undeniably saw the Holy Spirit work in or around me?

## **B) A Personal Guide (v. 17)**

The people of the early church viewed the Holy Spirit as necessary to their life as breathing air.

## **C) An Indwelling Change-Agent (v. 17b -18)**

If it's true that the Spirit of God dwells in us and that our bodies are the Holy Spirit's temple, then shouldn't there be a huge difference between the person who has the Spirit of God living inside of him or her and the person who does not?

# **II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

## **A) To the world (16:8-11)**

## **B) To believers (16:12-13)**

# **III. The Focus of The Holy Spirit**

## **A) Glorifying the Son**

## **B) Delivering the truth**

## **Conclusion**