

## John 16: "I Have Overcome the World"

Chapter 16 is the final chapter of a very long farewell discourse. The main points being:

1. Jesus is leaving
2. The Spirit is coming
3. The disciples will continue where Jesus left off.

For most of us, it's hard to put ourselves in the disciple's shoes. They possibly thought that they understood what was going to happen to Jesus and to them but clearly they didn't. Jesus says that sorrow fills their hearts (v6) but that once they finally realize what's going to happen they will be full of joy instead (v20).

Read John 16.

Q. As you read this chapter, what's one thing that stood out to you - one truth that you've seen in your life? (There may be nothing - that's because you're a good exegete and you're focussed on the original audience! :-)

During the farewell discourse, Jesus has highlighted 4 works of the Spirit.

1. 14:26: "He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."
2. 15:26: "He will bear witness about me."
3. 16:8: "He will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgement."
4. 16:13: "He will guide you into ALL the truth."

Q. Any testimonies of the above? Any times when you'd have been completely stuck but the Holy Spirit has spoken through you?

Q. In 16:8 the conviction of the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgement; what does Jesus mean by this?

Q. What other works of the Spirit are there and why do you think Jesus doesn't list them all?

I'm going to suggest that there are a couple of less obvious works of the Spirit in this text too. The joy which Jesus speaks of seems to be partly the responsibility of the Holy Spirit (15:11, c.f. 16:24) as well as the Spirit's role in prayer (16:13) and in bringing the peace that Jesus speaks about in 16:33.

Anyone having trouble finding trinitarian theology in the Bible (Jehovah's Witnesses for example) really doesn't need to look much further than the farewell discourse.

Q. What are your views on how the trinity works? Does each person of the trinity have a specific role or does the role that we see one person perform mean it is a characteristic of the Godhead?

The one thing this part of Scripture reveals to me is how complex God is. That's a relief for me because a god who can be described fully is no God at all.

The main take-away from this whole passage of Scripture is summed up in that last sentence: "I have overcome the world."

Q. Alongside the "peace in tribulation" that Jesus also talks about (v33), on a personal level (in other words, no generic answers), what does that mean for how you live your life? If Jesus hadn't overcome the world, how would things be different?