

HE WILL HONOR ME

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Many people have been honored for their accomplishments with speeches. Some people have been honored with statues, plaques, medals, pins, flowers, parades, or their picture on a postage stamp.

These tributes represent the collective effort to reveal and express the best characteristics about those persons.

One reason that such events are important, and even moving, is that they often uncover aspects of the person that you didn't know, or only suspected. They offer perspectives which we lack, perspectives that we desperately need in order to bring a balance to our point of view.

It is so easy, and such a tragic mistake, to assume that what we know of another person is all there is to know. Every point of view is slanted in some way; some, by lack of information; others, by lack of understanding; all, by limited perception.

The Personal Point of View

There is also another point of view to discover: that person's view of himself. Autobiographies can reveal causes and motives otherwise unknown.

Jesus once described the broadened perspective of intimate personal relationship:

²⁷ *"My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."*

²⁸ *Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."* (Matthew 11)

In this passage, Jesus extends a wonderful invitation, based on His Father's trust in Him. Essentially, He said, "My Father has trusted me completely; you can trust me completely, too. Come to me; I will lift your burdens. Listen to me; I will give you peace." The Father's intimate confidence in Jesus is reason to trust Him also and to learn from Him what is true and good.

Later, Jesus used this same principle as the basis for His disciples' hope after He would return to Heaven. He promised that He would not leave them alone — untethered and unguided. He would send to them Someone who was intimately acquainted with Him, Someone in whom He had complete confidence, Someone who would be able to represent His every thought and wish for them perfectly. This Someone is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth.

¹² *"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.* (John 16, NIV)

How He Guides

This passage emphasizes that He will guide you by speaking to you. He will guide you by making me and all that belongs to me known to you. He will verbally announce, inform, explain, and reveal me to you. He does all this in accord with and often by means of the Scriptures.

Apostle Paul acknowledged his role in passing on the truth about Jesus, and also his dependence on the Spirit's help:

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2)

The “natural man” is the person who does not yet have the Spirit dwelling in them, the person who has not yet entrusted himself to Jesus Christ as Forgiver and Life-Leader. Paul has expressed that spiritual truth cannot be learned apart from the Holy Spirit's guidance.

¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2)

To get to know God, we need a Teacher; we need the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “He will glorify (honor) Me.”

The Holy Spirit has come to reveal and express the best characteristics (the truth) about Jesus Christ.

How Much Do You *Not* Know?

Although they spent nearly four years traveling with Jesus — hearing His teachings and witnessing His behavior — His disciples did not understand many things. According to the record of Scripture, they did not understand

- His parables (Mark 4:13)
- The miracles of the multiplied loaves and fishes (Mark 6:52)
- His prediction of His death (Mark 9:32)
- When He spoke of the Father (John 8:27)
- His illustration of the sheep and their shepherd (John 10:6)
- His triumphal return to Jerusalem (John 12:16)
- Why He washed their feet (John 13:7)
- That He would rise from the dead (John 20:9)

It is safe to say that even though we have read the New Testament (perhaps, repeatedly) and heard dozens (if not hundreds) of sermons, that there is still much that we do not understand.

Do you know *how much* you do not know?

Need to Know

²⁷ But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. (1 John 2)

“Everything you need to know.” God reveals His heart, His purposes, His plans, His truth, on a “need to know” basis.

You cannot open the Bible to a chapter about prayer and there find everything there is to know on the subject. Many authors have written on that subject in an effort to collect in one place and clarify the divine teaching about prayer. But each one’s effort is incomplete. Every generation learns from the past, and also learns something more, as the Holy Spirit continues to guide us into all truth.

There are things we will discover in our generation that not only were not known by generations before us, but were not needed before. I am not saying we will be adding to the content of the Bible, or to the basic doctrines of the Church, or to the body of truth — the Holy Spirit does not guide us to “more truth” but “into” the truth that He has given in His Word. We will discover fresh applications, tailored to our generation and to our lives.

Truth is a Person

The truth is not a creed, not a theology, nor a collection of Biblical promises or quotations. The Truth is a Person. Jesus said:

⁶ “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” (John 14)

Jesus Christ is the Truth, in human form. He is not a static, intellectual truth that can be recorded and transmitted in words alone. That is why there are *four* Gospel accounts, to show various perspectives of His life and its meaning. And that is why the Holy Spirit is still speaking about Him today, because *each person* requires a fresh perspective (a personal perspective) of His life and its meaning.

Each of us will apply the truth of who Jesus is in some unique ways. And all of us will apply it incompletely. And every one of us can learn more, and apply more, of the truth about Jesus in our lives. That’s why the Holy Spirit has come to you.

God is at Work

The very fact that you are here today indicates that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about Jesus. Whether or not what He is trying to tell you has become clear yet, it is He who has moved you this way and this far. Jesus was very clear about this:

⁴⁴ For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. ⁴⁵ As it is written in the Scriptures, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)

⁴⁷ “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ Yes, I am the bread of life!” (John 6)

The Father draws people to Jesus; Jesus reveals the Father; the Holy Spirit reveals the Son. If you listen to the Spirit, you will get to know the Son. And when you have seen the Son, you have seen the Father. And once you have seen the Father, you, too, have become His child.

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children,

then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (Romans 8)

Priceless Inheritance

In this passage, Paul describes Christ-followers as “joint heirs with Christ.” That means that what Christ inherits from the Father is co-owned and equally shared by us.

³ *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,*
⁴ *and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.* ⁵ *And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.* (1 Peter 1)

What might that be? What has Jesus inherited?

I hasten to say we do not know all that Jesus has inherited or will inherit yet, but one thing we know for sure: He has inherited eternal life.

⁹ *We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.* (Romans 6)

And this inheritance is ours, too.

³⁵ *But in the age to come, those worthy of being raised from the dead...* ³⁶ *will never die again.* (Luke 20)

⁵⁰ *Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die.* ⁵¹ *I am the living bread that came down from heaven.* (John 6)

⁵¹ *I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!* (John 8)

²⁵ *Jesus said..., “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,* ²⁶ *and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”* (John 11)

Do *you* believe this? Do you believe that Jesus is who He said He was? If so, have you entrusted your life to His care and keeping? Does He have control today? Is He in charge right now?

As the Holy Spirit points you to Jesus Christ again and again, are you pausing to praise and thank the Savior?