

# The Spirit Glorifies Christ to Men

**John 16:12-15**

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**Introduction:** What do you think when you read about some pastor or evangelical doing something really outrageous....maybe even a crime? What about church fights and lawsuits among believers? If you think such things make believers look bad, that would be a massive understatement. Satan uses such things to obscure Christ to men. If this is who Christians are then it gives a very good reason not to consider the gospel. Men love to find in the sin of believers the excuse they need for not trusting in Christ. John says when we obey Christ it makes a powerful argument that we are His disciples, but our lives are not the determining factor in this world. We are not that powerful.

**John 13:34-35** <sup>34</sup> "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Christians often speak of glorifying Christ, but what does that mean exactly? Does it mean that we need to make Christ look good? Do we really have any idea how to do it other than trying to be good, acting good, looking good and trying to keep our true struggles with sin under wraps as much as possible. Is God dependent on sinners to look good? Is that even what Glorifying God and Christ means?

God tells us again and again that His Glory is His prime directive in creation. As we have seen in the previous paragraph it cannot be left to the likes of us to do it. If it is not our doing then that leaves only God to do it and He says that He is intent on accomplishing exactly that.

**Isaiah 42:8** <sup>8</sup> "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.

**Habakkuk 2:14** <sup>14</sup> "For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

When we think the Glory of God depends on what we do and say we are digging a pit for ourselves to fall into. Works religion thrives in this environment. Men are pretty good at making God look bad, but doesn't it strike you as laughable that we could make God look good? You cannot make God look good. He does not need you for that! God makes Himself desirable, beautiful, and totally trustworthy to men. You and I cannot do that. It was never our purpose. Satan works to obscure Christ, but The Holy Spirit lifts that curtain at will and causes the Glory of Christ to shine into the souls of men.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-7** <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving

so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

Let me give you a valid reason for living for Christ, obeying His word and loving His other children...IT IS NOT TO MAKE GOOD LOOK GOOD!! It is because God is Good! He is worthy of your affection and devotion and your witness...BUT He does not need you in order to make Himself glorious in Creation. He alone can do that. Our part is to draw as much attention to Him as possible. This is one of the primary purposes of meeting here on Sunday. We are drawing attention to Our Glorious God.

**Psalm 33:1-9** Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. <sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. <sup>3</sup> Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. <sup>4</sup> For the word of the LORD is upright, And all His work is *done* in faithfulness. <sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. <sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. <sup>9</sup> For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Today I want us to see what Glory really is and then how God works to assure that it is still revealed in a fallen and broken world. I want you to also see what your part truly is in revealing the Glory of Christ. Finally I want you to see a little of what happens when The Spirit does His Work of bringing Glory to Christ.

**John 16:12-15** <sup>12</sup> "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. <sup>13</sup> "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. <sup>15</sup> "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

**I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now:** The word means "endure" or "tolerate" them. These men were just in no spiritual condition to accept, understand and embrace all that Christ wanted to tell them. They were men following God without the help of the Holy Spirit. In a few hours they were about to learn just how dependent they would be on God the Spirit if they were going to even understand what Christ was saying to them, let alone actually obeying those truths and following after Jesus. They were natural men at this point and....

**1 Corinthians 2:14** <sup>14</sup> .....a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Jesus gives an introduction so that they would not be surprised when the world treated them poorly and when God left them in the world to do His work here. In about 50 days the promised Spirit would come and these same cowardly men will turn the world upside down. The explanation for it is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit.

**But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [13]:** Many things happen when the Spirit begins His active work among men on the earth.

**John 16:8-11** <sup>8</sup> "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; <sup>11</sup> and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

The Holy Spirit works in the lives of unbelievers to make them alive to God. Unregenerate people are granted life and spiritual sight to see Christ Jesus in His Glory.

**Ephesians 2:4-5** <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Once we are made alive The Spirit becomes our teacher. This categorically does not mean....as many charismatic believers assert....that we do not need preaching and teaching from the Scripture. Or that you do not need to apply yourself to learn from the Scripture that God gave you and the men He gave to teach it to you. Let me show you.

The Scripture and God's teachers and preachers are the chosen means to guide you into all truth. But they are only means...like tools in the hands of a master builder.... the credit and the glory for what you learn goes to The Holy Spirit.

**THE SCRIPTURE:** It was brought into existence by the Holy Spirit after Jesus spoke these words. On that last night before the crucifixion there was not one word of the New Testament written down anywhere. Paul describes how the NT came into existence in I Corinthians 2.

**1 Corinthians 2:11-13** <sup>11</sup> For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, <sup>13</sup> which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

After telling his readers that he had seen Christ on the mount of transfiguration and how amazing it was, Peter hastens to add this .....

**2 Peter 1:19-21** <sup>19</sup> .....we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

More sure or certain than what? Than the brief experience he has with Jesus on the mount. The Scripture is the sure and eternal word of the Living God. If you know it the spiritual light and warmth of our creator rises in your soul like the warm sun after a cold and dark night.

**THE PREACHERS AND TEACHERS:** Again...this was God's idea and plan for how you would be taught. The Word of God was designed to be preached not just read. It was designed to be poured over by teachers who compare the words and contexts and history and grammar. They do it without an agenda. Without a theological persuasion that they are trying to prove. Spirit anointed teachers of the Scripture get their theology from what God says in His Word and they do not try to prove their theology by using God's Word.

Paul comes right out and says that the preachers and pastors that you have were given to the church....to you....by Christ Himself. He even tells us the purpose.

**Ephesians 4:10-13** <sup>10</sup> He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

**He will not speak on His own initiative:** One of the tragic hallmarks of the church in our generation is an incorrect view of the work of the Holy Spirit. People passing out on stage or barking on all fours like a dog are attributed to the Holy Spirit. Tele evangelists like Peter Popov pretend to be led by the Spirit to know things in the audience. All the while they are wearing an ear bud and someone is feeding them info through it that they gathered beforehand. Men give their private prophecies that God insists do not come from the Holy Spirit. They ruin the lives and faith of those who hear and act on them. The list of abuse is long. BUT...Jesus says the Holy Spirit speaks what He is told to speak and....

**Whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come:** The Spirit is not acting on His own. He is the person of the trinity who is carrying out the will and words of God on earth. Experience and actions that focus on the Spirit and exalt the Spirit ARE NOT THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT! They do not fit the pattern of Christ's precise description of what the Spirit is doing in the world. In fact Jesus boils it down to one thing here....

**He will glorify Me:** Remember we said that the Glory of God is the prime directive. Why? Because God is the greatest good in the universe. And Jesus is the purist revelation of God to men.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:14** <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:18** <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

God has purposed to transform us into His image by showing us Christ. This is what the Holy Spirit does. He does not show you Himself....He shows you Christ.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Men must see Christ. You and I must see Christ and see Him as He truly is. He is the God of Creation. He is perfect and excellent in every way. He is beautiful and desirable and satisfying to the heart and mind. How will we ever see Him like this when He is now at the right hand of the Father and we are earth bound until we die? The Holy Spirit will show Him to us. This is the Spirit's primary purpose in the world. Everything else the Scripture says about the Holy Spirit is driven by this one truth. **He Will Glorify Christ.**

**He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you:** This is the teaching ministry of the Spirit. It is not mystical. The Holy Spirit wrote the Scripture to reveal Christ. The prophets were carried along in their writing so that what they said would be about Christ.

**2 Peter 1:20** <sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter of* one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**Revelation 19:10** <sup>10</sup> Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

You cannot love Christ without loving Christ Word. If you want to love Christ more....mine Him from the pages of Scripture. The Holy Spirit will teach you by the means of teaching and preaching that exalts Him to you.

**All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you:** This is another in a series of Trinitarian assertions by Jesus. What the Father has belongs to the Son. The Father and the Son are one. He was with the Father in the beginning and all things were made by Him.

The Spirit takes what belongs equally to the Father and to the Son and reveals those things to us....to you in the Scripture. If it is not in the Scripture than you are getting your information from a source other than the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wrote the Scripture to reveal Christ in His Glory. Did He forget something? Did God the Spirit leave something out that He just thought of 21 centuries later? Why do men insist on continued revelation? Who or what is driving that? It is NOT the Holy Spirit. He wrote the book on the Glory of Christ and now works in the world to disclose it to men.

What does Jesus mean by the truth when He says that the Spirit will guide you into all truth? He made that clear enough in His prayer to the Father in the next chapter. Let's just look at one verse for now....

**John 17:15-17** <sup>15</sup> "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. <sup>16</sup> "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is Truth.

Jesus asks The Father to be keep us from Satan while we are living in the world. For that to happen we are going to have to be set apart for God and not for the world of Satan. We must be in the world but not of the world. When Jesus prays for your sanctification He could not be more clear. It is accomplished through the Word of God. The Truth that the Holy Spirit will lead you into. GO WILLINGLY! GO BOLDLY! The Spirit will give you the water but you must go to the well.

**CONCLUSION:** The Church is in a sad state in our day. Many are abusing and misusing the Holy Spirit while others are ignoring Him entirely. Some are exalting the Spirit when Christ is the one the Sprit came to exalt. Others are willing enough to go to the Scriptures, but to vindicate their theology or show themselves knowledgeable. The Spirit will exalt Christ to us when Christ is preached. That ministry of the Spirit will transform you from one degree of glory to another. In other words....the way in which God purposes to transform you is to show you Christ. He is the one we desire to be like because He is as Paul so perfectly put it....

**Colossians 1:15-20** <sup>5</sup> ..... the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, <sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Purpose to pursue the knowledge of the Glory of Christ. The Spirit will absolutely help you with this. It is why He is in the world. He is not drawing attention to anything else, but Jesus. Come to church to give Christ your adoring worship and praise. Ask God to draw your heart into His presence when you pray. Expect the Holy Spirit to help you know Him and love Him with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. This is what the Blessed Holy Spirit came into the world to do. After the Spirit made us children then He began the amazing work of Glorifying Christ to you.

**Romans 8:14-16** <sup>14</sup> For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "**Abba!** Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,