

Receive His Counsel and Comfort

March 21/22 , 2009

Wouldn't you love to know what your future will be like? Knowing your future helps you live better now and be prepared for your future when it comes. Jesus knows exactly what your future holds! He knows your immediate future, your long term future on earth and your eternal future. *Colossians 1:16-17, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalms 139:16.*

Jesus wants to speak to us today so we will be better prepared for our tomorrows! That's what He did for His disciples and what He wants to do for us. But we must receive His counsel and comfort to be ready for what He knows our future holds. *John 16:1-15*

1. Listening to Jesus today sets us up to be ready for the challenges of tomorrow. Heeding His warnings and directions keeps us from abandoning our faith when hard times hit us. To be forewarned is to be forearmed!

John 16:1-4 - "I have told you these things so that you won't fall away. For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing God a service. This is because they have never known the Father or me. Yes, I'm telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember I warned you. I didn't tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer."

2. Jesus always does what is best for us even in His going away. What is better than having Christ with you is having the Holy Spirit in you. He tells us what Jesus tells Him and hearing Him is how we are prepared for whatever comes our way.

John 16:13 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Romans 8:14 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

How clearly do you hear the Holy Spirit? Do you know when He is speaking to you? Do you know how He speaks to you? Come to "Living the Spirit Filled Life" class at 5:30 this Sunday night and

learn how to hear the Holy Spirit more clearly and consistently.

Pain and grief are part of "Cross Walking" but it is far surpassed by the greater joy that comes as we see the fruit of our sorrow and suffering. No matter what we go through it doesn't have to pull us under because we have the over-comer inside of us! *John 16:16-33*

Jesus secured for us everything we need to endure whatever pain we encounter as we follow Him. We have only to ask the Father for what we need in His name and He will give us what is best for us! Receiving His counsel and comfort produces abundant joy. *John 16:23-24, Isaiah 43:1-2*

Who do you know that is facing a hard time right now?
Who do you know that could use some comfort and counsel right now?
Who do you know that's wrestling with fear about their future?
Cross Walking is going to them and giving them the same counsel and comfort the Holy Spirit gives you!

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time when you received the Holy Spirit's comfort or counsel during a hard time in your life. How did that help you get through it? How clearly and consistently do you hear the Holy Spirit? How does He most consistently speak to you? What areas of your life do you find it most difficult to hear Him about?

2. What concerns if any do you have about your future? Do you ask God to show you how to be best prepared for the future He knows awaits you? Do you think He will actually talk to you about that? Why or why not?

3. Who do you know that could use His comfort and counsel right now? Write down their names and pray for them. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you an opportunity to encourage them and make visiting or calling them a top priority this week.