

HE WILL GLORIFY ME

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Ten years ago next month (June 29, 2007), the first iPhone was released.

92% of U.S. adults own a mobile phone of some kind. 86% of people aged 18 to 29 have a smartphone.

My six grandchildren have never known a world without an iPhone. Calling people from almost anywhere, texting, Facetiming, Googling, listening to music and watching videos in your hand have become commonplace.

To many people, not having a smartphone just seems dumb. Some inventions take hold so rapidly that we can scarcely remember how we got along without them.

I love technology, and am fascinated (if not overwhelmed) by its progress. But many people my age and older don't see the point. Things were "simpler," "more personal," or "just fine" the way they were. For some, smart tech is just confusing.

But who doesn't love being able to get answers to unusual factual questions in 30 seconds or less? From the score of the basketball game last Thursday to whether peanuts grow in the ground or on trees. Just type in your question, and SNAP!

The way it was before... the way it is now. A lot is the same... but things are also radically different!

With this perspective, listen again to the words of Jesus as He announces radical new spiritual technology that will soon be introduced. He is about to change the landscape of global spirituality! Yet, He recognizes that people may experience difficulty processing such an amazing change. The world will take a giant step forward, and things will *never* be the same again.

The download speed of information about and from God is going to increase from a trickle to a fire hose. Analog to fiber optics. Get ready!

You Won't Hear What You Cannot Bear

John 16:12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now."

You don't realize that you "can't bear it now." Right now, you feel fine, because you've got a phone with a really long cord that lets you move between two rooms while you talk... but it's going to be better than that!

Right now, you feel free (even privileged), because your phone is not tethered to the wall at all. The signal from your base station allows you to wander with your portable all over the house and even outside while you talk... but it's going to be better than that!

Right now, you've got one of those flip phones that you can use almost anywhere, and will even display tiny, lo-res images... but it's going to be better than that!

Everything is about to change... in a BIG way!

Change Is Coming

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes...

Jesus was explaining, He's not here yet, but He's coming. Things will shift from night to day!

Uncertainty will give way to assurance. Confusion will yield to peace. Ignorance will turn to understanding. *When the Spirit of truth comes.*

What did Jesus say?

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

What is truth? It is the Creator's truth. Truth as God sees it. Not your truth. Not my truth. The Spirit will guide you into a new perspective. He will give you a fresh perception.

He will guide you into objective truth. Truth that is grounded in the creation that God made. Truth that is real world reality.

You will begin to see how God is connected to His creation. You will begin to understand how all of creation is dependent upon and draws vitality from its Creator.

You will begin to recognize how God relates with His people, as family—with purpose and destiny.

Can You Hear Me Now?

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard.

Wait a minute! Did you get what Jesus said? *The Spirit of truth... will tell you.* When the Spirit of God comes He will speak to you.

And *you will* be able to hear His voice! It may take some time to quiet your own thoughts enough to recognize His “still, small voice,” but this is what you were made for—to live in a vital, responsive relationship with the Creator of the universe. Yes, even you.

But get this! Truth does not originate with your impression of it. Truth comes from God. Not from your perception of God, but from God Himself. Truth originates with Him, and truth is communicated by Him. If you want to know what is true—eternally true, in this world and the next, from one culture to another—you must listen to God.

He will teach you to distinguish truth from the world’s lies. We live in a created world that is grounded in truth, but people often have built upon that foundation with lies and deceptions—call it politics, call it economics, call it science, call it religion—wherever we diverge from God’s truth to establish mere human ideas, no matter how well-intentioned, we build with flimsy and shoddy materials that cannot last and will end in injury and ruin. We must learn again to listen to God.

From Independence to Dependence

Jesus offers us marvelous insight to the interdependence of the Triune God. Neither the Son, nor the Spirit act independently. The three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are in perfect synchronicity (in values, in thoughts, in feelings, in words, in actions).

We, also, want to be in sync with God. But we have a problem: a stubborn independent streak.

As infants, we were utterly dependent on others. As adolescents, we grew independent. And as adults, we should learn interdependence with others. But this third stage is often made difficult, because we have not learned to depend on God. Our lack of trust in Him translates into distrust of others and isolation.

We must learn to become dependent on God, no longer taking life into our own hands, but submitting our thoughts and feelings, decisions, and actions to God, asking, “What would You have me to do?” And then wait for His direction.

If the Spirit of God does not speak until first He has heard, how much more should you and I pause to listen *before* we speak? And speak what we have heard rather than what we have imagined or thought on our own?

What Shall Be Our Future?

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Everyone wants to know about the future. Whether it's five minutes from now, or fifty years. "Where are we going?" "How long until we get there?" "Will there be food?" Such knowledge seems to settle our doubts and fears, and may even lend the illusion of control.

But the future we most need to know about, we have the least interest in. "What happens after we die?" "Will we live again?"

Oh, we muse about it, in novels and movies and jokes and fantasies, but who is willing to ask the only One who really knows—God?

Even those who know Him and may hear His voice seem most interested in details about a future that needn't concern them. "Who is the antichrist?" "What do the signs in the heavens mean?" "What will be the end of this world?"

Here's a fact: We will not know who the antichrist is until he is revealed—by God.

Here's another: We won't understand for certain the signs in the heavens until they appear—in the context of current events.

And even if you knew these things in advance, they would remain inevitable, so what good would that knowledge do you? So much of the pursuit of knowledge is simply an imaginary competition to be the *first to know*. It's so meaningless. So useless.

The world as we know it will end. But neither the earth nor the human race will be destroyed. Those are the facts we know, because God has told us so in His Word. But what then? What will we do after that? With whom will we do it?

It's like a road trip to a destination you have never visited before. Full of excitement. Full of wonder. Full of questions.

Excitement, mitigated by lots of waiting. Wonder, deluged in ordinariness. Questions, many of which go unanswered.

Yes, the Spirit will tell us many things. Things we could never have understood without Him. But there will still be much more—so much more—to discover, about God and His wonderful plans.

To Bring Him Glory

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴ He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me.

Such knowledge is given on a need-to-know basis. It is not given to the merely curious. The sharing of such information has a purpose beyond mere information-for-information's-sake: *He will bring Me glory.*

What the Spirit of truth shares with us aims to glorify Jesus by revealing more and more about Him—not just His history, but also His eternity (the glory He had with the Father, and the glory to which He has been restored).

How does the Spirit's truth serve to glorify Jesus? Here are three ways:

Worship

When the Spirit of truth guides us into this kind of truth, we will WORSHIP Jesus. Worship is a natural response to such revelation. Take Isaiah as an example:

Isaiah 6:1 It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the Temple. ² Attending Him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with His glory!"

⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

Isaiah's response may seem negative, but it glorifies the Lord as wondrously holy.

Your worship glorifies the Son of God.

Surrender

When the Spirit of truth guides us into this kind of truth, we will SURRENDER our lives to Jesus. Surrender is a normal response to such revelation.

Again, Isaiah provides an illustration:

Isaiah 6:6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.”

⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?”

I said, “Here I am. Send me.”

Your personal surrender to God’s plan glorifies the One who saved you.

Testify

When the Spirit of truth guides us into this kind of truth, we will TESTIFY of Jesus’ grace and power. Telling others is a natural response to such revelation.

Consider the man whom Jesus delivered from the grip of many demons:

Luke 8:38 The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with Him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, ³⁹ “No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

Sharing your experience of God’s love through Jesus Christ glorifies Him.

John 15:26 “But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. ²⁷ And you must also testify about me because you have been with me.

Worship. Surrender. Testify. To the glory of the Lord Jesus. This is the future that matters most! It’s the future of which God wants you to be a participant.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” says the Lord.

God has a future planned for you that is good. There is a bright hope for you.

Will you pray? Will you look for Him wholeheartedly? Will you listen to His voice?

This is why the Spirit of God has come! Let Him help you. Let Him teach you.