

# John 16:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

## Analysis

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The Spirit of truth 'shall guide you into all truth' promises progressive illumination, not new revelation contradicting Christ's words. The Spirit doesn't speak 'of himself' but glorifies Christ—true Spirit-led teaching always exalts Jesus. The phrase 'all truth' refers to spiritual truth necessary for salvation and godliness, not omniscience. 'He will shew you things to come' enabled apostles to write prophecy (Revelation) and helps believers understand eschatology.

## Historical Context

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This promise primarily addressed the apostles who would write Scripture under Spirit's inspiration. The early church claimed this verse as justification for apostolic authority. The Spirit's teaching ministry continues in illuminating Scripture, not adding to it.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How can you discern true Spirit-led teaching from false spirits (1 John 4:1)?
2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in your understanding of Scripture?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅταν δὲ ἐρχόμενα ἐκεῖνος τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείαν·  
when Howbeit is come he G3588 the Spirit G3588 of truth G225

οὐ γὰρ  
not for

όδηγήσει ὑμᾶς εἰς πάσαν τὴν ἀληθείαν·  
he will guide you into all G3588 of truth G225

λαλήσει ἀφ' ἐαυτοῦ ἀλλ' ὅσα ἀν οὐκούσῃ λαλήσει  
he shall of himself but whatsoever G302 he shall hear G191 he shall

καὶ τὰ ἐρχόμενα ἀναγγελεῖ ὑμῖν  
and G3588 is come he will shew you G312 G5213

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 14:26** (Spirit): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

**John 14:17** (Spirit): Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

**John 15:26** (Spirit): But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

**1 John 2:20** (Parallel theme): But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

**1 John 2:27** (Truth): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

**John 12:49** (Parallel theme): For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

**1 John 4:6** (Spirit): We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

**John 14:6** (Truth): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**Revelation 1:19** (Parallel theme): Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

**John 8:38** (Parallel theme): I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.