

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

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

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

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

ὅταν	δὲ	ἐρχόμενα	ἐκεῖνος	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τῆς	ἀληθείαν·
when	Howbeit	is come	he	G3588	the Spirit	G3588	of truth
G3752	G1161	G2064	G1565		G4151		G225
ὁδηγήσει	ὑμᾶς	εἰς	πάσαν	τὴν	ἀληθείαν·	οὐ	γὰρ
he will guide	you	into	all	G3588	of truth	not	for
G3594	G5209	G1519	G3956		G225	G3756	G1063
λαλήσει	ἀφ'	ἐαυτοῦ	ἀλλ'	ὅσα	ἂν	ἀκούσῃ	λαλήσει
he shall	of	himself	but	whatsoever	G302	he shall hear	he shall
G2980	G575	G1438	G235	G3745		G191	G2980
καὶ	τὰ	ἐρχόμενα	ἀναγγελεῖ	ὑμῖν			
and	G3588	is come	he will shew	you			
G2532		G2064	G312	G5213			

Additional Cross-References

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.