

John 16:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Analysis

Christ declares His departure 'expedient' (Greek 'sympheron', beneficial, profitable)—a startling claim that His physical absence benefits believers more than His presence. The Comforter (Paraclete, meaning advocate, helper, counselor) cannot come unless Jesus departs, showing the Holy Spirit's ministry depends on Christ's finished work. The Spirit's coming means Christ's work multiplied through all believers, not limited to one location.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke this Thursday evening; by Sunday, His resurrection would confirm this promise. Pentecost (50 days later) fulfilled it. The disciples couldn't grasp this paradox—how could absence be better than presence?—until experiencing the Spirit's power (Acts 2).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How is the Spirit's internal presence superior to Christ's external presence?
2. In what ways do you depend on the Holy Spirit's ministry in your daily life?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τὴν ἀλήθειαν λέγω ὑμῖν συμφέρει ὑμῖν
Nevertheless **I** ^{G3588} **the truth** **tell** **for you** **It is expedient** **for you**
G235 G1473 G225 G3004 G5213 G4851 G5213

ἵνα ἐγὼ ἀπέλθω ἐὰν γὰρ μὴ ἀπέλθω ὁ παράκλητος
that **I** **I go** **if** **for** ^{G3361} **I go** ^{G3588} **the Comforter**
G2443 G1473 G565 G1437 G1063 G565 G3875

οὐκ ἐλεύσεται πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐὰν δὲ πορευθῶ πέμψω
not **come** **unto** **you** **if** **but** **I depart** **I will send**
G3756 G2064 G4314 G5209 G1437 G1161 G4198 G3992

αὐτὸν πρὸς ὑμᾶς
him **unto** **you**
G846 G4314 G5209

Additional Cross-References

John 14:26 (Parallel theme): 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 15:26 (Truth): 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:

Acts 2:33 (Parallel theme): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

John 7:39 (Parallel theme): (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Romans 8:28 (Parallel theme): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Luke 24:49 (Parallel theme): And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 10:34 (Truth): Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

John 14:3 (Parallel theme): And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:28 (Parallel theme): Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

Psalms 68:18 (Parallel theme): Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.