

action. Ultimate victory is guaranteed! Jesus' own personal victory over the world—unbelief, rebellion, sin, death—is the basis for the guarantee of the ultimate victory. So, be of good cheer!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (John 17:1-26)

At the closing of His words to His disciples, *Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven* and spoke to His Father. this is His longest recorded prayer.

1. In John 17 verses 1-5 for who did Jesus pray?

2. In John 17:9-19 for who did He pray? _____

3. In John 17:20-24 for who did Jesus pray? _____

4. In John 17:25,26 for who did Jesus pray? _____

5. In what verse did Jesus refer to Judas Iscariot? _____

6. At the end of verse 11 for what was Jesus praying? _____

7. In what verse was Jesus praying for us? _____

In John 17:15 Jesus prayed that His disciples not be taken out of the world, but that the believers would be kept from the evil one. Then in John 17:20-23 He prayed for all believers that they might be one as He and the Father are one. That they might be one with Him and the Father. That they might be made perfect in one.—We will never be perfect (mature in the Lord) until we are one with all believers. If Christians want to know how to convince the world; this is the secret of world recognition of Christianity. The absence of envy and strife and confusion brings oneness.

MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (John 16:7-15)

1. Why did Jesus say it was expedient for Him to go away? (John 16:7) _____

His own personal ministry on earth was limited to the individuals with whom He came in contact in His physical body. The Holy Spirit, who would not be limited by the restrictions of a physical body, would be sent to act as their Comforter, but not theirs alone. The Holy Spirit, would be able to go into all the world and perform His appointed task using redeemed beings as agents.

The Holy Spirit's tasks would be to reprove the world of *sin*, and explain to the world that there is no true *righteousness* except in Him. He would warn them of the *judgment* which would fall on them as surely as upon Satan, their leader. The task of the Holy Spirit as it concerned believers was to guide them into all truth (He himself is the truth). He would reveal to them the things which were to come to pass in the future. His ministry would be to glorify Christ and take the things which the Father had given Him and show them to the disciples.

Say this: "I am a spirit, I have a soul, and I live in a body. —The Holy Spirit is abiding in my spirit. God will guide or enlighten me through my spirit. —I am a new creature in Christ Jesus: old things are passed away (in my spirit); behold, all things are become new. I will allow that inward man to

dominate my life.”

Under the Old Covenant, those we call laymen didn’t have the Holy Ghost, so they would go to the prophet for direction. — While under the New Covenant, it is unscriptural to go to a prophet for direction, because every Christian now has the Spirit of God within to lead and guide him.

Sometimes a prophet may confirm something you already have in your spirit, but he is never to give you guidance apart from the leading you have already received from the Lord.

A prophet has to seek God and pray through in order to get guidance for his life just like anyone else does. God doesn’t have any favorite children.

DISCIPLE’S REACTION TO HIS GOING AWAY
(John 16:16-33)

1. What was Jesus referring to when He said, *A little while and ye shall not see Me: and again a little while and ye shall see Me?* _____

2. To what did Jesus liken His going away and coming again in John 16:21? _____

Jesus then, continued, “My Father will be very real and dear to you; for the Father Himself loves you. You may therefore come boldly into the Father’s presence and ask and receive in My name that your joy may be full.

In four compact clauses Jesus gave to the disciples His total “biography:” (John 16:28)

I came from the Father—His Preexistence

I am come into the world—His Incarnation

I leave the world—His Death

I go to the Father—His Ascension

Jesus Himself answered His question to the disciples, *Do you now believe?* (John 16:31). They had asserted their belief but there were still testing times ahead. At best their faith was unstable

4. I John 16:32, what prophesy did Jesus give them? _____

Yet, in spite of their wavering faith and His own sense of being left alone, our Lord assured the disciples of the steadfastness of the Father: ...*Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me...* and also promised to give them peace (John 16:33).

5. In John 16: 33, what did Jesus say about them concerning their remaining in this world? _____

6. What does His overcoming the world mean to your having to pass through life in this world? _____

The Greek verb for overcome is *nenikeka*, and indicates a present state which is the result of a past