

Date: 24 Mar 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Lam Zheng Xin

Topic: The Holy Spirit: After a Little While You Will See Me | **Scripture:** John 16:4-18

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand the role of the Holy Spirit and what He does for the world and us.
2. Spend time to commune with the Holy Spirit and build a relationship with Him.

SERMON SUMMARY

The primary context of Jesus' words in John 16 concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit is His departure from the world. He wanted His disciples to know how to live in His absence. In the absence of Jesus, God is present with us in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Ps Zheng Xin highlighted 3 points concerning the Holy Spirit from the words of Christ in this passage:

1. The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus and glorifies Him (v14).
2. The Holy Spirit will convict the world about the Lordship of Christ and lead us to Jesus (v8-11).
3. The Holy Spirit is a Person whom we can know and is a crucial presence in our lives (v12-15).

SERMON RECAP

Introduction

- The primary context for the message is the *departure of Jesus*.
- The disciples were filled with grief because Jesus is leaving them. They were also confused as to why Jesus is leaving them when He is supposed to be the Messiah to deliver them.
- Jesus wanted the disciples to know how to live in His absence.

Interpretation: In the Absence of Jesus, God is Present with us Through the Holy Spirit (John 16:16-17)

- Soon, Jesus will leave all of them. But when Jesus says that He is coming back to His disciples, He was referring to His coming back in the person of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus only went to the Father during the ascension, not during the crucifixion and resurrection. So, when He says that He is going to the Father and after that the disciples will see Him again, Jesus meant that the disciples would see Him again in the form of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is "another of the same kind" as Jesus. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is the same as the ministry of Jesus. In the absence of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is with us (John 14:16-20).

Point #1: The Holy Spirit will convict the world about the Lordship of Christ (John 16:8-11)

- The Holy Spirit will prove to the world to be wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgement.
- The primary sin of man is the rejection of Jesus (v9). The world does not believe that Jesus is God, that He is the way, the truth and the life, the only way to eternal life.
- Only the Holy Spirit can convict the world of unbelief in Jesus.
- When we share the gospel, our words are only the vessel. The Holy Spirit needs to work to convict the listener to believe in Jesus.
- Righteousness – divine vindication when Jesus is raised from the dead (v10). Jesus' resurrection proves His Lordship.
- Judgement – Jesus' victory over Satan (v11). Through the cross, Jesus defeated Satan.

Point #2: The Holy Spirit leads us to Jesus (John 16:12-15)

- The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth (v13). The Holy Spirit will take the words of Jesus and minister it to us.
- Objectively, the Holy Spirit will help us understand the meaning of Scripture. Subjectively, the Holy Spirit will make Scripture mean something to us.
- The Holy Spirit will speak only what He received from Jesus (v15). The Holy Spirit's words are the words of Jesus to us.
- The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus (v14). The Holy Spirit does not desire to glorify Himself; He only desires to glorify Jesus.

Point #3: The Holy Spirit is a Person

- We often treat the Holy Spirit as a power, a force.
- The Holy Spirit is first and foremost a person. The Holy Spirit has desires, He has feelings and can be grieved. The Holy Spirit cannot be manipulated. There are no formulas to get Him to do what we want.
- We can have a relationship with the Holy Spirit and talk to Him. The Holy Spirit is our "Parakletos". The one who comes alongside us to help us.
- The Holy Spirit wants us to know Him, not just use Him.

Discussion Questions

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. The Holy Spirit leads us to Jesus by guiding us into all truth. Have you experienced an illumination of mind to Scripture? Please share the Scripture and your experience.**

Leader's Notes

The Holy Spirit will help illuminate our minds to the meaning of Scripture and make Scripture mean something to us. We can all understand the meaning of a Bible verse, but how that verse relates to us differs individually.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit helps to make the Bible real to us – making it applicable to our current situation. Share with each other how the Holy Spirit has brought a Bible verse/passage to life that renewed your mind and faith.

Transition

The Holy Spirit will take the words of Jesus and minister it to us. Therefore, let us be open to hearing His still small voice as we read Scripture.

- 2. Most of us don't see the Holy Spirit as a person with desires and feelings. How can you correct that perspective and start to build a relationship with Him?**

Leader's Notes

The Holy Spirit has thoughts and a will. He can be grieved and insulted. He can also be pleased as we rely on Him to direct our paths and daily life.

“The Holy Spirit thinks about believers in Christ and responds to them. He knows the Father's thoughts and communicates those thoughts to them. When you pray or read the Bible and sense God speaking to you through that, that is an example of the Holy Spirit at work in your life. The more you let this sink in, the easier it will be to give the Holy Spirit the place of authority He deserves in your life.” – extracted from **How to Know and Understand the Holy Spirit | Cru**

When we start to think of the Holy Spirit as a person, we become more aware of Him and His presence. We also become more mindful of grieving Him and offending Him (we don't like to offend a fellow human being too). Start by talking to Him and addressing Him as a person. Share your thoughts, fears, hopes, and desires with Him. Know that He will listen and respond.

Transition

The Holy Spirit is basic Christianity, one of the foundations of our faith. Therefore, it should be an area in our life that we should not neglect.

- 3. The Holy Spirit will convict the world about the Lordship of Christ. How might He empower you to share your faith with others?**

Leader's Notes

This question is to reflect on how the Holy Spirit can help you in the great commission to share the gospel to others.

Below are two resources that are short (and easy to read) on how the Holy Spirit empowers believers to witness:

- The Power to Witness | The Holy Spirit: [theholyspirit.pdf \(cru.org\)](#)
- What is the Holy Spirit and 10 Supernatural Ways He Empowers You: [What is the Holy Spirit & What Does He Do? \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

Closing

Only the Holy Spirit can convict the world of unbelief in Jesus. Therefore, let us cultivate an intimate relationship with our Helper – the Holy Spirit.

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for us to yield ourselves continuously to the person of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for us to be led by the Holy Spirit to share our faith to those around us.
- Pray for our family members and friends, especially for those who have yet to know Him.
- To commit 2024 to God and allow Him to work in us and through us as we continue to seek Him.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, that as we enter into a season of prayer and fasting, that God will align all of our hearts and do what He needs to do so that we can live in a new normal that glorifies Him.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35.
 - c. Israel & Hamas
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Japan (Earthquake)
 - b. Iceland (Volcanic Eruption)
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray against the rise of young drug abusers
 - b. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
- Pray for Indonesia as a new president has just been appointed.
- Pray for Moscow as it recovers from the concert hall attack.
- Pray for Princess Kate Middleton as she recovers from cancer.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

Digital Bulletin:

- 1. Resurrection Sunday.** 31 March 2024. 9am. Refer to the microsites below for more details:
 - EA Service: rlc.sg/rs-eng
 - Churchwide Services: rlc.sg/rs
- 2. Alpha Course. 20 Apr – 13 Jul.** If you have questions about Christianity that you are seeking answers for, we invite you to join us for Alpha - a series of interactive sessions that explores the basics of the Christian faith.
 - For More Information: rlc.sg/alpha
 - To Sign Up: rlc.sg/join-alpha (Closing Date: 7 April)
- 3. 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting - Revive Us, Lord, Align our hearts to Yours. 11-31 Mar.** We are in the final week! Do join us for the following initiatives as part of the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting:
 - Daily Devotion
 - Daily Fasting
 - Nightly Worship & Prayer
 - Sermon Series based on John 13-16
 - Microsite: rlc.sg/21days
 - As the Lord re-aligns and revives our hearts during this season of prayer & fasting, do share your thanksgiving or testimony on how God ministered to you. Write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg.
 - *Change in Final Worship & Prayer Session.* Our final Worship & Prayer session on Sunday, 31 Mar, will be held at 11.30am in the Worship Centre instead of 8pm. A light lunch will be provided as we break fast together.
- 4. MegaLife Camp 2024. Thu-Sun, 13-16 Jun. Thistle Hotel, Johor Bahru. For Youths Aged 13-18.** If you are a parent of a teen or know someone who's a teen, invite them for our annual Youth camp! Registration opens first week of April and more details will be shared.
 - Early Bird (6-15 Apr): \$280
 - Regular (16-22 Apr): \$320
- 5. The Parents Gathering. 27 Apr, 2.30pm-6pm. Grace Chapel.** This platform is designed to help parents of various life-stages to grow in their roles as parents, as well as support one another in their parenting journey. Each quarterly gathering will include short teachings, group connection time, refreshments, as well as parents processing time.
 - No fees required
 - Closing Date: 17 April 2024
 - Registration: rlc.sg/pg
- 6. Family Life Portal.**

Our Family Life ministry strengthens relationships within the family so that they are reflective of who God is – married couples loving and serving each other, parents discipling their children in the ways of God, grandparents inspiring the generations by their faith and actions, and the singles living secure and fruitful lives for God's kingdom! RiverLife's Family Life portal is an online platform that contains this year's calendar of Family Life initiatives as well as a wide range of resources for various life stages.

 - Access the portal: rlc.sg/familylife or www.riverlife.org.sg (Under the "Resources" tab)

Calendar

- YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).**
The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc.sg/ya).

Gathering Dates: 6 Apr, 4 May, 1 Jun, 3 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov

YA Camp: 5-7 Jul

Christmas Outreach: 14 Dec

- RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/rpr-watch](https://t.me/rlc.sg/rpr-watch))
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/revivenights](https://t.me/rlc.sg/revivenights))

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

- Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events**

**Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<u>March</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 29 to 31 Mar – Good Friday / Easter Weekend	<u>April</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 06 Apr to 22 Jun – YA Gathering, Alpha #1• 07 Apr – Dating Couples Briefing #1• 13 Apr – Caleb Ministry Gathering• 27 Apr – The Parent’s Gathering <u>May</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 04 May – YA Gathering• 17 to 18 May – Leaders Advance• 30 May to 01 Jun – SuperLife Camp <u>June</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2, 23, 30 Jun – Marriage Preparation Course #2• 08 Jun – Caleb Ministry Gathering, Water Baptism Class #2• 09 Jun – RiverLife AGM• 13 to 16 Jun – Youth Camp• 27 Jun – Fun Day (Youth)• 29 Jun – Parents Gathering #2

Calendar

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp• 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry• 14 Jul – Dating Couples Briefing #2• 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch• 28 Jul – Baptism Service #2 <p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 03 Aug – YA Gathering• 03 Aug to 3 Oct – Alpha Run #2• 04 Aug – Q3 Leaders Huddle• 17 Aug – Parents Gathering #3• 24 to 25 Aug – RLC 33rd Anniversary Weekend, RTF (Round Robin) <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 07 Sep – YA Gathering• 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3• 01 to 29 Sep – SPYces• 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Deuteronomy• 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering• 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach	<p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3• 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3• 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering• 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping)• 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles• 19 Oct – Fun Day (Youth)• 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth) <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 02 Nov – YA Gathering• 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s (Youth)• 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping)• 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3• 15-24 Nov – Equipping #4• 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat <p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering• 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference• 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend• 28 Dec – Parents Gathering #4



Ministry & Opportunities

1. **The 9M Ministry.**

This ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
- Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

2. **Missions Microsite.**

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.

3. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.**

Enquiries/Registration: rlc.sg/serve-rlcar

4. **Prayer Ministry.**

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: bit.ly/rlcrtf



Resources

1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
- Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

2. RiverLife Podcast.

The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search 'The RiverLife Podcast' on Spotify.

3. Spiritual Growth Resources.

We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

4. Testimony.

If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: rlc.sg/wachannelinvite

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