

**Lesson 17**  
**John 16:16 - 33**  
**LET THERE BE JOY!**

**Memory verse:** "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NIV)

Jesus had proceeded to review things that He had just told His disciples and He gave them more information. Particularly the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the subject of the discourse in chapter 16, though Jesus also clarified other matters about which He had spoken, namely: the new relations arising from His departure.

Jesus' method of teaching in the Upper Room Discourse was not to give a thorough explanation of one subject, then a thorough explanation of another subject, and so on. It was rather to introduce several subjects initially, then return to them and give a little more information, then return again and give even more information. This is, of course, excellent teaching methodology. This is also the method that John employed in writing his first epistle.

Earlier, Jesus had not revealed the extent of the opposition His disciples would face, because He was "with them," and because He was the focus of unbelieving hostility. As He was preparing to depart from them, He then revealed to them that they needed to be aware of what lay ahead for them.

It was clear from His explanation that Jesus never acted on His "own initiative," but only in obedience to the Father. "The Spirit," who would reveal "the truth," would do the same. It means that the Spirit is in complete equality with Jesus in the Godhead. The Spirit would not give revelation that conflicted with what Jesus had taught. The source of both the Son's and the Spirit's teaching was the Father.

So before Jesus proceed with the next discourse, He revealed that the Spirit would have a threefold ministry when He came: He would convict the world (John 16:8-11), enlighten the disciples (John 16: 12-13), and glorify Jesus (John 16:14-15).

Here in this section, John 16:16-33, it concludes the Upper Room Discourse and deals primarily with the emotions of the disciples. They were sorrowing, they were confused about some of Jesus' teaching, and they were afraid. It should be an encouragement for us to know that the disciples were real men with real problems, yet the Lord was able to use them. We sometimes get the false impression that these men were different from us, especially endowed with spiritual knowledge and courage, but such was not the case. They were human!

One of the recurring themes in this section is joy (John 16:20-22, 24, 33). The Eleven were certainly not experiencing much joy that night! But what Jesus said to them eventually made a difference in their lives, just as it can make a difference in our lives today. Tenderly and patiently, our Lord explained how His people can have joy in their lives.

We will learn that there is joy when we permit God to transform sorrow into joy. There is joy when God answers prayer. There is joy when we overcome the world. Indeed, let there be joy!

Scripture Reading: John 16:16-33

To learn in this lesson: 1) Joy by transformation not substitution 2) Joy in prayer 3) Joy of overcoming.

**Discussion Questions:**

1) What is the principle we must grasp from the teachings of Jesus to have joy in our lives while awaiting His return in "a little while" (verses 16 to 22)?

2) What is the wonderful result of believing prayer as promised by Jesus in verse 23 to 28?

3) What spiritual position is there for us to claim resulting in the joy of overcoming the world found in verses 29 to 33?