



The Holy Spirit

June 13th, 2010

The Spirit of God
Jn 15/16

This long section of scripture in John 15/16 is tied together by two important themes: the opposition of the world against the church, and the ministry of the Spirit to and through the church. Our Lord had been talking about Love, now he is talking about *hatred* as he prepares them for the persecution that comes to those who follow him as Savior and Lord. It is not just Jesus who will suffer, but so too his people after he is gone. And yet, in that teaching moment, Jesus tells the disciples that the ministry of the Comforter (Holy Spirit) is coming to them to sustain them. He gives them an idea of how the Holy Spirit will comfort with a three-fold description:

- The Spirit as Comforter **Encourages** the Church (Jn 15:18-6:4)
- The Spirit as **Reprover** of Witnesses through the Church (Jn 16:5-11)

- The Spirit as Teacher **Guides** the Church (Jn 16:12-15)