

John Chapter 16 “So That You Don’t Stumble“

To ensure that we don’t stumble God has given us:

I. A Warning in Advance (1-4)

1. Jesus has given us a warning so that we are prepared for the storm

i) When you know what is coming, you will be better equipped to endure.

(i) **Illustration #1 – Niagara Falls.**

ii) Many people stumble and fall because they do not expect tribulation.

📖 *Matthew 13:20-21 “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”*

iii) The beginning and end of the chapter warn us of tribulation and persecution. Are you ready for it? (see vs.32)

II. The Help of the Holy Spirit (5-15)

1. It is to our advantage that Jesus suffered, died, rose from the dead, and ascended to the Father.

i) Because He is now able to send the Holy Spirit to be with all those who belong to Christ.

2. The Holy Spirit’s work

i) We have already seen that He is the comforter and helper (14:16; 15:26)

ii) The Holy Spirit convicts the world

- Sin is the truth about man. Righteousness is the truth about God. Judgment is the combination of these two truths.
- No one can see their sin or understand God’s righteousness properly without the work of the Holy Spirit in convicting them.

iii) The Holy Spirit guides us into the truth

- He guides the unbelievers to see their need for Jesus. He guides the believers into the truth about Jesus

iv) The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus

- When the Holy Spirit is at work then Jesus is glorified.
- A ministry that is Spirit filled is characterized not simply by miracles, signs, wonders but by glorifying Jesus in the hearts of the people.

III. Assurance of a Good Future (16-22)

1. When we are sure of the future it helps us get through the present

i) Knowing the glory and joy of where we are going helps us get there.

📖 *1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

📖 *Hebrews 6:17-19 “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,”*

(i) **Illustration #2 – explaining the beauty**

2. They were confused about the future

- i) They did not understand that Jesus would:
 - Be crucified, buried, raised from the dead, see them for another forty days, and then ascend to the Father.
- ii) We get confused too. That's why we need to live by faith with our hearts fixed on heaven trusting Jesus to get us there.

📖 *Hebrews 11:1* "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

3. He assured them that though they would experience pain, the pain would be transformed into joy

- i) Like the woman who is in labor.
- ii) This joy can not be taken away by anyone (22)

IV. Access to the Overcomer (23-33)

1. We can pray to the father

- i) God will hear and answer our prayers in the name of Jesus. We have twenty-four hour access to the throne of grace.

📖 *Ephesians 2:18* "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father."
📖 *Hebrews 4:16* "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

2. We have access even when we fail

- i) Especially when we fail.

3. Jesus has overcome the world

- i) He can keep us from stumbling and has given us these things to help us:
 - A warning in advance
 - The help of the Holy Spirit
 - Assurance of a good future
 - Access to the Overcomer

#1. The mighty Niagara River plummets some 180 feet at the American and Horseshoe Falls. Before the falls, there are violent, turbulent rapids. Farther upstream, however, where the river's current flows more gently, boats are able to navigate. Just before the Welland River empties into the Niagara, a pedestrian walkway spans the river. Posted on this bridge's pylons is a warning sign for all boaters: DO YOU HAVE AN ANCHOR? followed by, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT?

Faith, like the capacity to anchor a boat, is something we need to develop and use BEFORE we face a cataclysm.

#2. A little blind child had a surgical operation performed that resulted in the restoration of her sight. After the surgery her eyes were bandaged for a while until the wounded parts could be somewhat healed. At length the hour arrived when the bandage was to be removed. Ah! what a moment of supreme interest and anxiety to all her friends, but more especially to the little patient herself, who as yet had never seen! This child, when her eyes could bear the light, and by her kind physician had now been permitted to open them, and for the first time to look out upon the beauty there was around her. When she finally saw she cried out with delight, "Oh, Mother, why did you not tell me it was so beautiful?" The mother, bursting into tears, replied, "I tried to tell you, my dear, but the words wouldn't make you understand."