STUDY BIBLE WORKBOOK

John 16

Take Heart—I Have Overcome

QUICK STUDY + DEEP DIVE

Jesus prepares His disciples for opposition, promises the Spirit of truth, turns their sorrow toward joy, and gives them courage and peace through His victory over the world.

Scripture quotations: World English Bible Classic (WEB)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Quick Study: Begin with the chapter overview, Bible words, Greek pronunciation, Gospel Connection, and prayer.

Deep Dive: Eight Scripture-first SOAP passages include all 33 WEB verses, substantial observations, applications, guided prayers, and full-width writing lines.

WESTERN GRACE MEDIA

John 16 — Geographic Setting

John 16 continues Jesus' farewell teaching before His arrest, in the Jerusalem Passover context. It does not identify a new site, a specific supper room, or a route. The map provides context for the coming arrest, trial, and resurrection hope.



Original WGM regional atlas reused as a shared asset; no exact farewell-room location is asserted.

Regional location



COUNTRIES IN YEAR 2020

Jerusalem: The final Passover narrative provides the wider setting for Jesus' farewell words.

The conversation: John 16 names no street, house, or confirmed supper-room site.

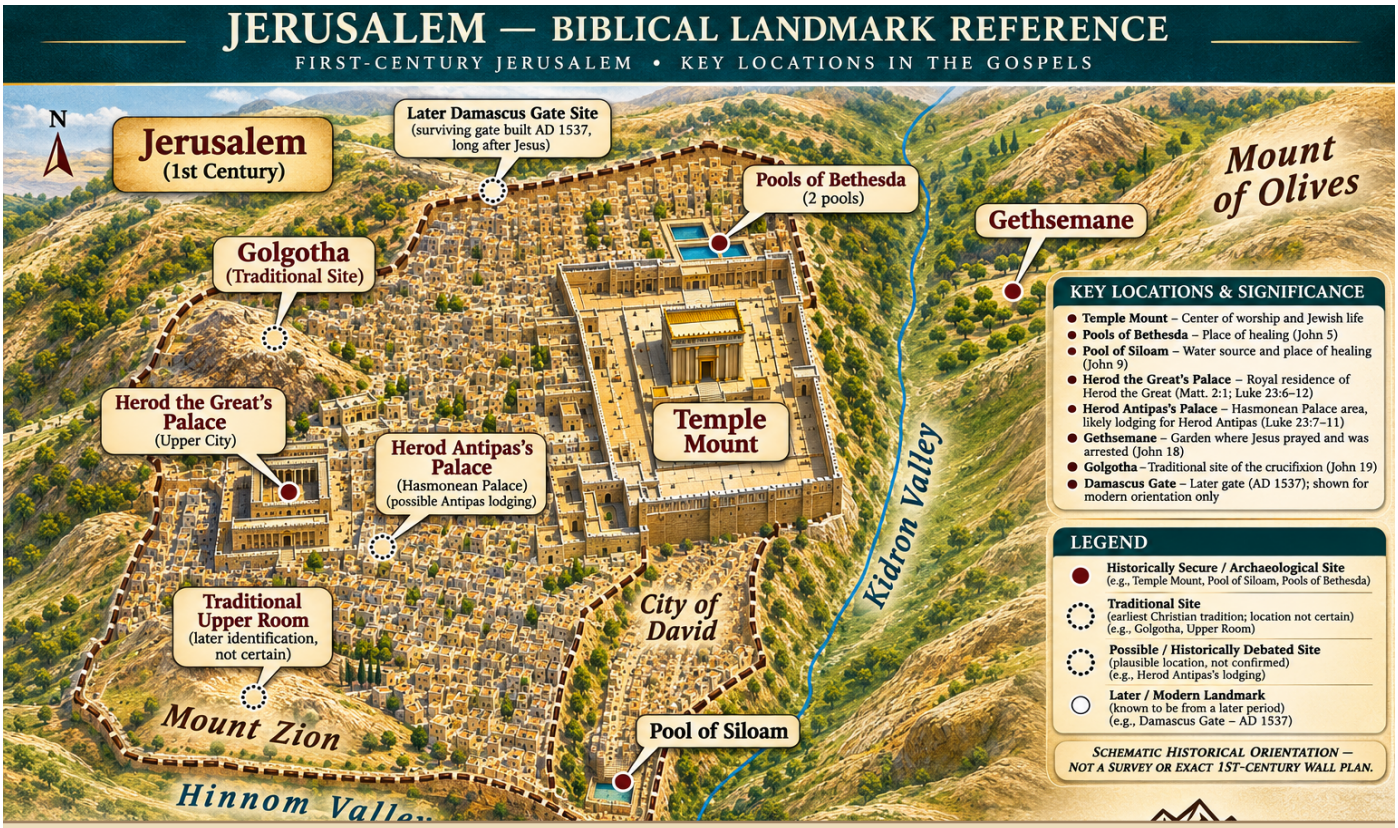
Farewell teaching: Jesus promises the Spirit and His victory; the chapter gives no new named location.

Mount of Olives: A nearby geographical landmark for orientation, though not named in John 16.

Map caution: The highlighted area identifies Jerusalem generally; no departure route is drawn.

Jerusalem — The Setting of Jesus' Farewell Words

Jesus' promises about the Spirit, sorrow, and peace continue the farewell discourse after John 13–15. Jerusalem landmarks orient readers toward the approaching arrest and cross. John 16 does not specify the room or Jesus' walking route; the traditional Upper Room is a later identification, not a confirmed coordinate.



READ THE TEXT WITH THE MAP

Farewell teaching

The words follow John 13–15 in the final Passover setting. John 16 gives no new named place.

Gethsemane and Golgotha

These landmarks orient the approaching arrest and crucifixion (John 18–19); John 16 gives no such route.

Traditional sites

The Upper Room, Golgotha, and some palace identifications have different levels of historical certainty; the illustration is schematic.

My notes about the setting:

John 16 — Take Heart—I Have Overcome

MAIN VERSE

John 16:33, WEB: I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.”

BIG PICTURE

Jesus prepares His disciples for exclusion and persecution, yet promises the coming Counselor. The Spirit will expose the truth about sin, righteousness, and judgment, glorify Christ, and guide His witnesses. The disciples will grieve the cross but rejoice at seeing Jesus risen. They may pray to the Father in His name. Though they will scatter, Jesus promises His own peace and commands courage because He has overcome the world.

Persecution Foretold (16:1–4)

Jesus prepares disciples to persevere without being surprised by hostility.

The Coming Counselor (16:5–7)

His departure makes way for the promised Holy Spirit.

Sin, Righteousness, Judgment (16:8–11)

The Spirit exposes the world’s wrong judgment of Jesus.

Spirit of Truth (16:12–15)

The Spirit glorifies the Son and guides the apostles into truth.

QUICK STUDY NOTES

The Chapter’s Major Movements

A Little While (16:16–18)

The disciples wrestle with Jesus’ announced departure and return.

Sorrow into Joy (16:19–22)

The resurrection will transform their grief into lasting joy.

Prayer Through Jesus (16:23–28)

The Father loves the disciples; they may pray in Jesus’ name.

Peace amid Trouble (16:29–33)

The disciples will scatter, but Christ has overcome the world.

QUICK STUDY FLOW

Jesus prepares His followers

↓

He promises the Counselor

↓

The Spirit convicts of truth

↓

The Spirit glorifies the Son

↓

Disciples question “a little while”

↓

Their sorrow turns to joy

↓

They pray to the loving Father

↓

In Christ they receive peace and courage

QUICK STUDY NOTES

Important Bible Words

Word / Phrase	Simple Meaning	Why It Matters
Stumble	Fall away or lose one’s footing in faith	Jesus warns the disciples so opposition will not surprise them.
Counselor / Helper	The promised Holy Spirit, who comes to help	He testifies to Christ and continues God’s work.
Convict	Expose the truth about wrongdoing	The Spirit reveals sin and God’s righteous verdict.
Righteousness	What is truly right before God	Jesus’ vindication overturns the world’s verdict.
Judgment	God’s decisive verdict on evil	The ruler of this world has been judged.
Spirit of truth	The Holy Spirit guiding truthful witness	He glorifies the Son, not an unrelated agenda.
Sorrow / joy	Real grief and resurrection-rooted gladness	Jesus transforms sorrow; He does not deny it.
In my name	Prayer through Jesus’ authority and relationship	It is not a formula for any demand we choose.
Peace	Wholeness and assurance found in Christ	It remains possible amid worldly trouble.
Overcome	Conquer or secure victory	Jesus’ triumph anchors courage and hope.

Which word in John 16 most helps me understand dependence, love, and lasting fruit?

Translation Word Notes

Pronunciations are approximate classroom-style Biblical Greek. CAPITAL letters show the stressed syllable. Greek helps clarify meaning but is not required for understanding Scripture. NKJV/NIV/NLT phrases are brief comparisons; full Scripture quotations remain WEB.

Verse	Greek & pronunciation	NKJV	NIV	NLT	Meaning in context
16:7	paraklētos pah-RAH-klay-tos	Helper	Advocate	Advocate	The Holy Spirit, promised as the disciples' Counselor.
16:8	elegchō eh-LENG-khoh	convict	prove wrong	convict	Expose the truth about sin and the world's verdict.
16:8	dikaiosynē dee-kai-oh-SOO-nay	righteousness	righteousness	righteousness	What is right in God's sight, seen in Christ's vindication.
16:11	krisis KREE-sis	judgment	judgment	judgment	God's decisive verdict on the ruler of this world.
16:13	alētheia ah-LAY-thay-ah	truth	truth	truth	The Spirit's ministry is faithful to God's truth.
16:14	doxazō doh-KSAH-zoh	glorify	glorify	bring glory	The Spirit directs honor toward Jesus.
16:20	lypē LOO-pay	sorrow	grief	grief	Grief that will be transformed by the resurrection.
16:22	chara khah-RAH	joy	joy	joy	Lasting joy based on the risen Lord.
16:23	onoma OH-noh-mah	name	name	name	Prayer under Jesus' authority and in His character.
16:27	phileō fee-LEH-oh	loves	loves	loves	The Father personally loves the disciples.
16:33	eirēnē ay-RAY-nay	peace	peace	peace	Peace found in union with Jesus, not absence of trouble.
16:33	thlipsis THLEE-psis	tribulation	trouble	trials	Tribulation and pressure believers may encounter.
16:33	nikaō nee-KAH-oh	overcome	overcome	overcome	Jesus has conquered the world's opposition.

Word-study notes:

The Gospel Connection

John 16 points us to the saving work of Jesus: He came from the Father, will go to the Father, and has overcome the world (16:28, 33). His disciples will be scattered, but their failure will not overturn His mission. At the cross He will face sin and evil; His resurrection will turn their sorrow into joy. The promised Spirit speaks truth about the Son, exposes our unbelief, and leads us to the Savior rather than to self-reliance. Salvation rests on Jesus' grace, death, and resurrection—not our ability to remain untroubled. Because the Father loves His people in Christ, they can pray boldly, follow faithfully, and find enduring peace in Him (John 3:16; 20:31).

Reflection: Am I trusting Jesus' victory, listening to His truth, praying to the Father, and resting in His peace?

A Short Prayer from John 16

Lord Jesus, thank You that Your victory is greater than the troubles I face. When I am fearful or confused, remind me of Your promises. Spirit of truth, lead me toward repentance and a faithful understanding of Jesus. Father, teach me to pray in His name, trusting Your love. Give me courage, patience, and peace in Christ. Amen.

Pray this in your own words:

QUICK STUDY COMPLETE

One Truth to Carry With You

In Christ we may have peace even in trouble, because He has overcome the world.

READY TO GO DEEPER — NEXT PAGE

Ready to Go Deeper?

This Deep Dive follows S.O.A.P.: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Begin with the complete WEB passage. Let the text set the terms of our study, then consider the explanation, respond personally, and pray.

S — Scripture

Read every verse slowly; note changes in speaker, setting, and what Jesus reveals about Himself.

O — Observation

What does John reveal about Jesus' identity, the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the way of faith?

A — Application

What should I believe, confess, obey, trust, or share in response to the passage?

P — Prayer

Respond prayerfully to what the passage actually says, not imagined motives or events.

Before I begin, what does it mean to remain in Jesus and bear lasting fruit?

Questions and repeated words to watch for:

JOHN 16:1–4

Prepared for Opposition

S — Scripture

1 “I have said these things to you so that you wouldn’t be caused to stumble.
2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers service to God.
3 They will do these things because they have not known the Father nor me.
4 But I have told you these things so that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you about them. I didn’t tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

John 16:1–4, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus tells His disciples in advance that following Him may bring exclusion and persecution. This warning is meant to steady their faith so they do not stumble when opposition comes.

Some persecutors will wrongly think they are serving God. Jesus identifies their failure to know the Father and the Son; sincerity alone does not make an act righteous.

His purpose is remembrance and perseverance: the disciples will later recall that Jesus knew what lay ahead. The passage does not authorize retaliation or hostility toward any people group.

My observations:

A — Application

How could remembering Jesus’ warning help me respond faithfully rather than fearfully when following Him is costly?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me remain faithful under pressure. Guard me against fear, bitterness, and self-righteousness.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 16:5–7

It Is to Your Advantage That I Go

S — Scripture

5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’
6 But because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart.
7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I don’t go away, the Counselor won’t come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

John 16:5–7, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus speaks openly of returning to the Father. His disciples are sorrowful, and He neither mocks their grief nor withholds the truth.

The coming of the Counselor is a genuine gift connected to Jesus’ departure and completed saving work. His leaving is not abandonment but part of God’s purposeful plan.

The Holy Spirit is not presented as a substitute object of worship detached from Jesus; He continues the work of pointing people to the Son and the Father.

My observations:

A — Application

What changes when I believe that Jesus’ departure and the gift of the Spirit are for His disciples’ good?

P — Prayer

Father, thank You for not leaving Your people alone. Teach me to rely on the Spirit as I trust the risen Christ.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 16:8–11

The Spirit Convicts the World

S — Scripture

8 When he has come, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment;
9 about sin, because they don’t believe in me;
10 about righteousness, because I am going to my Father, and you won’t see me any more;
11 about judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged.

John 16:8–11, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

The Counselor exposes the world’s false assessment of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Jesus gives the basis for each: unbelief in Him, His return to the Father, and the judgment of the ruler of this world.

Conviction is not merely the feeling of guilt or a technique for shaming others. It confronts sin and points toward the truth about Jesus and God’s verdict.

The ruler of this world is judged; evil is neither ultimate nor equal in power to God. This assurance strengthens witness without denying the ongoing reality of suffering.

My observations:

A — Application

Where do I need the Spirit to correct my assumptions about sin, righteousness, or judgment?

P — Prayer

Holy Spirit, expose falsehood in me and lead me to repentance and confidence in Christ.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 16:12–15

The Spirit of Truth Glorifies Jesus

S — Scripture

12 “I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now.
13 However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming.
14 He will glorify me, for he will take from what is mine and will declare it to you.
15 All things that the Father has are mine; therefore I said that he takes of mine and will declare it to you.

John 16:12–15, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus knows the disciples cannot yet bear everything He has to say. He promises that the Spirit of truth will guide them, speaking in harmony with the Son and Father.

The Spirit’s ministry is Christ-centered: “He will glorify me.” His guidance does not authorize a message that contradicts Jesus or overturns Scripture.

In its immediate context this promise is addressed to the apostles who will bear authoritative witness to Jesus. Believers today benefit from that Spirit-given witness preserved in Scripture, while seeking wisdom from God in applying it.

My observations:

A — Application

How can I test claims of spiritual guidance by whether they faithfully honor Christ and His word?

P — Prayer

Spirit of truth, lead me to understand and honor Jesus, never to substitute my ideas for His teaching.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 16:16–18

A Little While — The Disciples Are Confused

S — Scripture

16 “A little while, and you will not see me. Again a little while, and you will see me.”
17 Some of his disciples therefore said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you won’t see me, and again a little while, and you will see me;’ and, ‘Because I go to the Father’?”
18 They said therefore, “What is this that he says, ‘A little while’? We don’t know what he is saying.”

John 16:16–18, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus announces that they will soon no longer see Him and then will see Him again. The disciples do not understand the time frame; John records their confusion rather than portraying them as instantly certain.

In the near context these words anticipate the cross and the resurrection appearances. Their temporary loss of sight of Jesus will not be the final word.

A sincere question is not automatically unbelief. The disciples’ questions become an opportunity for Jesus to explain His promises more fully.

My observations:

A — Application

What troubling question can I bring honestly to Jesus and examine through the whole passage?

P — Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me to keep listening when Your words are difficult. Give me patience to understand Scripture in context.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 16:19–22

Sorrow Will Turn Into Joy

S — Scripture

19 Therefore Jesus perceived that they wanted to ask him, and he said to them, “Do you inquire among
yourselves concerning this, that I said, ‘A little while, and you won’t see me, and again a little while,
and you will see me’?
20 Most certainly I tell you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be
sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.
21 A woman, when she gives birth, has sorrow because her time has come. But when she has delivered
the child, she doesn’t remember the anguish any more, for the joy that a human being is born into the
world.
22 Therefore you now have sorrow, but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will
take your joy away from you.

John 16:19–22, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus understands their question before they ask. He predicts real weeping while others rejoice at His apparent defeat. He does not promise an immediate escape from sorrow.

The childbirth illustration describes pain followed by a joy that changes how the suffering is remembered. The disciples’ joy will be grounded in seeing the risen Jesus.

Christian joy is not pretending grief is unreal. It rests on what Jesus has accomplished and on His assurance that His people will not finally be robbed of resurrection hope.

My observations:

A — Application

How does the resurrection change the way I face grief without denying that grief is real?

P — Prayer

Risen Lord, meet me in sorrow. Root my joy in Your victory rather than in circumstances alone.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 16:23–28

Ask the Father in My Name

S — Scripture

23 “In that day you will ask me no questions. Most certainly I tell you, whatever you may ask of the
Father in my name, he will give it to you.
24 Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made
full.
25 “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. But the time is coming when I will no more
speak to you in figures of speech, but will tell you plainly about the Father.
26 In that day you will ask in my name; and I don’t say to you that I will pray to the Father for you,
27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me, and have believed that I came from God.
28 I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

John 16:23–28, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

Jesus promises access to the Father in His name. Praying in Jesus’ name is praying under His authority and in harmony with His will, not a phrase that guarantees any requested result.

The Father Himself loves those who love and trust the Son. Jesus is not describing a reluctant Father who must be persuaded to care.

Jesus summarizes His mission: He came from the Father into the world, and now leaves the world to return to Him. His identity and mission give Christian prayer its confidence.

My observations:

A — Application

How can my prayers more clearly reflect trust in the Father and allegiance to Jesus, rather than my own demands?

P — Prayer

Father, thank You that through Jesus I may come to You. Shape my requests by His name, truth, and glory.

Pray this in your own words:

JOHN 16:29–33

Scattered Yet Not Abandoned — Peace in Christ

S — Scripture

29 His disciples said to him, “Behold, now you are speaking plainly, and using no figures of speech.
30 Now we know that you know all things, and don’t need for anyone to question you. By this we believe that you came from God.”
31 Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?
32 Behold, the time is coming, yes, and has now come, that you will be scattered, everyone to his own place, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.
33 I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:29–33, WEB

O — Observation

What does the passage reveal about Jesus, God, people, worship, faith, or the gospel?

The disciples declare confidence in Jesus’ knowledge, yet He warns that they will soon scatter and leave Him alone. Their real faith still needs strengthening; confident words do not erase human weakness.

Jesus is not truly alone: the Father is with Him. His obedience and coming victory do not depend on the disciples’ strength.

Jesus promises peace “in me,” while also saying that trouble will exist “in the world.” His command to take courage rests on His accomplished victory, not on a claim that Christians will never suffer.

My observations:

A — Application

What hardship can I face with courage because my peace is found in the victorious Christ?

P — Prayer

Jesus, forgive my misplaced confidence in myself. Give me Your peace amid trouble and courage because You have overcome the world.

Pray this in your own words:

Hard Questions

Does persecution mean every disagreement is hatred of Christ?

No. Jesus warns His disciples that some will reject them because of Him; this does not turn every criticism into persecution or justify anger toward others. The call remains faithfulness, patience, and truth.

Why would someone think killing believers was serving God?

Religious zeal can be terribly misguided. Jesus attributes such violence to failure to know the Father and Son. The warning never gives Christians permission to retaliate or condemn whole communities.

Why was it advantageous for Jesus to leave?

His return to the Father and completed mission are connected to sending the Counselor. The disciples will not be abandoned, because the Holy Spirit will dwell with and guide God’s people.

Does conviction by the Spirit simply mean feeling guilty?

Not necessarily. The Spirit exposes the truth about unbelief in Jesus, genuine righteousness, and divine judgment. True conviction should move us toward truth and repentance, not manipulation or despair.

Questions and study notes:

Hard Questions (continued)

Who is the prince or ruler of this world?

In John's Gospel the expression refers to Satan, who stands judged through Christ's work (compare John 12:31; 14:30). He is not equal to God, and evil will not have the final word.

Does "guide you into all truth" mean believers can add new doctrine to Scripture?

The immediate promise is to Jesus' first disciples, who will testify authoritatively about Him. The Spirit glorifies Christ and works in harmony with His words; a supposed revelation contradicting Scripture should be rejected.

What is meant by "a little while"?

In context Jesus anticipates His imminent death and resurrection appearances. The disciples' sorrow would soon give way to joy at seeing Him alive again.

Does the childbirth analogy mean grief should be ignored?

No. The analogy recognizes intense pain before joy. Jesus promises that resurrection joy transforms the disciples' grief; Christian hope does not require pretending sorrow is absent.

Questions and study notes:

Hard Questions (continued)

Does praying in Jesus' name guarantee every request?

No. Prayer in His name means asking in accord with His authority and purposes. We can pray boldly because the Father loves us, while submitting our requests to His wisdom (compare 1 John 5:14).

Why does Jesus say "the Father himself loves you"?

The disciples can approach the Father confidently because He loves them. Jesus is not persuading an unwilling Father; the Father sent the Son in love (John 3:16).

Why did Jesus question the disciples' confidence?

They believed yet would soon scatter. Their confidence was sincere but incomplete. Jesus exposes weakness gently and grounds peace in Himself, not in their ability to remain brave.

How can Jesus promise peace when He also promises trouble?

The promise is peace in Christ, not freedom from hardship. His resurrection victory anchors courage; disciples may grieve or suffer without losing the hope found in Him.

Questions and study notes:

Reflection

When pressure comes, what words of Jesus should I remember rather than stumble?

What is one way I can depend on the Holy Spirit without setting aside Scripture?

Where do I need to trust the Father’s love in my prayers?

What present trouble needs to be met by Christ’s peace and victory?

A Prayer for Truth, Joy, and Courage

Father, thank You for sending Your Son from heaven to save sinners. Thank You that Jesus knew the sorrow and scattering His followers would face, yet loved them faithfully. Forgive my unbelief, fear, and confidence in my own strength. Holy Spirit, convict me of truth, guide my understanding through Scripture, and glorify Jesus in my life. Where grief has overtaken my heart, give me hope in the risen Lord. Teach me to pray in Jesus' name and trust the Father's love. When trouble comes, let me rest in Christ's peace, remember His victory, and bear faithful witness with humility and courage. In Jesus' name, amen.

Pray this in your own words:

ONE TRUTH TO CARRY WITH YOU

In Christ we may have peace even in trouble, because He has overcome the world.

Final Notes