

## The church and the Tribulation #16 – Why the church will not go through the Tribulation

### Reason #5: The restraining presence of the Holy Spirit will be removed before the Tribulation

The restraining presence of the Spirit is the abiding presence of the Spirit. Jesus said, “He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father” (John 14:12). The reason we can do the works of Christ and greater is because He ascended to Heaven so the Holy Spirit could come as our “helper” (13:15). He is the Spirit of Truth... He dwells in you and will be in you” (14:17). “The Helper, the Holy Spirit...will teach you” (14:26). “He will testify of Me. And you shall bear witness...” (15:26-27). “He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (16:8). The greatest hindrance to evil in the world today is the restraining presence of the Holy Spirit in the church. When the church is removed, the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit will be removed, and evil will run amok (II Thessalonians 2:6, 8). What will happen? (1) The man of sin (Antichrist) will be revealed II Thessalonian 2:3). Antichrist will exalt himself above God and claim to be God (2:4). (2) Power and lying wonders of Satan will accompany the reign of Antichrist (2:9). (3) Unrighteous deception will replace the truth (2:10). (4) People will believe Antichrist’s lie (2:11). (5) The world will have pleasure in unrighteousness (2:12). The reason that can happen is when the church is removed, the restraining presence of the Holy Spirit in the church will be removed. When Christ ascended to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit and formed the church. When the Spirit ascends to Heaven, the church will ascend with Him. When the Holy Spirit is gone the church will be gone, and the restraint of wickedness will be removed from the earth. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life will have free reign. Satan will rule the earth through Antichrist for 7 years. The Tribulation will be the Devil’s kingdom. If the church is not removed before the Tribulation, the Devil will be restrained from bringing in the Man of sin. Because the presence of the Holy Spirit and the church will not be here, Antichrist will be able to do as he pleases on earth – until Christ returns and does what He pleases on earth.