***The Conviction of the Spirit (John 16:9)***

The purpose of Jesus’ instruction in John 13-17 was to equip His followers to walk in victory under the growing global pressure. He taught His disciples that in dialogue with the Godhead our hearts will be filled with peace and joy to keeping us from falling away under pressure.

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you...”   
John 15:11

“These things I command you, that you love one another”   
John 15:17

“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not...stumble (fall away).”   
John 16:1

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace...”   
John 16:33

In John 13-17, one of Jesus’ aims is to equip the heart to stay steady under pressure. Jesus exhorted the disciples two days earlier that the church was to not be troubled in light of unfolding global eschatological pressures that point towards the end of the age drawing near.

“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”   
Matthew 24:6

I believe there is a connection between Jesus’ exhortation not to be troubled (John 14:1, 27) and the call to joy (15:11), love (15:17), peace (16:33) and avoiding stumbling in our faith (16:1). In John 16:1, Jesus states that the reason why He taught His disciples John 15:18-27 was to help them make sense of the true condition of the world and context in which they would witness.

Not agreeing with heaven’s perspective concerning the condition of the world will be a source of stumbling for many. Presently, there are growing seeds of this in this generation.

“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.”   
John 16:1

“...for that Day (Second Coming) will not come unless the falling away comes first.”   
2 Thessalonians 2:3

Jesus further develops the idea of the darkness of the world as something that will manifest with religious fervor and will result in state sponsored violence against the followers of Jesus. The idea of the world hating the saints is a subject that many believers don’t consider much nor factor in the possibility of this being part of our future. Yet Jesus (Matthew 5:10; 10:21-23, 34-38; 24:9; Luke 12:49, 53; 21:16-17) and the apostles prophesied this is coming (Acts 14:22; 1 Peter 2:21-23; 4:14-17).

Study the enumerated scriptures. These scriptures will tell us of the condition of the time we will be in as we draw closer to the end. Opportunity for stumbling or being offended will be so available. That’s why there’s importance in understanding the power of God and understanding our need to be led and governed by Holy Spirit. The teachings of Jesus in John 13-17 are key for us in these times.