

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 14

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John

And we find ourselves in the portion of John's gospel where John provides for us the words that Jesus spoke to the remaining disciples in what is known as the Upper room discourse –

These words that we have studied for the last couple of weeks and will continue to study until ch 17 – they were spoken by the Lord Jesus to His disciples on the night before His crucifixion while they were observing the Passover.

Jesus gave the disciples one last teaching before His death to encourage them for the difficult days that lay ahead.

Why did they need to be encouraged?

- Because He had just told them He was going away soon (after His death and resurrection He would be returning to His Father in heaven).
- Because of it they wouldn't be able to go with Him. (John 13:33)

In saying this, He was in essence telling them that they would have to carry on without Him—and that just because He was going away didn't mean the work of the Kingdom was going to stop.

BTW - Not only would they have to continue the work Jesus had begun without Him—but in a few days it was to be expanded beyond the land of Israel (which Jesus made official thru the Great Commission).

Think about the fear that must have set in the hearts of the disciples

For 3.5 years, they have depended upon Jesus for everything –

How could they ever carry on the vital work of spreading the gospel without Jesus being with them?

How could they, as simple uneducated 'blue-collar' guys - simple hillbillies, take the gospel to Athens, to Rome without Jesus?

Who would even listen to them?

Jesus knew their hearts –

That is why He said, let not your heart be troubled and He began to comfort them in the moment and prepare them for the future –

How?

Through some incredible and precious promises He gave them

1. He's going away to prepare a place for them and will return someday to take them to be with Him in that place. (verses 2-3).

2. The same power that resided in Him would be given to them to do the work He was calling them to do (verse 12).

3. Anything they asked the Father in His name would be given to them (verse 14).

Today – Jesus is going to promise them another Helper – the Holy Spirit –

This becomes the main way Jesus encouraged His disciples that evening—by telling them He was not going to leave them alone and helpless but that He was going to send them another Helper—the Holy Spirit who would never leave them.

And it is only by the power of the Holy Spirit – that the disciples would be able to do what God has called them to do.

Let's pray...

It has been said that we live our lives based on promises

When we buy a new car, the manufacturer gives us a promise – it is called a warranty – and they pretty much promise that car will be reliable for a period of time and for so many miles. And if anything happens – we can bring it back.

That is unless it's tires or brakes or engine or transmission or just about anything that really matters, but they give you a promise. You then make a promise to the bank to make monthly installments to pay that car off. It's a promise you make.

A promise is only as good as the person who makes the promise.

If a person is reliable, the promise is too. If the person is unreliable, so is the promise.

In God's Word, He gives us many promises.

[Joshua 23:14 NLT] 14 "Soon I will die, going the way of everything on earth. Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the LORD your God has come true. Not a single one has failed!

The question we must ask ourselves as we read His Word is, do we trust His promises?

This is the question that faced the disciples –

And it was the promises that Jesus makes to them that sustained them for the next day, months and years ahead.

[Jhn 14:15-24 NKJV] 15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

This statement by Jesus is directed at true disciples of Christ—remember the context.

Judas Iscariot had left the upper room and was at that very moment betraying Jesus to the chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees.

Judas was never a true disciple

So when Jesus says, if you love Me – this is Jesus' way of identifying true believers in Him (true disciples)—

In last weeks study – Jesus said (12) that the promises were directed to “he who believes in Me” – that is faith

But here He adds “love” and He will use love again in verse 21 and 23

These were those who had received Him as their Savior—those who had been given salvation and who now lived in obedience to Him—

[Jhn 10:27 NKJV] 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Here is the important thing to understand church –

Following Jesus doesn't make us one of His sheep (disciples)—following Jesus proves we are one of His sheep. (repeat)

The underlying idea is that true believers in Jesus (true disciples) will manifest their love for Him by keeping His commandments.

In other words – keeping God's commandments doesn't make us one of His disciples – keeping His commandments is evidence that a person is a true disciple of Christ – it is evidence that they are truly born again.

It's as Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruit"—

and a life of obedience to what God has commanded in His Word—is first on the list of 'fruit'.

Jesus uses the word "if" – Jesus is not questioning whether or not they love Him

Because technically in the Greek – Jesus is saying here, "since you love Me"

That changes it big time right?

Since you love Me, "we love you Jesus" keep My commandments

We prove our love for Jesus (that we are saved) by keeping His commandments—

[1Jo 2:3 NKJV] 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

[1Jo 5:2-3 NKJV] 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

Love is the greatest motivation for obedience.

In the Old Testament they obeyed out of fear—in the New Testament we obey out of love!

Because of what He's done for me, I want to obey Him—love is the motivation!

But it's not just the greatest motivation for obedience—love for Jesus is the greatest motivation for perseverance.

It is the love for Jesus that keeps us fighting the good fight

I have found that that is the greatest motivation for obeying the Lord even when I don't feel like it—

We do it for Jesus – why? because we love Him.

Our outward actions display our depth of our love for God

Let's look at the promise -

16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

So, here is the promise –

In the Greek, there are two words for “another”

There is the word – heteros, which means, another of a different kind. This is where we get the word, heterosexual. If I am a man, I am drawn to a person of the opposite sex.

But Jesus doesn't use the word hetero –

Jesus isn't saying that He is going to ask the Father to send a different kind of Helper

He uses the word allos – which means: another of exactly the same kind.

In other words, “I am going to send you another Helper—another One exactly, essentially like Me only in a different form.”

I had you make a note of the word “He”

Church, the Holy Spirit is a Person – not a force or an “it”, He is God, living inside us.

And it is important to understand this because there are groups out there that teach that the Holy Spirit is simply a force – like electricity or what you see in the Star Wars movies.

But the bible clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit is a Person and God

[Job 33:4 NKJV] 4 The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

[Act 5:3-4 NKJV] 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back [part] of the price of the land for yourself? 4 "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

I had you make a note of the word Helper – in the Greek parakletos— —it comes from 2 Greek words—“para” (alongside) and “kaleo” (to call)

So very simply, a parakletos is someone who has been called alongside for the purpose of helping or comforting—which is why some of your translations call Him the Comforter.

BTW – Jesus said that He is going to pray for the Father to send another Helper –

That means that Jesus Himself was the first Parakletos – the first Comforter Who came alongside the disciples physically, to help them and teach them God's truth and to train them for the work of the Kingdom

He did that for 3.5 years and He is doing that throughout this chapter

Upon returning to His Father in heaven, the Father sent back the Holy Spirit—another Helper

BTW this is one of the verses in the Bible that shows us the underlying them of the Trinity –

God the Son prays to God the Father that He might send God the Holy Spirit to us.

Turn with me to 1 John 2

[1Jo 2:1 NKJV] 1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

I had you make a note of the word Advocate – because that is the same word for Helper/Comforter

We have a Comforter residing in us in the Holy Spirit, who empowers us and strengthens us to do the work of the kingdom here on Earth – but we also have Jesus who continues to be our parakletos in heaven.

He's now our "defense counsel", pleading our case before the Father as the accuser of the brethren constantly condemns and accuses us before God.

17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

The "world" is made up of those who don't love or believe in God

[1Jo 2:15 NKJV] 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

It's not until a person believe in God, until they believe in Jesus, that they are able to receive the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Apostle Paul refers to these individuals – those who love the world - as the “natural man”

[1Co 2:14 NKJV] 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

The world cannot understand or receive the Spirit, because He is Holy and true.

The world wants to remain in darkness

What Jesus is doing here – He is providing His disciples and us contrast between the world and those who are His disciples

You see,

- In contrast to the world, the disciple of Jesus should know the Holy Spirit.
- In contrast to the world, the disciple of Jesus should have the Holy Spirit with them.
- In contrast to the world, the disciple of Jesus should have the Holy Spirit in them.

Jesus now tells them they have already witnessed the Person & work of the Spirit throughout the last 3.5 years as they've followed Him.

The Spirit has been with them in the Person of Christ, & will soon be IN them in the same manner He'd been in Jesus.

18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Some of your bibles may have the word comfortless/abandoned instead of orphans

Jesus is saying to His disciples that He's not going to abandon them, but He's going to come back.

He's going to come back from the dead and meet with them after the resurrection.

He's going to come back in His second coming, to take us all to heaven.

But most of all, here in this context, I believe the emphasis is on the fact that the disciples will be having a closeness to Jesus through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit comes into them and dwells with them, in a sense they will be able to say that Jesus is in their heart.

The same goes for you and I

He is always there.

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt 28:20)

Did you notice how Jesus answered the loneliness issue?

He did not say,

"Hey guys, I'm going to leave, but I'm not going to leave you as orphans, and the reason is because you'll have each other ..."

But He did say,

"I will come to you"

David in

[Psa 27:10 NKJV] 10 When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.

When we're feeling lonely, I think we ultimately need to focus on finding fulfillment in Jesus.

Yes, we do have each other.

Yes, as the Body of Christ, we belong to each other, and need each other.

But the deep inner loneliness can only be met by Him.

19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

By this The Lord meant that, not only had His public ministry to the world had officially come to an end, but He would be crucified in a few hours—and so in that regard the world would see Him no more.

When Jesus died on Calvary's Cross—the people of the world (especially the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees who hated Christ) would comfort themselves with the knowledge that Jesus the Man was gone—dead and buried and they wouldn't have to see Him anymore!

After His resurrection Jesus would only reveal Himself to His disciples —causing the Jewish religious leaders to hunt down and kill anyone who claimed they had seen the risen Christ.

I had you make a note of the last part in verse 19 – very important

Because I live, you will live also

Jesus is continuing to comfort His disciples

He wasn't just speaking of eternal life in heaven someday, but a life of victory and power on earth right now.

His resurrection meant the defeat of sin & death for all those who believe in Him.

20 "At that day you will know that I [am] in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Here, Jesus introduces one of the greatest truths in the Bible—a truth that forms the foundation for much of Paul's writings—the doctrine of the believer being "in Christ."

All of this will happen when the Holy Spirit dwells upon them at the day of Pentecost -

Church,

When we put our faith in Jesus Christ we were taken by the Holy Spirit and placed 'in Christ'—in other words, we were placed into the Body of Christ

[1Co 12:13 NKJV] 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

The Church is the Body of Christ—Jesus Himself being the Head of the Body.

As His Body we are a living extension of Jesus Christ—we can't speak of the Church apart from Jesus—

As the Body of Christ, it is our responsibility to manifest Christ to this world.

Being a Christian is not simply being outwardly identified with Christ—but being part of Christ!

As we demonstrate our love for Jesus, we will find God's love coming back at us.

Jesus is summarizing what He has been saying about obedience and love.

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

Notice how Jesus is interrupted by His disciples as they keep asking Him questions, asking Him to clarify Himself.

Back in chapter 13 – it was Peter “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.”

And then at the beginning of the chapter, we had Thomas and then we had Philip do the same thing.

It is like they are taking turns asking Jesus to clarify the statements and the promises He is making to them.

This time it is Judas turn – this is Thaddaeus aka Lebbaeus

Judas wants to know why they are going to see Him, while the rest of the world won't.

Understand, at this point, Jesus' disciples are still clinging to the belief that even if He goes away for a little while—He will come back shortly to establish the Kingdom.

So, with that in mind, you can understand Judas' confusion as to how Jesus could establish a worldwide earthly Kingdom and yet only manifest Himself to His disciples and not to the rest of the people in the world.

And of course, the answer is that before Jesus returns to the earth at His Second Coming to establish an earthly Kingdom—He would come to the disciples (manifest Himself to them) in the Person of the Holy Spirit Who would indwell and empower them for the work of the Kingdom

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with

him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

Keep in mind that this is Jesus' response to Judas' question –

Why don't you manifest Yourself to them?

So here's what I want you to see.

The answer is profound.

Because those ones that I manifest, or reveal, or show Myself to are those ones who love Me enough to do what I say.

Here's the principle. Obedience opens the door to intimacy and satisfaction.

Obedience to Christ opens the door to intimacy with Christ and satisfaction of Christ.

When you find a person who is hungering and thirsting for righteousness, Jesus will show a little more, and a little more, and a little more.

And you're not only saved, you're satisfied.

There are a lot of believers in the world who are saved but not satisfied.

Why?

Because they haven't yielded to the work of the Helper in their life.

"This manifestation of Jesus Christ is made only to the ones who really love him and the proof of love to him is not emotional display but submission to His will.

The Lord will give no direct and special revelation of Himself to those who are in the path of disobedience".

You want to experience the fullness of my presence, then if you say you love me, do what I say.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



CALVARY
S a n t a C r u z