

JESUS' DEATH DELIVERS TROUBLED HEARTS

JOHN 14:01–03

Introduction

Jesus' death delivers troubled hearts. The disciples had reason to be troubled. Several things had just happened that would disturb any body of people.

=> *Divisiveness* had set in among them (Lk. 22:24-30).

=> *Desertion and betrayal* by one of them was now known (Jn. 13:18f).

=> *Separation from the Lord* had been the topic of discussion (Jn. 13:33).

=> *Denying Jesus* had just been talked about (Jn. 13:38).

The scene needs to be clearly viewed, even felt in order to grasp the impact of what Jesus was about to say.

=> The disciples were greatly troubled (*tarassestho*): disturbed, agitated, perplexed, worried, tossed about, confused, distressed.

=> The disciples needed to be settled down and given some sense of peace: to receive some encouragement and some new hope.

(How much like believers! How often we are afflicted with trouble and need the same words of encouragement and hope — the same deliverance!) Jesus said that deliverance from trouble comes through five things.

- I. Delivers through trust in God and Christ (v. 1).
- II. Delivers through the hope for God's house and its rooms or mansions (v.2)
- III. Delivers through the work of Christ (v. 2).
- IV. Delivers through the return of Christ (v. 3).
- V. Delivers through living with Christ eternally (v. 3).

John 14:01–03 Another Outline

Jesus' Death Delivers Troubled Hearts.

- I. His commandment: trust, believe in me (v. 1).
- II. His assurance: God has a house (v. 2).
- III. His departure: to prepare (v. 2).
- IV. His great promise: to return (v. 3).
- V. His great purpose: an eternal reunion (v. 3).

I. John 14: 01 Deliverance through Trust

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through trust, through belief in Jesus Christ as well as in God.

1. "You trust in God, trust also in Me. I Am the revelation of God, the Son of God Himself. Trusting in me, that I am the Son of God, will deliver you from trouble." (See Jn. 14:6; 14:27.)
2. "Trust in God; trust also in Me. Continuing to trust even while you are in the midst of trouble will carry you through. Trusting in God and His Son will deliver your troubled hearts." (See *Believe*, Jn. 2:24.)

John 3:15 "That everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

John 6:28-29 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Rom 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

1 John 3:23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

JOHN 02:24

SAVING FAITH: BELIEVE; COMMIT; ENTRUST

The word commit or entrust is the very same word "believe" (see Jn. 2:23). This gives an excellent picture of *saving faith*, of what *genuine faith* is — of the kind of faith that really saves a person.

1. Saving faith is not head knowledge, not just a mental conviction and intellectual assent. It is not just *believing the fact* that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. It is not just believing history, that Jesus Christ lived upon earth as the Saviour just as A J Abdul Kalam lived upon earth as the President of India. It is not just believing the words and claims of Jesus in the same way that a person would believe the words of Abdul Kalam.

2. Saving faith is believing in Jesus, *who* and *what* He is, that He is the *Saviour* and *Lord* of life. It is a man giving and turning his life over to Jesus. It is a man casting himself upon Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
3. Saving faith is *commitment* — the commitment of a man's total being and life to Jesus Christ. It is a man's commitment of all *he is and has* to Jesus. It gives Jesus everything; therefore, it involves all of a man's affairs. The man trusts Jesus to take care of his past (sins), his present (welfare), and his future (destiny). He entrusts his whole life, being, and possessions into Jesus' hands. He lays himself upon Jesus' keeping, confiding in Him about his daily necessities and acknowledging Him in all the ways of life. He follows Jesus in every area and in every detail of life, seeking His instructions and leaving his welfare up to Him. It is simply commitment of a man's whole being, all he is and has, to Jesus.

There are three steps involved in faith, steps that are clearly seen in this passage.

1. There is the step of *seeing* (Jn. 2:23) or *hearing* (Rom. 10:16). A man must be willing to listen to the message of Christ, the revelation of truth.
2. There is the step of *mental assent*. A man must agree that the message is true, that the facts of the case are thus and so. But this is not enough. Mere agreement does not lead to action. Many a person knows that something is true, but he does not change his behaviour to match his knowledge. For example, a man knows that eating too much harms his body, but he may continue to eat too much. He agrees to the truth and knows the truth, but he does nothing about it. A person may believe and know that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world and yet does nothing about it, never make a decision to follow Christ. This man still does not have faith, not the kind of faith that the Bible talks about.
3. There is the step of *commitment*. When the New Testament speaks of faith, it speaks of *commitment, a personal commitment to the truth*. A man hears the truth and agrees that it is true and does something about it. He commits (entrusts) and yields his life to the truth. The truth becomes a part of his very being, a part of his behaviour and life. □

II. *John 14:02 Deliverance through Hope*

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through the hope for God's house. Note several points.

1. Jesus called God "My *Father*." He knew His Father just as any son knows his father. He knew the truth: His Father is, really does exist and live. (See Heb. 11:6.) Note the claim to deity Jesus was making (Jn. 1:51).
2. Jesus knew *His Father's house*, the truth and reality of it. God's house is real; it does exist. It is a real world that exists in another dimension of being, the spiritual

dimension. It is named heaven, for it is His Father's house. This world — the physical and material world — is the property of God, but it is not His house. This earth is not the eternal and permanent dwelling place of God. Heaven is the spiritual world or dimension of being, the *home* of God where the rooms or mansions for believers exist.

3. The word *rooms* or *mansion* (monai) means abiding place. It means places, residences, dwellings, areas, spaces for living. What a glorious hope! How much clearer could Jesus be: *a place* for every one of us — a place for every believer to dwell and live. Just as we have dwellings and homes here on earth, so Jesus promises us dwellings and homes (mansions) in heaven.

And note: there is no shortage. There are “*many rooms.*” (In the other gospels, Jesus talks a great deal about believers inheriting huge areas or places, even whole realms and kingdoms, which probably mean the heavenly bodies all throughout the universe that will be recreated in the new heavens and earth (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1. See Mt. 19:28; 24:45-47; 25:20-23.)

Note how Jesus stressed the truth and reality of “God's house” and its “*rooms*”; “If it were not so, I would have told you.” Jesus did not lie. He said only the truth. Note something else: one thing is essential to inherit these mansions — belief in Christ (v. 1).

2 Cor 5:1 *Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

Titus 2:12-13 *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

Heb 9:11 *When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.*

Heb 11:10 *For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

Heb 11:13-14 *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.*

Heb 13:14 *For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.*

1 Pet 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.*

Rev 21:10 *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.*

Rev 22:14 *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*

III. John 14:02 Deliverance through the Death of Jesus Christ

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through Jesus' work. Picture Jesus seated in the Upper Room surrounded by His disciples. He said, “I am going there to prepare a place for you.” Where is He to go?

1. Jesus Christ went to the cross: to prepare redemption for us, even the forgiveness of sins.

Mat 20:28 *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.*

1 Tim 2:5-6 *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.*

1 Pet 1:18-19 *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers. But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

1 Pet 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

1 Pet 3:18 *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

Rev 5:9 *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”*

2. Jesus Christ went to be raised from the dead: to prepare the conquest of death and a new life and power for us.

Rom 6:4 *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

1 Cor 6:14 *By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.*

2 Cor 13:4 *For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you.*

Col 2:12 *Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

Eph 1:18-19 *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength.*

3. Jesus Christ went to ascend into heaven and be exalted: to prepare an access into the presence of God and an eternal home for us.

Rom 5:2 *Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God*

Eph 2:5-6 *Made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.*

Col 3:1 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*

2 Tim 2:11 *Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him.*

Such a magnificent work in our behalf is bound to deliver us from trouble. But remember that Jesus began by stating a condition: "Trust in God, trust also in me."

IV. John 14:03 The Return of Jesus Christ

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through Jesus' return. Note why He is to return: to receive us unto Himself. There are two times when Jesus comes for the believer.

1. There is death or the passing of the believer into heaven. Death is a private escort or a private presentation to the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). It is not the triumphant entrance and glorious march of victory which is promised when Jesus returns. (See *Return of Jesus Christ*, Jn. 14:3.)

2 Cor 5:8 *We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

2. There is the return of Jesus Himself to gather all His dear followers unto Himself. It is this return of Himself to which He is referring in this passage.

Believers are to be glorified with the Father and Jesus. Such a glorious hope — meditating upon and grasping it — will carry a troubled soul through any trial, even the trial of martyrdom. But note again: believing in God and in His Son Jesus is the only way man can take part in His return. (1 Th. 4:13-5:3. See Jn. 5:28-29; Tit. 2:12-13; 2 Pet. 3:3-4, 8-16.)

John 5:25 *"I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."*

John 5:28-29 *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."*

1 Th 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

Titus 2:12-13 *It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

JOHN 14:03 THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

*"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you with me that you also may be where I am." **John 14:03***

There is a difference in the Bible between the believer's meeting Jesus in death and meeting Jesus in the air at His return.

1. The believer does meet Jesus at death. The believer passes from this world into the next world, into heaven itself; and he passes quickly, *never tasting the pain of death* (Jn. 8:51). He passes quicker than the blinking of an eye, never losing a moment's consciousness. One moment he is in this world; the next moment he is in the presence of the Lord. This is the believer's personal presentation to the Lord. It is the very first sight the believer will have of his Lord.

=> Stephen, while being stoned to death, anticipated going immediately to be with the Lord (Acts 7:59).

=> Stephen even "saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55).

=> Paul actually said: "to be away from the body is to be at home with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8).

=> Paul even said he had a "desire to depart, and be with Christ, which is better by far" (Phil. 1:23).

=> Jesus had even promised the thief: "today you will be with me in paradise" (Lk. 23:43).

=> The believers of Thessalonica who had already died are said to "have fallen asleep in him [Jesus]" (1 Th. 4:14). By "asleep" is meant they are resting in the presence of the Lord (Jn. 11:13).

Luke 23:43 *Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*

John 12:26 *“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.”*

John 14:3 *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

2 Cor 5:8 *We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

John 17:24 *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”*

Phil 1:23 *I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.*

1 Th 4:17 *After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

2 Tim 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

2. The believer, his body, does arise and meet Jesus in the air when He returns. The deceased bodies of believers will arise from wherever and however many places they lie on earth. And the believers who are still living on earth will arise in their bodies to meet the Lord in the air. It will be as quick as the blinking of an eye, and it will happen. All believers, both in heaven and on earth, will arise and receive their glorified bodies — dramatically and instantaneously. Jesus promised that He would come again, and He will. We must never forget: God promised that His Son would come the first time, and He came; so He will come again despite the unbelief of the vast majority of people.

Jesus Christ is coming again to give both Himself and His people a glorious reunion and march of triumph over sin, death, and hell...

- A reunion and march so glorious it explosively exceeds all that a man can think or dream.
- A reunion and march of indescribable perfection and joy, a march when all of the dear followers of Christ shall be gathered together before Him for the very first time. Each shall experience the presence and joy of all the saints, the dear saints who have gone before and who have come after — including Paul, Peter, Augustine, Francis, John Paul, Mother Theresa and all the other well-known servants of God; the multitudes who have been unknown to men, but are well-known to God — known to be first because they laboured in the insignificant spots of the world as God directed and were ever so faithful.

There, before the Lord Jesus Christ, we will all stand for the very first time, every believer who has ever lived.

Luke 12:37 *“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.”*

John 14:3 *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

Phil 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Col 3:4 *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

1 Th 3:13 *May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*

1 Th 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

1 Pet 5:4 *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

1 John 3:2 *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. □*

V. John 14:03 Eternal Life in Heaven

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through an eternal habitation with Jesus. Note the very reason Jesus will return to earth: “That you also may be where I am.” Where is Jesus? Wherever He is, the very place He is, is exactly where we shall be. We shall be with Him — with our precious Lord forever — with Him who has saved us — with Him who has forgiven our sins despite their awfulness — with Him who has delivered us from the bondage of sin, death, and hell — with Him who has cared for us and guided us day by day — with Him who has shared and given us His presence. Again, we shall be with our wonderful Lord forever and ever. This is the very longing of His heart, the very thing for which He prayed so intensely:

John 17:24 *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”*

Phil 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. ■*

THE WAY TO GOD IS BY JESUS ALONE

JOHN 14:04–07

Introduction

This subject is a continuation of Jesus' departure from this world. It is outlined separately because it is spurred on by another question, this one by Thomas. (Jn. 13:36 for the first question by Peter.)

This is a critical passage — one of the most critical in all of Scripture. Jesus declared in unmistakable terms how a person gets to God, and He makes it clear: there is no other way to God.

- I. The declaration of Jesus: He was going to God (vv. 4-5).
- II. The way to God is Jesus Christ Himself (v. 6).
- III. The only way to God is through Jesus Christ (v. 6).
- IV. The only way to God is now unmistakably revealed: to know Christ is to know God (v. 7).

I. *John 14:04–05 The Ascension of Jesus Christ*

Jesus' destination is under discussion. He had shaken the disciples badly, discussing at length the fact that He was leaving them. This is, of course, a prediction of His death and ascension (Jn. 13:33, 36; 14:3, 4). Note two points.

1. Jesus told the disciples, "You know the way to the place where I am going." And they did, for He had told them time and time again.
 - a. "You know the way": He was going back to the Father from whom He had come.

John 13:3 *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.*

John 14:2 *"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."*

John 16:5, 10, 17 *"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer. Some of his disciples said to one another, 'What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"*

- b. "The way to get there you know": *through Him.*

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

2. Thomas contradicted Jesus and spoke with scepticism.

=> We do not know where you are going.

=> How can we know the way?

Here sat the disciples, thinking that Jesus was about to lead them to set up the Kingdom of God on earth, freeing Israel and establishing it as the greatest nation on earth. Then all of a sudden He began to talk about going someplace; in addition, He insisted they could not follow Him.

They were, of course, thinking in terms of an earthly and temporal government, of worldly positions and power, of wealth and possessions, of pomp and ceremony. This was their problem. Jesus had told them where He was going in simple and clear terms. He had said frequently that He was...

- to die and rise again (Jn. 7:33-34; Mt. 16:21-28; 17:1-13; 17:22; 17:24-27).
- to go to the Father (Jn. 7:33-34. See Jn. 8:14; 13:3; 14:2-3; 16:5, 10, 17.)

However, they refused to accept the fact. The result was inevitable. They were misunderstanding what He was saying and doomed to fail in their allegiance to Him.

Thought 1. Note the contradiction and scepticism of the world even today. The world proclaims: "We do not know where God is, not really. Even if He exists, we can only seek Him the best we can, trying to find out just where He is. Every man must find and discover his own way and hope he has found it."

John 8:19 *Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."*

John 16:3 *"They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me."*

Acts 17:23 *For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: To An Unknown God. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.*

Acts 28:27 *For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'*

Eph 4:18 *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

Thought 2. The man who thinks in worldly terms and lives for the earth (position, power, wealth, honour, possessions) shall never know where Christ has gone nor how to get there. As Christ told Nicodemus, unless he was *born again* he would not "see the kingdom of God" nor "enter the kingdom of God."

John 3:3, 5 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

1 Cor 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

II. **John 14:06 Jesus Christ, the Mediator**

The way to God is through Jesus Christ Himself. This is a critical verse, for Jesus said that no man could reach God unless he approached God through Jesus Himself. Note Jesus' claim to deity: "I Am" (Jn. 6:20). Jesus made three phenomenal claims.

1. "I am the Way."
2. "I am the Truth."
3. "I am the Life."

JOHN 14:06 JESUS THE WAY

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 14:06***

There is a difference between pointing the way to a particular place and taking someone by the hand to lead him there. The person who guides someone to his destination literally becomes the way himself. Jesus Christ not only points out how to walk through life and how to reach God, He personally shows the person the way. Therefore, He Himself is the Way. Note the repetition of the word "way" (v. 4,5,6).

Heb 10:19-20 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body. □

JOHN 14:06 JESUS THE TRUTH

There is a difference between telling someone about the truth and living the truth before them. The one who lives the truth literally becomes the truth.

1. Jesus Christ is the *Embodiment* of truth (Jn. 14:6). He is the picture of truth. God not only talks to man about Himself, God shows man what He is like in the person of Jesus Christ. Man can look at Jesus Christ and see a perfect picture of the truth of God.

Jn 10:30 I and the Father are one."

John 10:37-38 *“Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*

John 14:10 *“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”*

John 17:11 *“I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one.”*

2. Jesus Christ is the *Communicator* of truth. He Himself — His Person and His Life — makes things perfectly clear. He reveals the ultimate source and meaning and end of all things. He reveals the truth of man himself and of the world surrounding man. He shows man the right way to the truth, and He enables man to choose the right way to the truth.

John 3:11 *“I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.”*

John 3:34 *For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.*

John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 6:63 *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”*

John 6:68 *Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”*

John 8:14 *Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.”*

John 14:24 *“He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”*

John 17:8 *“For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.”*

John 17:14 *“I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.”*

John 18:37 *“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”*

Rev 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.*

3. Jesus Christ is the *Liberator* of truth (Jn. 8:32; 15:3). He sets men free from the great gulf (estrangement) which exists between man and God, between man and his world, and between man and man. He sets man free from the frustrations which he constantly experiences. He frees man from the fears and weaknesses and defects that plague him. Jesus Christ is the only lasting Liberator on earth. (See Truth, Jn. 1:9; Incarnation of Jesus, Jn. 8:23.)

John 8:32 *“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

John 15:3 *“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”* □

JOHN 01:09 TRUTH

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John 01:09

The words true, truth, and real are taken from two Greek words very much alike. But each has a different shade of meaning.

1. “Alethes” means true, the opposite of false.
2. “Alethinos” means the true, the genuine, the real. It is the opposite of the unreal, the fictitious, the counterfeit, the imaginary. It is also the opposite of the imperfect, defective, frail, uncertain.

Jesus Christ is seen as the true, the real, the genuine life which has come to give light to every man. □

JOHN 14:06 JESUS THE LIFE

There is a difference between telling someone about life and actually living life. The one who lives is the one who possesses life, and the more perfect one lives, the more life one possesses. Jesus Christ lived perfectly; therefore, He possesses life perfectly. He is the Life: the very embodiment, energy, force, and source of life itself. (Jn. 1:4; 10:10; 17:2-3)

John 1:4 *In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

John 10:10 *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”*

Rom 5:21 *So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

2 Tim 1:10 *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. □*

III. John 14:06 Jesus Christ, the Only Source of Salvation

The only way to God is through Jesus Christ. Note the ultimate destination is God. Again, Jesus clearly said where He was going. He was going to “the Father.” He was not going to remain dead. He was going to arise and ascend to the Father. This was a picture of both the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

Now note: Jesus had just said He was going to His “Father’s house.” Now He said that He was going to “the Father” of the house. His destination was not so much the house, as glorious as the house is, but the Father Himself. The house without the Father would not be *home*; it would not be heaven.

This says something of vital importance to the believer. The believer’s primary objective is to go to the Father Himself, not to heaven, not to a place. The believer’s aim is to live in the Father’s presence forever.

1. The believer longs to know and ever learn of the Father personally...
 - to know the Father face-to-face as his Father: as the One who created him, both physically and spiritually; as the One who loves the world so much that He would give His only Son to save mankind and provide so glorious a salvation.
 - to know the Father face-to-face as the Creator and Sustainer of all things: of all life and all worlds, of all universes and in all dimensions of being.
 - to know the Father face-to-face as the glorious Person who dwells in Light so brilliant and full of splendour that no man can approach Him.
 - to know the Father face-to-face as the Supreme Majesty of the universe: the Supreme Majesty both of this world and of the world to come; the King of kings and Lord of lords who is above all, before all, over all, and forever shall be.
2. The believer longs to honour and worship the Father face-to-face: to praise the Father for Himself and for the wonderful privilege of life; to join in the praise of the universe which is to be given Him who is worthy of all praise, honour, glory, and worship forever and ever.
3. The believer longs to serve the Father face-to-face: to serve in perfection, without the blemishes and weaknesses so common in one’s life and ministry here on earth.

Thought 1. The destination of Jesus was “the Father” Himself. The believer has the same destination: the believer’s destination is “the Father,” the One who so willingly and graciously adopted him into the family of God.

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Acts 4:12 *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*

Rom 8:15-17 *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

Gal 4:4-7 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

1 Tim 2:5-6 *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.*

Titus 2:12-13 *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

Heb 8:6 *But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.*

Heb 9:15 *For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

Heb 12:24 *To Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

1 John 2:1 *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

IV. John 14:07 Jesus Christ, the Perfect Revelation of God

The only way to God is now revealed, and it is revealed unmistakably. Jesus Christ Himself is the perfect revelation of God. If a man wishes to see exactly who God is and what God is like, he must look at Jesus Christ. The supreme revelation of Jesus Christ is that God

is love (Jn. 3:16). And a God of love is bound to reveal the way, the truth, and the life in the most perfect way possible. A God of love would never leave man in the dark, ever seeking, and never able to find and to know. (See *Jesus Christ — from Above*, Jn. 3:31.)

1. A God of love is bound (by absolute love) to show man The Way to Himself. As love, He would never leave man in the dark, feeling about and stumbling after the Way. Jesus Christ is The Way. Jesus Christ is the perfect picture of the Way.
2. A God of love is bound (by absolute love) to show man The Truth about Himself. As love, He would never leave man in the dark, searching and grasping after the Truth. Jesus Christ is The Truth. Jesus Christ is the perfect picture of the Truth.
3. A God of love is bound (by absolute love) to show man The Life of Himself. As love, He would never leave man in the dark, wandering aimlessly about and being hopeless in seeking after the Life. Jesus Christ is The Life. Jesus Christ is the perfect picture of the Life.

John 12:45 “When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me.”

John 14:10 “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

John 16:15 “All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”

Heb 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ■

JOHN 03:31 JESUS CHRIST, “FROM ABOVE”

“The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.” **John 03:31**

Jesus came out of (ek) the spiritual world into the physical world, out of the heavenly dimension of being into the earthly dimension of being. Jesus came out of...

- the incorruptible and imperishable world into the corruptible and perishable world.
- the glorious world into the dishonourable world.
- the powerful world into the weak world.
- the spiritual world into the natural world. (See 1 Cor. 15:42-44.)

John 3:13 “No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man.”

John 6:33, 38 *“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”*

John 6:41-42 *At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”*

John 6:50-51 *“But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

John 6:58 *“This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”*

John 6:62 *“What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!”*

John 8:23 *But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”*

John 8:42 *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.”*

John 13:3 *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.*

John 16:30 *“Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”*

John 17:5 *“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

1 Cor 15:47 *The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. □*

THE EMBODIMENT OF GOD IS JESUS HIMSELF

JOHN 14:08–14

Introduction

This is one of the most astounding claims ever made — Jesus Christ is the very embodiment of God Himself.

- I. The request of Philip: show us the Father, some dazzling sight (v. 8).
- II. The revelation: Jesus is the full embodiment of God (v. 9).
- III. The clear evidence (v. 10).
- IV. The clear challenge: believe the claim of Jesus Christ (v. 11).
- V. The clear promises: are conditional — to the person who believes in Jesus Christ (vv. 12-14).

I. *John 14:08 A Dazzling, Spectacular Sight*

Philip's request was, "show us the Father" — a dazzling spectacular sight, a visible sight of God, a tangible God. Jesus had been discussing the fact that He was returning to the Father and that the disciples could not go with Him, not now (Jn. 13:33-14:7). Philip's request shows how the disciples interpreted His words. They thought Jesus meant that He was going to a mountaintop or some other quiet place to meet God face-to-face just as great men of God had done in the past, men such as...

- Moses (Exo. 3:1f; 24:9-11; 33:14-23; 34:5-9)
- Jacob (Gen. 28:12f; 32:24f)
- Gideon (Judges 6:21f)
- Isaiah (Isa. 6: 1f)
- Joshua (Josh. 5:13f)
- Elijah (1 Kings 19:4f)
- Ezekiel (Ezk. 1:1f; 10:1f)

Philip wanted to go with Jesus to see the Father as well. Why? Note two things.

1. Philip felt that a dramatic experience with God — that seeing God — would calm their troubled hearts and solve their problems...
 - of strife and division (Jn. 14:1-3; Lk. 22:24-30)
 - of betrayal and desertion (Jn. 13:18f)
 - of denial (Jn. 13:38)
 - of ignorance and misunderstanding (Jn. 1:36; 14:5)

Thought 1. Note the emphasis upon the dramatic experience: upon seeking the spectacular and the dazzling, the physical and visible — some sign that God is — that He actually exists. How many ask for the dramatic experience and the spectacular sign? They think that once they have had a dazzling sight of God, then...

- their peace will come
- their problems will be solved
- they will believe
- they will serve God
- they will change
- they will do right

2. Philip was not satisfied with what he saw in Jesus, nor with what He had received in Jesus. Walking by faith was not enough. Philip wanted to see some astounding and spectacular Person who appeared in dazzling form. Jesus, although the Son of God, appeared before Philip as a mere man in bodily form. He was not appearing in the dazzling, glorious Being of a heavenly Person. He was not in a spectacular form or vision as men of old had seen and as men usually think of God, the Supreme Universal Being. Jesus was appearing and communicating and living as a mere human being. Philip wanted more than what Jesus was.

Thought 1. What an indictment against men! Men often say, “Jesus is not enough. More is needed. Jesus was a mere man; He could not be *the Son* of God. Perhaps He was *a son* of God in the sense that He was the best man who ever lived, but no more.” Such men walk through life being blind to the great love of God.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Cor 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Eph 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

II. **John 14:09** *Jesus Christ, the Full Embodiment of God*

The revelation was astounding — Jesus was the full embodiment of God. “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” When a man sees Jesus, he sees a Person...

- who is the very nature of God
- who is the very character of God
- who is the very substance of God
- who is the very perfection of God
- who is God in all of His perfect Being

Jesus Christ is not the same Person as God the Father, but He has the same perfect nature. Jesus Christ is God the Son. Therefore, the person who has seen Jesus Christ has seen the Father in all the fullness of the Father’s nature — that person has seen in Jesus the very embodiment of perfection, the perfect embodiment of Being, both perfect love and perfect righteousness.

John 12:45 “When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me.”

John 14:7 “If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

John 16:15 “All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”

Col 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

1 Tim 3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Heb 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Thought 1. Note the emphasis is upon God as Father. Just as an earthly father, God is not distant and far off. He has not created and wound up the world and left it to run on its own, being unconcerned and uncaring. As Father, God is exactly as Jesus showed us...

- loving and just
- full of goodness and truth
- directing and correcting
- giving and helpful
- responsible and accountable
- forgiving and caring

Mat 7:11 “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

John 16:27 “No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.”

Rom 8:15-17 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear; but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1 John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

III. **John 14:10 Mutual Indwelling Presence of God and Christ**

The clear evidence that Jesus was the embodiment of God is threefold.

1. God’s presence was proof that Jesus was the embodiment of God. God was *in* Jesus, and Jesus was *in* God. This can be called the *mutual Indwelling Presence* of God and

Christ, each dwelling in the other. This simply means that each has the nature and being, the Spirit and Mind, of the other. Each has the Presence, the very Being and Spirit, of the other dwelling within Him — *perfectly*.

Note the point Jesus was making. The proof that He was the embodiment of God, that He was the One who came to earth to reveal God, is clear: God's presence is not only *with* Him; God's presence is *in* Him. He Himself is God. He Himself — His Person, His Being, His nature, His character, His love, His care, His just dealings, all that He is — revealed exactly what God is. Note also that Jesus asked Philip a question: "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?"

John 10:30 *"I and the Father are one."*

John 10:37-38 *"Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."*

John 14:10-11 *"Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves."*

John 14:20 *"On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."*

John 17:11 *"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one."*

John 17:21-22 *"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one."*

2. Jesus' words were proof that He was the embodiment of God. His words were the very Words of God which God Himself wanted to say to man. When Jesus spoke, it was the Father who was speaking through Him. Look at His words, His teaching, and His doctrine, and know that He was who He claimed to be: the Son of God Himself, the very embodiment of God. (Jn. 7:16-19)

Mark 13:31 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."*

Luke 4:22 *All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.*

Luke 4:32 *They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.*

John 3:34 *For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.*

John 6:63 *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”*

John 6:68 *Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”*

John 7:16 *Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.”*

John 7:46 *“No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared.*

John 8:51 *“I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”*

John 12:48 *“There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.”*

John 14:23-24 *Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”*

1 Tim 6:3-4 *If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions.*

1 John 2:3 *We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.*

2 John 1:9 *Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.*

3. Jesus’ works were proof that He was the embodiment of God (Jn. 5:19; 5:20; 5:36; See *Jesus Christ Claims Deity*, Jn. 10:25).

JOHN 10:25 JESUS CHRIST CLAIMS DEITY

Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me.” **John 10:25**

Jesus was asked, “If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Just in the last few days the people had heard Him proclaim the truth as forcefully as He could. The problem was not His proclaiming the fact in clear language; the problem was the unbelief of the people. They only pretended not to understand. They understood, but they refused to believe. This is, of course, the problem with most men. In unmistakable terms, Jesus proclaims...

- that His teaching is not His, but God’s (Jn. 7:16-19).

John 7:16 *Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.”*

- that He knows God intimately and was sent from God (Jn. 7:25-31; 8:54-59; 10:14-16).

John 7:29 *“But I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”*

- that He is the Source of life and the One who gives the Holy Spirit to men (Jn. 7:37-39).

John 7:37, 39 *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

- that He is the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12; Jn. 9:5).

John 8:12 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (see John 9:5)*

- that He is the Revelation of God (Jn. 8:19).

John 8:19 *Then they asked him, “Where is your father?” “You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”*

- that He has a different origin from man (see *Incarnation of Jesus Christ*, Jn. 8:23).

John 8:23 *But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”*

- that if a man does not believe in Him, that man will die in his sins (Jn. 23-24).

John 8:24 *“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.”*

- that He is the Spokesman for God (Jn. 8:26).

John 8:26 *“I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”*

- that He is the Son of Man who was to be lifted up on the cross (Jn. 8:28).

John 8:28 *So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.*

- that God never left Him alone; that He never sinned; that He never failed to please God (Jn. 8:29).

John 8:29 *The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”*

- that He came from God (Jn. 8:42-43).

John 8:42 *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.”*

- that He is sinless (Jn. 8:45-47; Jn. 8:29; 8:54-59.)

John 8:45-46 *“Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me?”*

- that He is the Saviour or Deliverer from death; that a man who keeps His Word shall never see death (Jn. 8:51-53; 8:51).

John 8:51 *“I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”*

- that He is the great “I Am” (Jn. 8:54-59).

John 8:58 *“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”*

- that He is the Son of God (Jn. 9:35-38).

John 9:35-37 *Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”*

- that He is the Gate of the sheep (Jn. 10:7-10).

John 10:7, 9 *Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.”*

- that He is the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11-13).

John 10:11, 14 *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” □*

IV. John 14:11 The Claim of Jesus Christ

The clear challenge is forceful — believe the claim of Jesus. He was the embodiment of God. He was *in* the Father, and the Father was *in* Him — perfectly. Jesus was the One whom God sent into the world to show men who He is and what He is like. Jesus Christ was the revelation of God to man, who came to the world to show man that God is “the Father,” the Father who loves and cares, forgives and executes justice. The challenge is to believe Jesus...

- believe in Him as a Person, as the Son of God Himself.
- believe in His claim, that His testimony and witness to Himself is absolutely true.

If a person has difficulty believing His claim, then he should look at His miraculous works: believe Him because of His phenomenal miracles; do whatever is needed to secure the evidence, but believe and accept His claim (See *Belief*, Jn. 2:24).

John 5:36 *“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.”*

John 9:4 *“As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”*

John 10:25 *Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me.”*

John 10:38 *“But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*

John 14:11 *“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”*

John 15:24 *“If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.”*

Acts 2:22 *“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.”*

V. **John 14:12–14** *The Promise to Believers*

The clear promise to those who believe Jesus. There are two promises to the believer. Note the words “I tell you the truth” — words that call one to rouse up and listen closely. What was being said was of tremendous importance.

1. The first promise is the power to do great works: the power to do the very same works that Jesus did. (see *Power for Great Works*, Jn. 14:12.)
2. The second promise is the answer to all prayers. (see *Prayer in Jesus’ Name*, Jn. 14:13-14.) ■

JOHN 14:12 WORKS OF A GENUINE BELIEVER

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” **John 14:12**

This is a surprising statement. It is a great promise: the believer will do the very same things or works and even greater works than Jesus did. Note three facts.

1. The genuine believer will do the same kind of work that Jesus did, work that is characterized...
 - by loving and caring
 - by ministering and healing

- by proclaiming and teaching
- by witnessing and testifying
- by sharing and discipling
- by helping and performing miracles

The believer will work, doing all he can to demonstrate the love of God in order to lead men to a saving knowledge of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Mat 20:28 *“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Luke 19:10 *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

John 20:21 *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

2. The genuine believer will work hard for the very same purpose as Jesus did. He will work...

- to show men the love and justice of God
- to help men in all their need
- to lead men to believe the Son of God that they might be saved and delivered from sin, death, and hell.

Mat 28:19-20 *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Mark 16:15 *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”*

2 Tim 2:2-3 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*

3. The genuine believer will do even greater things or works than Jesus did. This means that the true servant of God will reach more people and have broader results than Jesus did. The whole world would eventually hear, and an impact would be made upon many societies and nations as a whole. But note the crucial point.

⇒ Greater works are possible only through Jesus, only because He has gone to His Father and is sitting at the right hand of the Father. From there — from the throne of power — He equips and enables the believer to do the works. The believer is able to do great works only through the presence and power of Jesus who is with the Father. (Mt. 28:19-20)

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Acts 4:33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

Eph 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

1 Th 1:5 Because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. □

JOHN 14:13–14 PRAYER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” John 14:13-14

This is one of the most wonderful promises in all the Bible. God hears the prayers of the dear believer. Note three points.

1. The only prayers heard and answered are those asked “in Jesus’ name.” What does it mean to pray “in Jesus’ name”? It means two things.
 - a. The believer prays knowing that...
 - the only acceptance to God is in Jesus. God hears the believer only because Jesus is acceptable to Him and the believer comes in the name of Jesus.
 - the only Mediator between God and men is Jesus; therefore, the believer approaches God in the name of Jesus.
 - the only Intercessor before God, the only Person asking God to accept man is Jesus.
 - the only Person, the only name that is perfect enough to approach God is Jesus; therefore, the believer prays in the name of Jesus.

Jesus the Mediator represents God before men and men before God. In Latin the word for mediator is *pontifex*. It means bridge builder.

- b. The believer seeks to glorify the name of Jesus only. To pray “in His name” means that the believer asks only those things that will...
 - honour His name
 - praise His name
 - bring glory to His name
 - lead to His name being lifted up

It means that the believer will ask nothing that would detract, lower, or lead away from His name.

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

John 16:23-24 “In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

2. Note why Jesus answers the prayers of the believer. His purpose is to glorify God. When Jesus answers prayer, not only is the Father glorified, but so is Jesus. The power and wisdom, love and care shown in answered prayer are of God through the name of Jesus. Therefore, when the believer prays and receives what he asked for...
 - his attention is upon both the Father and the Son.
 - his praise and thanksgiving are heaped upon both the Father and the Son.
 - his loyalty and surrender to both the Father and the Son are deeper and more mature.

Col 1:12-14 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Th 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

2 Cor 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Heb 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Psa 29:2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.

Psa 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

3. Jesus said that the believer is to pray to Him as well as to God. Jesus said, “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” Jesus is claiming to be God, to have...

- the wisdom and knowledge,
- the power and ability,
- the love and care,
- the desire and willingness,

... to do anything. A phenomenal claim! Yet it is a reasonable claim for the Son of God.

John 14:10 “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

Mat 21:22 “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

John 14:13-14 “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

John 15:7 “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him. □