

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. □*