

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 sharing and discipling
- by witnessing and testifying
- 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. □