

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

35) Spiritual Union

'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know'
(John 14:1-4)

- ✓ **Jesus never promised a life without trouble, but an untroubled heart in the midst of trouble**
- ✓ **His exhortation was not an empty 'Don't worry'. It had substance; faith in the Father and in Him**
- ✓ **Look at the big picture. He has gone to prepare a place for us. 'Mansions,' literally 'abiding-places'**
- ✓ **He takes responsibility for our arriving there**
- ✓ **Jesus prepared a place for us by has procuring our right to enter Heaven by His death. He has entered Heaven as our forerunner, *'This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek'* (Heb.6:19-20)**

- ✓ **We were not made for Heaven, but for earth. By sinning we lost the earth. Jesus both restored earth and opened Heaven to us. As He prepares a place for us, He also prepares us for that place**
- ✓ **The Lord will not send for us, but will return to take us there. *'I will receive you to Myself', literally, 'you will be face to face with Me'. To depart this life is to be with Christ. Heaven is to be where Jesus is. 'For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words'* (1 Thes.4:16-18)**

'Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him"'

(John 14:5-7)

- ✓ **Thomas was very honest and expressed his not understanding of where Jesus was going, or how to get there**
- ✓ **Jesus didn't give a formula for knowing the way but pointed to Himself. There is a difference between giving directions to a destination and taking us there**
- ✓ **He is the way to God, the truth about Him (Col.2:3), and He is the one who gives eternal life, through His death. For Adam's race, life ends in death. For those in Christ, death leads to life**

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'Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves'

(John 14:8-11)

- ✓ **Philip asks to see the Father. Jesus replied that He and the Father are One. To see Jesus is to behold the Father. The only Person who can correctly reveal God, must be God Himself. 'No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him' (John 1:18)**
- ✓ **Jesus is in the Father and the Father in Him. Though fully God, yet He lived on earth in His humanity in total dependence upon the Father. In this way He taught us spiritual union'. 'At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you' (John 14:20) '...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us' (Jn.17:21)**

- ✓ **Jesus explains that His words and works are the result of this union. The spiritual fruit of a person's life indicate that they are in Christ and He is in them. If the disciples are struggling to believe the words of Jesus, that He is in the Father and the Father in Him, they should look at the works He did and believe on account of these. *'Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing'* (Jn.9:31-33). **Jesus revealed the Father in His words and works. 'And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people"'** (Lk.24:19-20)**

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it'

(John 14:12-14)

***Those who believe and abide in Him will do greater things**

***This is because He has gone to the Father. Jesus would soon explain that when He ascended to heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit. 'Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.'" And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness' (Acts 4:29-31)**

***The power of Christ would be experienced by all His disciples through prayer in His name. He had shown a great example of this in His own life**

***What is meant by asking in the name of Christ?**

1) It means that we pray in His person, that is, as fully identified with Him

2) it means that we pray in the merits of Jesus

3) it means that we pray only for that which is according to His will and for His glory. To pray in Christ's name is to seek what He seeks, to promote what He has at heart

***'You did not choose Me, but I chose you
and appointed you that you should go and bear
fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that
whatever you ask the Father in My name He may
give you'
(Jn.15:16)***

***'And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most
assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the
Father in My name He will give you. Until now you
have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will
receive, that your joy may be full'
(John 16:23-24)***