

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

**36) Introduced into
God's Circle of Love**

'If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you'

(John 14:15-18)

- ✓ **Keeping Jesus' commandments is a reference to faith in Him and love for others.** *'And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment'* **(1 Jn.3:22-23)**
- ✓ **This is what He has been teaching in the upper room. After the foot-washing He said, 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another'** **(John 13:34).** **He also taught them to believe in Him, 'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me'** **(John 14:1)**

- ✓ **For the first time in this gospel Jesus speaks of their love for Him**
- ✓ **The real test of love is not emotion or sentiment, but obedience**
- ✓ **There is a vital link between our love for Him and obedience to Him** *'He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words (14:21, 23). 'You are My friends if you do whatever I command you' (John 15:14)*

- ✓ **We will need the Holy Spirit for this. In response to Jesus' request the Father will give the Holy Spirit to His disciples. The Holy Spirit had already twice been promised in this gospel (1:33; 7:37-39). Now, 4 times in these upper room discourses Jesus promises the Spirit**
- ✓ **He will be given as our helper. The word 'helper' is *parakletos*, literally a person summoned alongside to help. This may be in the form of an advisor, counsellor, etc.**
- ✓ **Jesus had been their *parakletos* on earth. Now He would be their *parakletos* in heaven, 'My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous' (1 John 2:1)**

- ✓ **The Holy Spirit would now continue that role on earth. One will plead our case with God; the other will plead God's case with them. What Jesus is bearing witness to the Father in heaven, the Spirit is bearing witness to the Father's agreement with us on earth**
- ✓ **So, as our Counsellor, He teaches us what to say and what not to say concerning ourselves**
- ✓ **He is 'another' (allon) of the same kind. The Holy Spirit's presence would be the same as Jesus being with us**
- ✓ **Thus, we would never be alone as orphans. He will abide with us forever, *'I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you'***

- ✓ **The Holy Spirit already dwelt *with* the Eleven, for Christ was full of the Spirit (Luke 4:1; John 3:34). He would later be in them. This was fulfilled when Jesus breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit, when they were regenerated and born again (John 20:22)**
- ✓ **Every Christian has all there is of the Holy Spirit. The question is, does He have all of us? That is why there are varying degrees of the manifestation of the Spirit in Christians**
- ✓ **The world cannot receive the Spirit. The oil could not be applied where the blood had not come**
- ✓ **The Spirit of truth is not popular in an age of lies, and therefore the world does not know Him**

'A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him'

(John 14:19-21)

- ✓ **The last time the world saw Jesus was when He hung upon the Cross. After His resurrection He appeared to none but His own. The world will see Him again at the Second Coming, (Rev.1:7)**
- ✓ **The coming of the Spirit would mark a new intimate relationship with God. Divine love is the essence of God and the basis of spiritual union. *The Father loves the Son, 'The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand' (John 3:35). 'For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does' (John 5:20)***
- ✓ **And the Son loves the Father, as is evidenced by His obedience to Him**
- ✓ **We are brought into this circle of divine love**

- ✓ **The Father and the Son love us and this is manifest in His giving His Son to die for us, *'In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins'* (1 Jn.4:9-10)**
- ✓ **This love is communicated to us by the Spirit, *'...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us* (Rom.5:5)**
- ✓ **This enables us to love Him in response, and to love one another**

***Our love in response to this is evidenced by obedience, 'Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome' (1 Jn.5:1-3)**

***So, His love to us is first. We respond with love evidenced by obedience; and greater love and manifestation is given by the Father to us**

'Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me'

(John 14:22-24)

***Judas asked why He would manifest Himself to certain individuals and not to the world, in a Messianic sense**

***This manifestation follows obedience to His commandments. Obedience is rewarded.
Rev.3:20**

'These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, "I am going away and coming back to you." If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, "I am going to the Father," for My Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe'

(John 14:25-29)

***It is by the Holy Spirit that Jesus' presence and that of the Father, would be manifest**

***Just as Jesus revealed the Father, so the Spirit will reveal the Son to us. He will teach us all things by way of remembrance and revelation.
E.g. John 2:22**

***Their training was not finished when Jesus left, but would be continued by the Helper, the Holy Spirit**

***'Shalom' is a greeting of Jews, spoken when they met and when parting. Jesus left the same peace with His disciples that He demonstrated as He faced the cross. Jesus not only gives His peace, but also His joy, and His love, Jn.15:9-11**

'I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here'
(John 14:30-31)

***Jesus does not have time to share many things with them now because the ruler of this world is coming**

***His temptation in the wilderness was not His final encounter with Satan. He knew he was preparing another confrontation with Jesus through the betrayal and up to the cross**

***But Jesus was confident that he would have nothing to charge Him with. Satan could find something in Noah, Abraham, David, Peter. But Jesus was the Lamb without blemish. Satan would have no claim upon Him**

***In fact the ruler of this world is about to meet his downfall, Jn.16:11**