

Mission Incredible.

Introduction

A few weeks ago, I preached an Easter Sermon and spoke of the world transforming moment when God the Father poured out all of His wrath on God the Son. And what it means when we say He Is Risen..

But I also, in that sermon, mentioned one of the objections that non believers have when it come to the truth that Jesus claimed. Jesus made it very clear that He is the only way to get to God. We are going to look at that passage and that question today. Jesus has a moment with His disciples where He begins to share with them something that they had never dreamed possible.

This man, Jesus, who they had come to know as God...the Messiah...the Promised one....Who had promised to always be with them....was leaving them. We take that for granted since we have the gospels and God's truth...but to them....Immanuel...God with us....was leaving? Let's look at the context of Jn 14.

Sometimes in the Bible, the placement of paragraphs or Chapters help us to put the Scriptures in context. This does not occur with the Chapter break in John 14.

Chapter 14 is actually a continuation of the discussion that Jesus is having with Peter at the end of Chapter 13

Simon Peter has just declared that he would lay down his life for Him. Then the Lord Jesus told him that he would deny Him three times by the time the rooster crowed in the morning. We will see later that, when the rooster crowed that morning, Simon Peter had denied Him three times. Still speaking to Simon Peter, Jesus was instructing Peter on how to deal with the outcome of what he was about to do.

Peter was going to deny Jesus three times and Jesus wanted to show him how to get through that dark night of denial and to bring him back into a right relationship with God. It was given to comfort him. This chapter has cushioned the shock for multitudes of people from that day right down to us today. Let's dive into God's perfect truth.

John 14:1-4 (ESV) 1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

The disciples are experiencing extreme anxiety. The reason is that Jesus has informed them he is about to leave them . Their whole world had been so wrapped up with Jesus over the last few years that the prospect of his departure must have been devastating. The image he uses for them is 'orphans'. Emotionally they can only contemplate the loss of Jesus as like a child's loss of its parents

He had asked them to invest their whole future in following him and they had made the commitment he demanded. If they thought of the future at all during these years it was in terms of sharing the glory of his coming reign . A future without Jesus comes as a shattering prospect, despite his repeated attempts to prepare them for such an eventuality

A further cause of anxiety was Jesus' foretelling Peter's denial. It is not difficult to imagine the others arguing that if Peter was not going to stand the coming test, what hope had they?

Jesus is comforting Peter. Yes you will disappoint me, yes you will deny me, yes you will disappoint yourself....but believe in God...and since we are the same...believe in me. I will never abandon you Peter...You will deny me...but I will never deny you.

Notice that Jesus says...Believe in...not believe...When John talks about saving faith, there is always a preposition with it. The faith is not inactive, not passive; it is to believe into or to believe upon or to believe in. It is an active faith, which is trust. We believe in a lot of things that we don't trust. I can believe that humans can walk on a tight wire above a canyon....but I am not going to do it. I don't trust it or me.

Jesus addresses these 'troubled hearts' by urging them, first of all, to have faith. The answer to trouble is trust

Jesus wants Peter to know that the kind of faith required for salvation is a faith that drives total trust...and that believe drives complete surrender. We only surrender to that which we trust. It is an action verb.

You apparently believe that your car can bring you to church... You are told that that machine can hurl you down the interstate at 70mph riding on air in 4 tires of various inflations and treads...combusting flammable gasoline just feet from your body...with a radiator full of boiling water under pressure...trusting that the carbon monoxide will actually leave the car...sometimes driving in dangerous weather....and all while those next to you are in the same kind of machine...checking texts, applying makeup, and apparently not really looking at their mirrors...and yet you trusted that process to get you here. You have incredible faith in that process and you acted upon it to get you here today. You might actually trust that process to get back home today.

The crazy part is that we trust that process to the point that we never really think about it anymore. We have trusted so many times and seen that machine deliver us safely that we almost drive subconsciously in total peace.

Jesus is telling Peter...saving faith is like that. You trust in me....your faith is in me...You are saved because you not only believe me....but you believe IN me.

You believe in God, believe also in me... is a clear-cut statement of our Lord that He is God. I know people who claims that Jesus did not claim to be God and I always suggest that they should actually read the Bible before commenting on it. Jesus, on multiple occasions claimed full deity and He was so clear about it that they killed Him for claiming to be God...His charge was Blasphemy..... I'd like to know what He is saying here in this first verse if He is not making Himself equal with God. His statement makes something very clear right here.

To believe in God means you are not an atheist, but to be a Christian, you must have personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is now going to fill in some brand new details for them

John 14:1-4 (ESV) 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Let's establish, first of all, what the Father's house is; the Father's house from a first century Jewish perspective is this vast universe that you and I live in today. We are living on one of the very minor, smallest planets. We're just a speck in space. We live in the Father's house.

First, men thought of the earth with the stars up there like electric light bulbs screwed in the top of the universe. Then men began to explore and found that we are in a solar system, that we are actually a minor planet going around the sun, and that there are quite a few other planets "tripping the light fantastic" around the sun with us. We, together with other solar systems, are in a galactic system, and when you look up at the Milky Way, you see the other side of our galactic system.

If we could move out far enough, we would find other galactic systems that make ours look like it is just a peanut in space. We are told that our nearest neighbor, Andromeda, is something like 2,000,000 light years away from us.

Even these galactic systems are not the end of space at all. Beyond them, they find what they call quasars. The reason the astronomers call them quasars is because that is a German word meaning they don't know what they are. They have found them through the radio telescopes like they have on the Mojave Desert.

They have an even bigger telescope over in England, and they have found that beyond these quasars are other—well, they don't know what they are—so the British have come up with the very fine scientific term, "blops," and so they call them blops

We simply do not know how vast this universe is. It may be an infinite universe. If there is an infinite universe, there must be an infinite God.

I think there was a wry smile on His face when He said that. He is the One who made them, and He knew how many there were out there. We don't know and may never know.

This is where they see something unique in the universe. They knew something about God's wisdom and His person and His power, but they knew nothing about His love until the second Person of the Trinity came down to this earth and died on the Cross. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son! There is a display of God's love on this earth.

You and I think we are pretty valuable. I don't want to offend anybody, friend, but do you know the human race isn't worth saving? God could very easily brush us off this little earth and start over again. He could speak the earth and us out of existence and very little would be missing. But then He wouldn't be demonstrating His love. He would be demonstrating justice and righteousness but not love.

God loves us. That is the amazing thing and the most wonderful thing in the world. God loves us! He loves you and me, not because we are worth loving, but He loves us in spite of the fact that we are absolutely, totally depraved. We belong to that kind of human race. If you deny that, look around you. Unless there is something radically wrong with

the human family, how could a civilization that reached such heights tumble as far as we have gone in two or three decades?

Many translations use the term mansion in this verse. I think the translated word here of mansion is unfortunate. It gives us the image of a big house in Beverly Hills...The Greek word is *mone* meaning “abiding places.” Jesus is saying that this vast universe is filled with abiding places or places to live. In this vast universe, I have abiding places for those who trust in Me.

“If it were not so, I would have told you.” The Lord Jesus puts His entire reputation on the line here, and you either believe Him or you don’t believe Him, my friend. “I go to prepare a place for you.” You only prepare a place for someone if you are confident of their arrival. Jesus could only say this to the group after Judas had left. He would not go to prepare a place for Judas—at least not a place in His Father’s house.

This is incredible. This vast universe is filled with so many places; yet He has gone to prepare a place for those who are His own.

The entire focus of heaven is being reunited with Jesus. Heaven is heaven not because of streets of gold, or pearly gates, or even the presence of angels. Heaven is heaven because Jesus is there. We have images of mansions, but the only guarantee of Heaven is that Jesus will be there and He will reign there. If you could have all of the riches you dream of for all of eternity and Jesus was not there, would you want to go?

Right now, Jesus is preparing a place for all of us who belong to Him. No one can occupy it but us. Knowing that my Savior is preparing a place for me changes everything. Instead of thinking about dying...I just think one day, Jesus will say, Frank your room is ready...and I will leave the lobby of this world and finally go home.

John 14:1–4 (ESV) 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.”

This is the first time in the Bible where you find a mention of God taking anyone off this earth to go away to a place that He has prepared. This was not the hope of the Old Testament saint. God never promised Abraham to take him to a place. God told him He would make his offspring as numerous as the stars, but the promise to Abraham was to give him an eternal home on this earth. The hope of the Old Testament was for a kingdom down here on this earth in which would dwell peace and righteousness. This is the fulfillment of God’s purpose for this earth

The expression “the Kingdom of Heaven” means the reign of God over this earth. That is God’s earthly purpose, and He is moving undeviatingly, unhesitatingly, and uncompromisingly toward the day when He puts His own Son upon the throne here on earth. That will be the Kingdom of Heaven. The fulfillment of an Old Testament promise that we now call the Millennial Kingdom. That is God’s earthly purpose; it is the hope of the Old Testament.

The disciples are startled when Jesus reveals that He is going to take a people—beginning with the apostles—off this earth to be with Christ in the place that He is preparing for them. This is the first time it is mentioned, but it is not the last time.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (ESV) 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Revelation 21:1–4 (ESV) 1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Jesus is attempting to lift them from the here-and-now to the hereafter, from the material to the spiritual, from the earthly to the heavenly. Jesus tells them two things: the destination, which is the "where," and soon He will tell them how to go.

John 14:5–7 (ESV) 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

We call him doubting Thomas. He seems always to be asking a question or raising a doubt. He is one who always seems to demand truth. He desires proof and weighs everything. He is the antithesis of Peter who boldly speaks without thinking. I think he demonstrates great faith in the love of Jesus because he is always willing to ask about what he does not understand. Too many just keep quiet because they don't trust and feel safe with their questions.

I am really glad that he was there and that he asked the question, because it is a good question. I hope I would have wanted to ask it if I had been there. If he hadn't asked the question, we would never have had our Lord's wonderful answer, which is the gospel in a nutshell.

John 14:5–7 (ESV) 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus said, "I am the way." He is not just a person who shows the way, but He, personally, is the way. No church or ceremony can bring you to God. Only Christ can bring you to God. He is the way. Either you have Christ or you don't have Him; either you trust Him or you don't

Jesus did not say, I know the way...I am one of the ways...He says...I AM...a term for God...The...singular...way...to where? The Father.

Jesus said He is the way the truth and the life. Odd that in a very short time from this statement, Jesus' way would be the cross; He would be convicted by blatant liars who deceive truth; His body would soon lie lifeless in a tomb. But because of all those things, He is the way to God; He is the truth; because He was willing to die for us He is life to us.

Jesus suffered the cross, the lies and His life to give us all three as a gift. He is the way. He is the Truth and He alone is the Life. Not traits of His...His very essence.

Also Jesus said that He is the truth. He isn't saying that He tells the truth, He literally embodies truth. In all of his words, His actions, His thoughts, His very existence. What is truth? Jesus. Where do you

find truth? Jesus. What is the sole source of truth, Jesus. Pilate would soon ask Jesus....What is truth? And He was standing right in front of Him. Jesus is the word...Truth. He gave us the Holy Scriptures...Truth. You cannot separate truth from Jesus. They are one in the same. Not I know truth. I AM Truth.

And He is the life. He isn't simply stating that He is alive. He is the source, the origin of life from the lowest vegetable plane of life to the highest spiritual plane of life. He created everything. He spoke creation into existence. He literally breathed the Holy Spirit into His disciples. He created you and me in the womb. He is life. What is life? Jesus. He overcame death...so that we could have life and have it abundantly .You have life if you have Jesus. You have death without Him. I AM the Life.

And in case that is not clear enough....He says No one...comes to the Father except through Me. I am the way, the truth and the life.

Simply put, if Jesus is not the only way to God, then He is not any way to God. If there are many roads to God, then Jesus is not one of them, because He absolutely claimed there was only one road to God, and He Himself was that road. If Jesus is not the only way to God, then He was not a honest man; He was most certainly not a true prophet. He then would either be a madman or a lying devil. There is no middle ground available to us.

In the Garden of Gesthemene, the night before His death, Jesus prayed if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Jesus asked the Father if there was any other way to accomplish the salvation of man other than His suffering and dying on the cross, other than Him drinking the "cup" representing the wrath of God poured out upon Him in our place, let it be so. But there was no other way.

Jesus clicked the delete button on all the cults, religions, and human belief systems. He says the only way to God is through Him. That is a inflexible unwavering defining statement. People today tell us that the Bible is too rigid, too inflexible, and too exclusionary for today's enlightened man...and they often point to this verse... They claim that we are rigid, dogmatic, and arrogant- unwilling to waver or reconsider truth. Then I try to remind them that truth must be inflexible and unwavering...that is why it is an eternal truth. It never changes, never adjusts....truth is true. You can't change it.

Mrs McClellan, was my third grade teacher... she was the most dogmatic, narrow-minded person I've ever met. She insisted that 2 plus 2 = 4. It didn't make any difference what you had two of—apples or cows or dollars—she always insisted that 2 + 2 = 4. She was totally inflexible and unyielding. No matter how many people tried to tell here otherwise, she was doggedly unwavering. Why because truth is unwavering. Truth is unchangeable. Truth has no gray zones. Truth will always be true in all worlds, all circumstances and will stand against all other opinions. We can't bend, shape or water it down. 2=2=4 and Jesus is truth.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. After the cross, all authority in Heaven and Earth was given to Him by the Father. He took God's wrath on that Cross and He offers to take our place and deliver us from death. The gospel message in 9 Words.....and then Jesus stamps it with another truth...No one comes to the Father except through me.

No one chooses to go the Hell without stepping over the body of Jesus and what He did on the cross and deciding that it means nothing to them. He is the way...it is narrow....but it is available to all..

John 14:7–9 (ESV) 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

Philip was a very quiet individual, the opposite from wack a mole Peter. I think he spoke very seldom. He has a Greek name and some Bible students believe that he was a Greek. However, he could have been Jewish and still have a Greek name. He is a very unusual man because every time we meet him he is bringing someone to Jesus

Remember that he brought Nathanael. I’ve often wondered about that. Philip was the quiet man and Nathanael was the wisecracker. Philip was the straight man and Nathanael was the comedian. But quiet Philip brings people to Jesus. Remember that the Greeks came to him, wanting to see Jesus. Philip asks 4 words that are the highest desire that any man can ever have....“show us the Father.”

Think about that for a moment. What is the greatest aspiration of your life? What do you desire above all else? What do you dream about? What do you hope for? What burns in your heart that eclipses all else? The highest goal of all is this expressed by Philip, “Lord, show us the Father.”

John 14:9 (ESV) 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Philip knew from the Old Testament that Moses had seen the glory of God and that Isaiah had a vision of the glory of God. I don’t think that we should interpret Jesus’ answer as a rebuke. He tells Philip that He has performed many miracles. Although Philip had not seen the glory of God as Moses or Isaiah did, he had seen Jesus and had witnessed His words and His works

Everything that Philip wished to see, he had seen in Jesus Christ. He had seen God. In Christ there is a much greater revelation of God than anything in the Old Testament. Philip had the greatest revelation of God because he had seen Him incarnate in flesh and been with Him—in His presence—for three years

Hebrews 1:1–3 (ESV) 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

“He who has seen me has seen the Father” does not mean you are seeing the identical Person, but you are seeing the same Person in power, in character, in love, and in everything else. You have seen all you would see in God the Father...because God is Spirit and Jesus is the same.

John 4:24 (ESV) 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

John 1:17–18 (ESV) 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

It is Jesus Christ whom we see. We are going to spend all eternity with Him. For those of us who love Him, the goal of our lives is to come to know Him.

John 14:10-11 (ESV) 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Not only is Jesus the Way the Truth and Life...And not only can no one come to the Father but through Him, Jesus states what should have been obvious to the Disciples.

If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. He states that the Father is in Him and He is in the Father. They are one and the same. He begins to explain the enigma that is the Trinity of God. Jesus' every action, word and thought came from the Father.

Have you ever noticed that the Lord Jesus never appealed to His own mind and His own will to make a decision? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. When He spoke, it was the will of the Father. All His works were the will of the Father. So He tells Philip that when he heard the words of Jesus, he was hearing the words of the Father and, when he saw the works of Jesus, he was seeing the Father working through Jesus. And Jesus knows that is hard to believe. So He tells them...

Jesus says that if you can't believe Him because of His words, then believe Him because of His works. They should convince you. We have seen throughout the Gospel of John that Jesus did what only God could do.

He healed people, presumably cursed from birth by God...doing only what God could do. He spoke and storms ceased...doing only what God can do...He calls a man out of his tomb on the 4th day...doing only what God can do...He spoke of things yet to come...doing only what God can do...He read people's thoughts...doing only what God can do...He reattached ears, He cured leprosy, He brought people back from death, He loved the unlovable, He died for the lowest, and He stepped out of His own grave...doing only what God can do.

He tells them, if you don't believe my words...believe what I have done. You will see God the Father either way.

John 14:12–14 (ESV) 12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

When our Lord was down here on this earth, He performed tremendous works and miracles. These apostles to whom He spoke did the same things. They healed the sick and raised the dead. Yet Jesus says that those who believe on Him will do greater. What is the greater thing which they shall do?

Simon Peter, who had denied Him on the night He was arrested, preached a sermon on the Day of Pentecost and 3000 people became believers

When Jesus Christ was on earth, He performed the miracle of raising the physical bodies of men, but we have the privilege of preaching Jesus Christ so that men, body and soul, may live eternally. The supreme accomplishment is to bring men and women into a right relationship with God.

How are these greater works done? "Because I go unto my Father." You see, it is Christ who is still working, but today He is working through His followers who He will empower with the Holy Spirit. He works through frail human clay, human flesh. I am amazed that I can give a Bible message and there are people who turn to Christ. If Jesus Christ were here speaking to people, it would be a great work. When Jesus Christ takes you and me and millions of other believers and uses us to reach people millions of lost souls.... that is greater.

Have you noticed how often Jesus speaks of His Father? The Father is mentioned twenty times in this passage, and it is always the Lord Jesus who mentions Him. We should mention Jesus as much as Jesus mentions the Father.

John 14:13–14 (ESV) 13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

These verses have been so misunderstood. A great many people have picked this up like a dog picks up a bone and runs with it. They say they prayed and God just didn't answer their prayer. I've had Christian people tell me that they took that verse at face value. They prayed and God didn't answer their prayer. They ask me what is wrong. I tell them that they are reading something into the verse that is not there at all. They need to keep on reading. This is all tied into one package. Look at the next verse.

John 14:15 (ESV) 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Now let us consider what all three of these verses say.

John 14:12–15 (ESV) 12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in

my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Truly Truly repeated...Jewish way for making it bold and highlighting it. I...truth...says to you...You have seen all that I can do..here in Galilee....wait until you see millions of Spirit empowered people share my story and truth with the entire world.

Greater is not "more sensational" but greater in magnitude. Jesus will leave behind a victorious, working church, not a cowering one

It is the universal preaching of the gospel. The 'greater works' therefore are the works of the greater mission in 'Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth'. " 'Greater works'" means more conversions. There is no greater work possible than the conversion of a soul. God determines effectively based on our eternal destination.

What does it mean to ask in the name of Christ? To pray in His Person means to be standing in His place. It means to be fully identified with Him, joined to Christ. It means that you and I are pleading the merits of His Son when we stand before God. We have no standing of our own before God at all. So we stand with His truth...We align ourselves with Him and then through Him with the Father.

He does not hear my prayer because I am a pastor, and He does not hear your prayer because you are who you are. He hears our prayers when they are in the name of Christ. We can't ask things contrary to Jesus in His name and expect God to respond. We first align our desires with Him and then ask Him to consider our heart and our request. This is not just a little phrase that we tag on to the end of our prayer closing with "in Jesus' name." Praying in His name is presenting it in His merit and for His glory.

A prayer that will enable God to be glorified in the Son is the prayer that He will answer. So, when we pray in the name of Jesus and for the glory of God, we are not praying for something selfishly for ourselves. We are praying for Him. We are praying that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Also it depends on our obedience to Christ. Jesus says that those who love Him follow His commandments. The evidence of their love is the keeping of His commandments. Love will be demonstrated by obedience to Christ. An undisciplined Christian cannot say that he loves the Lord Jesus

We all need to recognize, friend, that obedience to Him is the evidence of our love for Him, and this promise is given to those who love Him.

John 14:16–17 (ESV) 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:16 is one of the verses in the Bible that shows the underlying theme of the Trinity. God the Son prays to God the Father that He might send God the Holy Spirit to us

He will give you another Helper: Helper translates the ancient Greek word "parakletos." This means "a person summoned to one's aid," and may refer to an advisor, a legal defender, a mediator, or an intercessor

Another Helper: The word "another" is the ancient Greek word "allos," meaning "another of the same kind" not another of a different kind. Just as Jesus shows the nature of God the Father, so the Holy Spirit—being "another of the same kind"—will show the nature of Jesus.

This is a unique fact of this age in which we are living. The Holy Spirit was here on earth before Pentecost, but on the Day of Pentecost He came to indwell believers. That was the thing which was new.

"Holy" and "Spirit" describe Him, but Comforter is His name, if He has a name. It is a very fitting name, as com means "along side of" and fortis means "strong." He is the strong One who abides with us forever.

Jesus will give the Holy Spirit that He (a person, not a thing) may abide in us permanently, not temporarily (as in the Old Testament).

He does not say that the world would not receive the Spirit of truth. He says the world cannot receive Him. Oh, if we could only nail this one down. The Spirit of God can take the Word of God and open it to the believer, but the unsaved man must first believe in Jesus Christ as his Savior

The man of the world cannot see Him because He is seen and worshiped in spirit and truth. He is seen with the spiritual eye. It is only by the Spirit of God that these eyes and ears can be opened to understand the Word of God. I say this all the time. I have never saved any one. This church has never saved anyone. Salvation belongs to the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the teacher to lead and guide us into truth. Without Him, the Bible becomes a book of history, a book of facts.

The Holy Spirit teaches the truths of the Bible. The Holy Spirit has been in the world, but Jesus says that now He "shall be in you."

John 14:18–21 (ESV) 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

The Greek word for comfortless is orphanos which means "orphans." Jesus says that He will not leave us orphans but will come to us in the person of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever thought about

or been an orphan? Walking this earth without the guidance of your parents?...living as one who does not have the security of that loving relationship?...Needing love but not finding it....Questioning your value and why you haven't been adopted? That is the life of those who do not have the Holy Spirit. Orphans with a God who is searching for them

Jesus through the Holy Spirit lives in us...God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit....and Us...all together the way it was to be before Sin changed us.

What is "that day?" It is the day you and I are living in. It is the day that began with Pentecost.

"You in me, and I in you" is the most profound statement in the Gospel of John or in the whole Bible. They are all monosyllabic words so that a little child can understand them; yet no philosopher can plumb the depths of their meaning.

"You in Me"—that is salvation. To be saved means to be in Christ. That is why Peter says that the obedient step of those who believe is baptism. Baptism means identification, and it means to be identified with Christ. God sees everyone as either in Christ or out of Christ. You are either in Him by faith or you are out of Him with your sins still upon you. If you are in Christ, then God sees you in Christ, and His righteousness is your righteousness. You stand complete in Him

"I in you"—is sanctification. That is Christian living down here. Is Christ living in you? Paul said...

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The more we surrender..the more He changes us so that we can surrender more. The Holy Spirit literally and spiritually chiseling us into something new. With God in us...we have to change...The Holy Spirit not only does the work but gives us more faith to allow it.

Don't say that you love Christ if you are not obeying Him. He is making this very clear here. Jesus is going to manifest Himself to the one who loves Him. Don't think this will be a manifestation by a vision. Later He says that it is the Holy Spirit who will take the things of Jesus and show them to you. Where does He do this? In the Scriptures. That is where Jesus is manifested.

Closing

Jesus stunned His disciples by stating that He was going away and yet would be more with them than He has ever been. We live on the back end of that Blessing. We who believe...truth...in Jesus have the Holy Spirit in us doing greater things than Jesus did alone. We have been given incredible power. For an incredible mission.

We with Jesus in us can say, He is MY Way...MY Truth...and MY Life...and I will come to the Father only Through Him. No longer an orphan, but rather a child of God. A child of the Living God! Let's Pray.

