

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## JOHN 14.15-31



**T. M. Moore**

*A Scriptorium Study*

*And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,*

*He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24.27*

**The Fellowship of Ailbe**

The Gospel of John: John 14.15-31  
Copyright 2017 T. M. and Susie Moore  
Susie Moore, Editing and Finishing  
The Fellowship of Ailbe  
[www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org)

*Except as indicated, Scripture taken from the New King James Version. © Copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. All psalms for singing adapted from The Ailbe Psalter. All quotations from Church Fathers from Ancient Christian Commentary Series IV a and b: John, edited by Joel C. Elowsky, General Editor Thomas C. Oden (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2006. Verse translation of John by T. M. Moore.*

## Introduction to *John 14.15-31*

Jesus continues to instruct His disciples concerning what they should expect in the days to come. He is leaving, but He is not leaving them alone.

The Holy Spirit is the Lord's great promise. He is our Helper and Teacher, and the Power we need to live as witnesses for Christ. The salvation Jesus has gained for us is bestowed and unpacked by the Spirit of God.

As we look to the future, we need to hold fast to the words of Jesus, including all He has taught us about the Holy Spirit. For without Him, we cannot follow Jesus where He leads.

Please visit our website, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org), to discover the many other resources available to serve your needs. The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Visit our website also to subscribe to our worldview study *ReVision*, our devotional newsletter *Crosfigell*.

If you find these studies, or any of our other resources helpful, we hope you will consider making a contribution to help support our work. You can do so by using the donate button at the website or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

T. M. Moore, Principal  
[tmmoore@ailbe.org](mailto:tmmoore@ailbe.org)

## 1 The Promise of the Spirit

*Read and meditate on John 14.15-18.*

Jesus laid some pretty heavy expectations on His disciples, but He would not leave them to their own strength to fulfill what He commanded. He will ask the Father, Who will send the Holy Spirit, so that the disciples of Jesus can fulfill His mission for them.

*<sup>15</sup>If you love Me, then keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup>I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, and He will abide with you forever. <sup>17</sup>Though the world cannot receive Him, since it knows Him not, nor sees Him – the Spirit of truth – but you know Him, for He dwells in you, and in you abides. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you orphans, friends; I will come to you.”*

- John 14.15-18

*Reflect*

1. How can we know if we love Jesus? Meditate on Matthew 22.34-40, Matthew 5.17-19, and John 13.34, 35. Which commandments? Complete this prayer: *Lord Jesus, Your commandments are clear. Help me to learn and love them, so that...*

2. Jesus said that the Spirit would be His disciples' *Helper*. Meditate on Ezekiel 36.26, 27, Acts 1.8, and Ephesians 2.19-22. Helping us to do what? *I need the help of Your Spirit every day, Lord, as I...*

3. Jesus claimed that He is the truth, and He said the Spirit is the Spirit of truth (v. 17). Meditate on 2 Corinthians 3.12-18. Why has the Spirit been given to believers? What does He do in us? How can we know when the Spirit of truth is bringing truth to light in us? *Shape me in the truth, Lord Jesus, and let me...*

4. Why can't the world know the Spirit of truth? In what sense do we as believers know and see Him? In what sense does the Spirit "dwell" in us? How can we know that we *know* the Spirit? *Lord, I know Your Spirit is in me and at work in me as...*

5. Jesus comes to us in the Person of the Holy Spirit (v. 18). When the Spirit is dwelling in us, abiding in us, and helping us as Jesus intends, what should we expect to see happening in us? Bring together into one the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"Keeping the divine commandments is the best way to give living expression to our love toward God. It presents the picture of a life lived in all its fullness and truth. It is not a life sketched out in mere sounds that flow from the tongue. It gleams instead with the altogether radiant and brilliant colors that paint a portrait of good works." *Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD)*

We can do nothing to fulfill the Lord's expectations apart from the presence and help of His indwelling Spirit. How can we make the most of His help at all times?

*Closing Prayer*

I waited patiently for the LORD;  
And He inclined to me,  
And heard my cry.  
He also brought me up out of a horrible pit,  
Out of the miry clay,  
And set my feet upon a rock,  
*And* established my steps.  
He has put a new song in my mouth—  
Praise to our God;  
Many will see it and fear,  
And will trust in the Lord.  
Blessed *is* that man who makes the LORD his trust,  
And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.  
Many, O LORD my God, *are* Your wonderful works  
*Which* You have done;  
And Your thoughts toward us  
Cannot be recounted to You in order;  
*If* I would declare and speak *of them*,  
They are more than can be numbered.  
Sacrifice and offering You did not desire;  
My ears You have opened.  
Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require.  
Then I said, “Behold, I come;  
In the scroll of the book *it is* written of me.  
I delight to do Your will, O my God,  
And Your law is within my heart.”

Psalm 40.1-8

**Psalm 40.1-8** (*Dix: For the Beauty of the Earth*)

I waited patiently for God; He inclined and heard my cry,  
Lifted me up above the sod, set me on a Rock on high!  
New songs in my mouth He gave; may He through me many save.

Blessed are all who trust in You, turning both from lies and pride.  
Countless wonders, Lord, You do, and Your thoughts with us abide.  
Lord, Your worth who can declare? None with You can e'er compare.

Offerings You do not require – open now my ears, O Lord –  
What from me do You desire? Firm delight to do Your Word.  
Take my life in ev'ry part; write Your Law upon my heart.

## 2 Seeing and Believing

Read and meditate on John 14.19-21.

Jesus was going away, but He promised His disciples they would see Him again. They were surely wondering, “What can He mean?”

<sup>19</sup>“But a little, then the world no longer will see Me. But you will see me. Since I live, you will live, too.  
<sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in the Father, you are in Me, I am in you. <sup>21</sup>He who My commandments has, and does them, he it is who loves Me. And because he loves Me, then My Father will love him, and I will manifest Myself to him, and love him.”

- John 14.19-21

Reflect

1. In just a “little while,” Jesus said, the world would *see* Him no more, but His disciples would *see* Him. It seems to me Jesus was using that verb in a twofold sense. Explain. Would you say this describes the situation in our world today? Is there a remedy for this? Complete this prayer: *Lord, I don't see You with my eyes, but I see You with...*
2. In the second part of verse 19, Jesus used the verb *live* in two senses, in the *present* tense with respect to Himself, and in the *future* tense with respect to His disciples. He was *living* as He spoke this, but weren't His disciples living also? Why do you suppose He didn't say, “Because I *will live*, you *will live* also”? Jesus chose His words precisely. What was He saying here? *You live forever, Lord; not even death could deprive You of life, and because of this...*
3. “At that day...” (v. 20). Which day? Why was Jesus being so cryptic? Why didn't He specify the day He had in mind? On which day did everything finally “click” for the disciples? What did they know, and how did they know it on “that day”? *Lord, surely the most precious thing I can know is that You are...*
4. In verse 21, Jesus returned to a theme He broached in verse 15. Here, He enlarged on that theme by bringing the Father into it. He will enlarge on this idea a bit more in verse 23 and again in chapters 15 and 16. How would you explain the relationship between God's love for us, our love for Him, Christ's manifest presence with us, and the commandments (Law) of God? Can we know God's love apart from His Law? Can we love God apart from His Law? Can we know the manifest presence of Christ apart from His Law? *Lord, You have told us that greatness in Your Kingdom is related to knowing, keeping, and teaching Your Law (Matt. 5.19), so help me...*
5. How does Jesus *manifest* Himself to us? How do you expect Jesus to manifest Himself to you today? How will Jesus manifest Himself to the people in your Personal Mission Field? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote from questions 1-4.

Summary

“But why does he speak of life as present to him and future to them? Because his resurrection preceded, and

theirs was to follow. His resurrection was about to take place so soon that he speaks of it as present, theirs being deferred till the end of the world. He does not say 'you live' but 'you shall live.' ... Because he lives, therefore we shall live: 'As by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.'" *Basil the Great (330-379 AD)*

Life, love, righteousness, and joy are where Jesus is, where He makes Himself at home and manifest. He has commissioned us to be His witnesses, and we will know these great promises only to the extent that we embrace this calling and pursue it continuously. What are the greatest hindrances that can keep us from *living* as Jesus promised we would live?

*Closing Prayer*

I have set the LORD always before me;  
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.  
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;  
My flesh also will rest in hope.  
For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16.8-11

**Psalm 16.8-11** (*All to Christ: Jesus Paid It All*)

You are ever with me, Lord; in You I shall not fall.  
But rejoicing in Your Word, I abide within Your call.  
    Make me know life's way! Pleasures fill Your hand;  
    Fill my life with joy each day! Before Your face I stand.

Soon Your glory I shall see, for as Jesus rose again,  
You will come to gather me to my home with You in heav'n.  
    Make me know life's way! Pleasures fill Your hand;  
    Fill my life with joy each day! Before Your face I stand.

### 3 Dwelling with Us

Read and meditate on John 14.22-24.

One of the disciples asks a question, but Jesus seems not to pay attention. Or is He? It all depends on what Judas meant by *manifest*.

<sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) to Him said, "Lord, tell us how it is that You will show Yourself to us, but not unto the world." <sup>23</sup>Then Jesus answered and said to him, "Anyone who loves Me will obey all My commandments." He went on to say, "My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and with him We will make our home. <sup>24</sup>But he who does not love Me, does not keep My words, and you know all the words I speak are not Mine, but the Father's, Who has sent Me".

- John 14.22-24

Reflect

1. Jesus promised to manifest Himself to those He loves (v. 21). That the disciples don't quite understand what He was saying is clear from Judas' question. How could He be manifest to them, but not to the world? Does this help us in thinking about what Jesus means by *manifest*? Explain. Complete this prayer: *Lord, manifest Yourself to me today, so that I might show You to...*
2. Jesus promised that He and the Father would make their home with certain people. Which people? What does it mean for God the Father and Son to make their home with someone? What would you expect to be the effect of this on that person? On the people around that person? *Lord, You have come to dwell in me, and I want to make sure that...*
3. Jesus equates loving Him with keeping His Word. How would you counsel a new believer to continue growing in love for Jesus? How should that believer expect love for Jesus to be evident? *Teach me Your Word, Lord, more and more each day, and help me thus to...*
4. How is Jesus using the word *keep* in verses 23 and 24? The Greek word *tereo* means "to cause a state to continue – to cause to continue, to retain" (Nida & Louw). Restate verses 23 and 24 without using the word *keep*. *Lord, You call me to keep Your Word, and I understand by that...*
5. Following Jesus comes at a price, but pays enormous dividends. Explain. Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote for questions 1-4.

Summary

"Consider, dearly beloved, how great this solemnity is that commemorates the coming of God as a guest in our hearts. If some rich and powerful friend were to enter your home, you would quickly clean the entire house for fear something there might offend your friend's eyes when he entered. Let anyone then who is preparing his inner house for God cleanse away the dirt of his evil deeds.... He does indeed enter the hearts of some but does not make his home there because through repentance they acquire respect for God, but

during a time of temptation they forget that they have repented and so return to committing sins as if they had never wept over them at all. The Lord comes into the heart and makes his home in one who truly loves God and observes his commandments, since the love of his divine nature so penetrates him that he does not turn away from it during times of temptation. That person loves truly whose heart does not consent to be overcome by wicked pleasures.” *Gregory the Great (540-604 AD)*

The goal of our Christian life should be to have God as much at home in us as possible. What does that require of us? What does it portend?

*Closing Prayer*

The LORD *is* my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name’s sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You *are* with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
Forever.

Psalm 23

**Psalm 23** (*The Gift of Love: Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire*)

Because the Lord my Shepherd is, I shall not want, for I am His!  
He makes me lie in pastures full; I rest in Him by waters still.

My soul He quickens and will bless; He leads in paths of righteousness.  
Though I may walk in death’s dark vale, I shall not fear – He will not fail!

The Lord is ever by my side; His rod and staff with me abide.  
A table rich for me He spreads; with oil my Lord anoints my head.

Goodness and mercy, full and free, shall ever after follow me,  
And in the house of God, my Lord, shall I abide forevermore!

## 4 Help on the Way

Read and meditate on John 14.25, 26.

Jesus comes to the point of this discourse: Help is on the way, in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

*<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you while yet with you. <sup>26</sup>The Holy Spirit, Who will be your Helper, Whom the Father sends to be with you in My Name, He will teach you all things; He will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”*

- John 14.25, 26

Reflect

1. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as “one who helps, by consoling, encouraging, or mediating on behalf of – Helper, Encourager, Mediator (Louw & Nida). In your experience, why is this an apt way of referring to the Spirit? Complete the following prayer: *Truly, Lord, Your Spirit is my Helper, especially as I...*
2. Jesus introduced the Holy Spirit in verses 15-18. He continued that introduction by reminding His disciples of the things He had spoken to them during His time with them, the importance of which He had just re-emphasized (vv. 23, 24). He had taught them many things, but especially things about Himself and the Kingdom of God. How would you summarize Jesus’ teaching about Himself and the Kingdom? *Lord Jesus, You command me to seek first Your Kingdom and righteousness, and every day this means...*
3. Clearly, the disciples had not understood all that Jesus had taught them. But the Spirit’s role would be to teach them “these things.” Meditate on Ezekiel 36.26, 27, John 6.63 and 16.8-11, and 1 Corinthians 2.12, 13. How does the Spirit teach us? Where do we need to be if we want to be taught by Him? *Holy Spirit, I want You to teach me the things of Jesus, so I...*
4. The Spirit helps us by *teaching* us the things of Christ. But He also helps us by bringing the things He teaches us to our remembrance. What’s the difference between His work of teaching and His work of bringing to remembrance? How does He bring things to our remembrance? Do believers have a role in this as a way of showing their love for one another? Explain. *Lord Jesus, help me to be always alert to when Your Spirit wants to...*
5. Recall our questions about praying in Jesus’ Name (vv. 13, 14). Since the Father sends the Spirit in Jesus’ Name (v. 26), should we expect His interests and agenda to be any different from that of the Lord Jesus? Should we expect the Spirit to try to make Himself more of a focus than Jesus? Explain. Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

Summary

“That the Holy Spirit then is sent in the Son’s name, by the Father, shows that he is in unity with the Son: from this he is said also to be the Spirit of the Son and to make those sons [children] by adoption who are willing to receive him. The Holy Spirit who then comes in the name of the Son from the Father shall teach those who are established in the faith of Christ all things—all things that are spiritual, that is, both the understanding of truth and the sacrament of wisdom. But he will teach, not like those who have acquired an art or knowledge by study and industry but as being the very art, doctrine, knowledge itself. As being this himself, the Spirit of truth will impart the knowledge of divine things to the mind.” *Didymus the Blind (313-398 AD)*

How can we know when the Spirit is teaching us and bringing to our remembrance the things Jesus wants us to keep?

*Closing Prayer*

Show me Your ways, O LORD;  
Teach me Your paths.  
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,  
For You *are* the God of my salvation;  
On You I wait all the day.  
Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses,  
For they *are* from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions;  
According to Your mercy remember me,  
For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.  
Good and upright *is* the LORD;  
Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.  
The humble He guides in justice,  
And the humble He teaches His way.  
All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth,  
To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Psalm 25.4-10

**Psalm 25.4-10** (*Festal Song: Revive Thy Work, O Lord*)

Make me to know Your ways, teach me Your paths, O Lord!  
My Savior, all day long I wait and seek You in Your Word.

Remember mercy, Lord, and steadfast love to me!  
And all my sins before You let them not remembered be!

My sins have been of old, Your love is new each day;  
According to Your goodness, Lord, regard my sinful way.

Upright and good are You, You lead us in Your way;  
The humble You instruct in truth and guide him day by day.

The paths of God are all of love and faithfulness;  
All they who keep His covenant the Lord will surely bless.

## 5 Unworldly Peace

Read and meditate on John 14.27, 28.

Jesus promised a peace unlike anything they'd ever known, peace strong and true enough to overcome all their trials and fears.

*27 "I leave My peace  
with you; I give it to you – not a peace  
such as the world gives do I give to you.  
Let not your heart be troubled; nor should you  
fear anything. 28 For you have heard Me say  
to you that shortly I must go away,  
but I am coming back again. If you  
loved Me, you would rejoice to hear this, too,  
for I am going to the Father, Who  
is greater than I am."*

- John 14.27, 28

*Reflect*

1. The peace people seek in the world is based on achieving favorable conditions. World peace, domestic peace, and so forth, all depend on getting and maintaining the right circumstances. The peace of Jesus is not like that. Explain. Complete this prayer: *Thank You for Your peace, Lord, which I know and enjoy as I...*
2. The peace Jesus promised is connected to the coming of the Spirit as our Helper, Comforter, Teacher, and indwelling Power. This peace is obviously a precious commodity. Why? What is it about the peace of Jesus that makes it so desirable? How can we have this peace? *Lord, when I am experiencing Your peace, I...*
3. The opposite of Jesus' peace is a troubled and fearful heart. But Jesus exhorted His disciples *not* be troubled in their heart, nor to be afraid. He implied, of course, that troubles and reasons to be afraid would be coming (as we shall see). But we do not need to be overcome by these, so that they keep us from living as Jesus intends. How would you counsel a new believer to draw on the peace of Jesus in the face of troubles or fears? What should that new believer expect from doing so? *Lord, I know that whenever I'm afraid, or facing some trial or trouble, I can know Your peace by...*
4. In the Kingdom of God, the peace of Jesus and His joy are closely related (cf. Rom. 14.17, 18). Let's not miss the basis for our ability to *rejoice*. We rejoice not because of things we can *see*, but because of *unseen realities* that we *know* by faith alone (cf. Heb. 11.1). Why did Jesus say the disciples should rejoice (v. 28)? What should they have understood would happen by His going away? Why should this give them joy? *Lord, let all my joy be grounded in You, and the knowledge that...*
5. Jesus said the Father "is greater" than He is. This should not be taken to imply some subordination of the Son to the Father, as if the Father were somehow more fully God than the Son. Rather, Jesus is speaking only about roles in the divine Trinity and the unfolding Kingdom economy, which began with Jesus' coming to earth. The Father is greater than the Son only because of His overall position in the divine plan. Should we expect this mutual respect and submission to be reflected in our lives together in the church? Meditate on Ephesians 5.18-21 as you think about your answer. Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

"And yet it is in him and from him that we have peace, whether it is the peace he leaves with us when going

*The Gospel of John: John 14.15-31*

to the Father or that which he will give us when we ourselves are brought by him to the Father. And what is it he leaves with us, when ascending from us, other than his own presence, which he never withdraws? For he himself is our peace who has made both one. It is he, therefore, who becomes our peace, both when we believe that he is and when we see him as he is. For if—so long as we are in this corruptible body that burdens the soul and are walking by faith, not by sight—he does not forsake those who are sojourning at a distance from himself, how much more, when we have attained to that sight, shall he fill us with himself?”

*Augustine (354-430 AD)*

Jesus is our peace, which He mediates to us by faith as we walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. By keeping Jesus' words, we increase in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Spirit. This is life in the Kingdom of God, which Jesus has received from the Father, and given to us. What does it mean for you to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, peace, and joy each day?

*Closing Prayer*

The LORD said to my Lord,  
“Sit at My right hand,  
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”  
The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.  
Rule in the midst of Your enemies!  
Your people *shall be* volunteers  
In the day of Your power;  
In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning,  
You have the dew of Your youth.

Psalm 110.1-3

**Psalm 110.1-3** (*Aurelia: The Church's One Foundation*)

“Sit by Me at My right hand,” the Lord says to my Lord,  
“Until I make Your foot stand on all who hate Your Word.”  
From in His Church the Savior rules all His enemies;  
While those who know His favor go forth the Lord to please.

## 6 Just So You Know

Read and meditate on John 14.29-31.

The promised Spirit of God will make all the difference for Jesus' disciples. *All* His disciples.

*<sup>29</sup>“I’ve told this to you now, before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, you will believe it then.  
<sup>30</sup>I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming for Me, though he nothing has in Me. <sup>31</sup>But so the world may know the love I ever show unto the Father, I will do as He commands. Arise now, let us go.”*

- John 14.29-31

*Reflect*

1. A good bit of Scripture is like that: God tells us something in advance of its happening, so that, when it does happen, we will believe Him Who told us. How many examples from the Old Testament relative to the life of Christ can you find to support this idea? Complete this prayer: *Lord, throughout the Old Testament You point forward to Jesus, and as we see Jesus in the gospels, we see Your truth lived out. And You have done this so that we...*
2. Specifically, what Jesus seems to have been referring to was the coming of the Holy Spirit. Only after the Spirit came would the disciples fully and truly believe. How can you see that this is what happened on the first Christian Pentecost? How did their faith change at that time? *I believe, Lord, help me to believe You more as I...*
3. The “ruler of this world” refers to the devil, who was coming for Jesus. He would interrupt Jesus’ converse with His disciples. What do you make of Jesus saying, “and he has nothing in me”? What did Jesus mean by that? *Lord, if the ruler of this world has nothing in You, then he has nothing in...*
4. Jesus intimated that what He was about to do was so that the world would know that He loves the Father, because He would keep the Father’s commandment. How does Jesus embody both of the great commandments (Matt. 22.34-40) through His death on the cross? What should we learn from His example? *I want to love You, Father, as Jesus did, and I know this means laying down my life. So please help me to...*
5. Jesus and His disciples left the upper room, and as they did, they were singing a hymn (Matt. 26.30). That hymn was probably Psalm 118, which scholars tell us was sung at this time during the Passover celebration. Read through this psalm. How can you see that it would have very important and comforting for Jesus? How would it have helped to keep Him focused on what the Father had commanded Him? Is there a suggestion in this about the role of hymns in the life of faith? Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

*Summary*

“For they who now trembled and feared, after they had received the Spirit sprang into the midst of dangers and stripped themselves for the contest against steel, and fire, and wild beasts, and seas, and every kind of punishment. And they, the unlettered and ignorant, spoke so boldly as to astonish their hearers. For the Spirit made them men of iron instead of men of clay, gave them wings and allowed them to be cast down by nothing human. For such is that grace: if it finds despondency, it disperses it; if evil desires, it consumes them; if cowardice, it casts it out and does not allow one who has partaken of it to be afterward a mere person but, as it were removing him to heaven itself, causes him to imagine to himself all that is there.” *John*

*Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

Jesus has spoken many great and precious promises to us His followers, but we must believe them if we are to know Him as God's Son and our Savior. And believing them, we must keep focused on Jesus and the work He has given us to do. How does this work out in your daily experience?

*Closing Prayer*

The LORD *is* my strength and song,  
And He has become my salvation.  
The voice of rejoicing and salvation  
*Is* in the tents of the righteous;  
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.  
The right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.  
I shall not die, but live,  
And declare the works of the LORD.  
The LORD has chastened me severely,  
But He has not given me over to death.  
Open to me the gates of righteousness;  
I will go through them,  
*And* I will praise the LORD.  
This is the gate of the LORD,  
Through which the righteous shall enter.  
I will praise You,  
For You have answered me,  
And have become my salvation.  
The stone *which* the builders rejected  
Has become the chief cornerstone.  
This was the LORD's doing;  
It is marvelous in our eyes.  
This is the day the LORD has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Save now, I pray, O LORD;  
O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.  
Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.  
God is the LORD,  
And He has given us light;  
Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.  
You *are* my God, and I will praise You;  
You *are* my God, I will exalt You.  
Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good!  
For His mercy *endures* forever.

Psalm 118.14-29

**Psalm 118.14-29** (*St. George's Windsor: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*)

In the Savior we are strong! He is all our strength and song!  
To His grace now raise your voice; in His righteousness rejoice!  
For the Lord does valiantly; we shall live eternally.  
Praise His works with all your breath, you whom He redeems from death.

*The Gospel of John: John 14.15-31*

All who know Christ's righteousness His great Name now thank and bless!  
Though His gate full righteous is, He our saving mercy is.  
Cast aside and left alone, Christ is now our Cornerstone!  
God has made His Son and Word our salvation: Praise the Lord!

Blest are they who in His Name come and Jesus' grace proclaim.  
God His light upon us shines in the Savior's sacrifice.  
Praise and thanks to You, O Lord; we extol Your holy Word!  
Thanks to You for You are good! Thanks to our great loving God!

## 7 Help and Peace

*Read and meditate on John 14.15-31.*

Jesus was going away, but this was good news. Because by returning to the Father, the Helper would come, and with Him comfort, instruction, and peace.

*<sup>15</sup>If you love Me, then keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup>I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, and He will abide with you forever. <sup>17</sup>Though the world cannot receive Him, since it knows Him not, nor sees Him – the Spirit of truth – but you know Him, for He dwells in you, and in you abides. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you orphans, friends; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>But a little, then the world no longer will see Me. But you will see me. Since I live, you will live, too. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in the Father, you are in Me, I am in you. <sup>21</sup>He who My commandments has, and does them, he it is who loves Me. And because he loves Me, then My Father will love him, and I will manifest Myself to him, and love him.”*

*<sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) to Him said, “Lord, tell us how it is that You will show Yourself to us, but not unto the world.” <sup>23</sup>Then Jesus answered and said to him, “Anyone who loves Me will obey all My commandments.” He went on to say, “My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and with him We will make our home. <sup>24</sup>But he who does not love Me, does not keep My words, and you know all the words I speak are not Mine, but the Father’s, Who has sent Me. <sup>25</sup>I have said these things to you while yet with you. <sup>26</sup>The Holy Spirit, Who will be your Helper, Whom the Father sends to be with you in My Name, He will teach you all things; He will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>I leave My peace with you; I give it to you – not a peace such as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled; nor should you fear anything. <sup>28</sup>For you have heard Me say to you that shortly I must go away, but I am coming back again. If you loved Me, you would rejoice to hear this, too, for I am going to the Father, Who*

is greater than I am. <sup>29</sup>I've told this to you now, before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, you will believe it then. <sup>30</sup>I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming for Me, though he nothing has in Me. <sup>31</sup>But so the world may know the love I ever show unto the Father, I will do as He commands. Arise now, let us go."

- John 14.15-31

#### Reflect

1. We're beginning to see more clearly the role of each Person of the Godhead in the plan of redemption and salvation. God conceived it, Christ accomplished it, and the Holy Spirit applies it. The Father sent the Son, the Son and Father send the Spirit, and the Son sends us, indwelt by the Spirit, as He Himself was sent. What is our role in this great saving plan? Complete this prayer: *Lord, thank You for the gift of salvation and eternal life. Help me daily to...*

2. Jesus' instructions to His disciples emphasized the importance of *keeping* His commandments and Word (vv. 15, 21, 23). How does the Holy Spirit help us in this calling (v. 26)? How can we know when we are being taught by Him? *Lord, I know I have learned what You want me to learn when...*

3. Jesus associated the coming of the Spirit with help, truth, divine presence, and peace. How can someone know when the Spirit has come to dwell with him? What should we do to make the most of that indwelling presence? *Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord, and let Him lead me, so that I walk with Him. Then I will...*

4. Jesus' teaching implies that His disciples will learn righteousness, and will know peace and joy as a result. This is the work of God's Spirit in our lives. Meditate on Romans 14.17, 18. What is the Kingdom of God? How can we know when we have come to the Kingdom? When we are seeking it as Jesus commands (Matt. 6.33)? *You have made me a citizen and ambassador in Your Kingdom, Lord, and this means...*

5. Jesus loved His Father so much that He was willing to give up His life to accomplish the Father's plan of salvation (v. 31). How can we know when we love God? When we love our fellow believers? When we love our neighbors as ourselves? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

#### Summary

"Earlier he had said, 'Where I go you shall come' and 'In my Father's house there are many mansions.' But since this was a long time off, he gives them the Spirit in the intervening time. They did not know what that [Spirit] was, however, and so they derived little comfort from what he said.... And so he promises them what they required most: his own presence. He says, 'I will come to you.' But he intimates at the same time that they are not to look for the same kind of presence all over again. 'Yet a little while, and the world sees me no more,' as if he said, I will come to you but not to live with you every day as I did before." *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)*

The life of discipleship is a life of intimacy with God. He dwells in us, teaches us, helps us, and gives us peace, and we live in the world as His children, citizens, and ambassadors. How do you experience this intimate life of following Jesus? How would you explain it to an unsaved neighbor?

#### Closing Prayer

I have set the LORD always before me;  
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;  
My flesh also will rest in hope.  
For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16.8-11

**Psalm 16.8-11** (*All to Christ: Jesus Paid It All*)

You are ever with me, Lord; in You I shall not fall.  
But rejoicing in Your Word, I abide within Your call.  
    Make me know life's way! Pleasures fill Your hand;  
    Fill my life with joy each day! Before Your face I stand.

Soon Your glory I shall see, for as Jesus rose again,  
You will come to gather me to my home with You in heav'n.  
    Make me know life's way! Pleasures fill Your hand;  
    Fill my life with joy each day! Before Your face I stand.

*The Gospel of John: John 14.15-31*

*Questions for reflection or discussion*

1. Jesus led His disciples by holding out great promises to them. What were those promises? Are those promises still valid for us? Explain.
2. What is the Holy Spirit's work in God's plan of salvation?
3. What is the Kingdom of God? How does the Kingdom of God relate to the work of Jesus Christ? To the work of His Spirit? To our calling as His disciples?
4. Jesus said that they love Him who keep His commandments and His Word. What does that mean? How can believers help one another to fulfill this calling?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from John 14.15-31? How are you putting that lesson to work in your walk with and work for the Lord?

*Items for prayer:*

## The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

The Fellowship of Ailbe offers many opportunities for training, prayer, personal growth, and ministry. Visit our website at [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org) to learn more.

We hope you found this study helpful. If so, please consider making a gift to The Fellowship. You can contribute to our ministry by using the donate button at the website, or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Thank you.