

**Find Life in the Son:
God with Us: Father, Son, and Spirit
John 14:15-24**

Introduction

Augustine: "Lord, You have made us for Yourself, and our souls are restless till they rest in You."

Imagine what it would have been like to be one of Jesus' closest disciples—to look into the eyes of a fellow human being and come to the conviction that you were looking into the very face of God. Jesus the Messiah was the virgin-born Son Isaiah prophesied would be called Immanuel—With us, God! As the ministry of Jesus expanded and His teaching became clear, the twelve—or should we say the eleven, since Judas turned away and betrayed Him—were all convinced this was indeed the promised Savior-King, the offspring of the woman God had promised ever since the Garden of Eden would crush the serpent's head. They eagerly anticipated His making Himself known and inaugurating His eternal kingdom, reclaiming the throne of David His ancestral father.

But of late, nothing like that was coming to pass. Instead Jesus talked of leaving them behind. He predicted His betrayal, arrest and trial, suffering and scourging, then death by crucifixion. They were devastated. Hopes

crushed, fear spiking, doubt ripping at their faith. How could they ever survive without Him? *Alienation from God had thrown the human race into darkness and death. And now, after finding the One who could bring us back to the Eden of closeness to God, it seemed to be happening all over again.*

Paul says to newly converted Greek Christians in Ephesians 2:12-13

12 Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ah, there's the answer. Jesus was leaving His disciples to head to cross. What He would do there would forever break down the barrier between them and God. It is the greatest paradox—seeming contradiction—of history. Jesus' leaving them to be crucified and rise again was the way He would establish unbreakable fellowship between them and Himself forever.

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **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. **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." **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" **23** Jesus answered 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. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

Three times Christ highlights the strategic importance of His commands and words:

15 If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

21a Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.

23 Jesus answered 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. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.”

1. Gift of Divine Truth (15-17)
2. Gift of Divine Life (18-20)
3. Gift of Divine Love (21-24)

1. Gift of Divine Truth (15-17)

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 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.”

Love for Jesus expresses itself in treasuring, guarding, obeying His commandments. If you love someone, you are happy to do what they desire, especially if the person you love is none other than the perfect God-man, the loving Savior, the good Shepherd. If you love Jesus, deliberately resisting Him makes no sense.

Jesus explains there is a huge reward for this obedient love. He will ask the Father to send them another helper—another one called alongside to comfort, to encourage, to exhort, to be their advocate, another Helper of the same kind He is. The Spirit of truth who’d be

with them forever—never ever to be torn away.

When you're trying to navigate the difficult path of life, you need the clarity of truth, something on which you can utterly rely—like the points of the compass. Up to this point Jesus had provided that certainty for them. But now He is heading to the cross, to the grave, and ultimately back to heaven with the Father. His promise is that the truth of God will remain with them in the Person of the Holy Spirit, whom the Father and the Son would send.

Among others tasks, the Holy Spirit was the divine agent through whom the prophets spoke. He would guarantee the reliability of the prophets and the apostles. He would convince people of the reliability of the gospel they would proclaim.

The world has always been full of lies, with thousands of voices vying to be heard and believed. Who knows what truth is? Pilate asked that very question at the trial of Jesus. With all the fake news, all the hidden agendas, all the crafted messaging and marketing, and the artificial fabrications, all the opinions and worldviews, how can we ever find truth?

When you're left alone and you don't even know what's true anymore, you're in a terribly dark place. Jesus promised, "I'm not going to leave you wondering that way. The Father will send you the gift of the Spirit of Truth."

The world can't receive the Spirit because the world rejects Jesus and scoffs at His commands. The world in rebellion against God would rather preserve its imagined self-rule than submit to God. Even if it means demonizing the perfect human being, Jesus Christ. They'd rather live a life based on lies than to have to bow the knee to the truth. They pour everything into the material things they can see and touch, as if the unseen spiritual realm is completely nonexistent—despite the fact they know its there, else who would ever talk of love, courage, logic, and wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. **13** And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. **14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to

understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

But the one who loves Jesus, who believes in Him and therefore obeys His commands, know the Spirit and His power. He had been at work among God people over the centuries, and on the day of Pentecost He would come to dwell within every true believer, transforming him from the inside out.

Romans 8:5-9

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Applications

- What percentage of your life are you basing on truth from the Spirit of God, such as the commandments of Jesus?

- What common lies do people believe today in place of yielding to the truth from God?
- In your desire to feel the presence of God, what are you doing to focus on and obey what God has revealed in His word?

2. Gift of Divine Life (18-20)

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.

Jesus would live on. Jesus would come to them after His resurrection. Jesus would come to them through the Person of the Holy Spirit after His ascension. Jesus will come to them at the end of the age when He returns to receive His own people to Himself. The world at large would not enjoy these privileges.

Because Jesus would break the power of death by rising from the dead, He would guarantee the resurrection from the dead of all whose faith is in Him.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there

is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **15** We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. **20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The firstfruits are the first part of the harvest, a sample and guarantee of the full harvest to come.

Jesus opens the way for us to have a living connection to Himself and to the Father. As a member of the Triune God, He is in the Father. As believers in Christ, we are in Him—we enjoy the divine life that is His. He is our Representative and our Advocate with the Father. We enter the inheritance that is His. And He is in us. His life power flows through us even while we are on earth. That's why we see Jesus in His followers. They take on more

and more of His character in the way they live life because His vitality is energizing them.

Galatians 2:20

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.

Applications

- What signs of Divine life can others observe in your life?
- What are you experiencing that comes from the life of Jesus in you?
- Given what Jesus says here, why is a true Christian never really alone in the world?

3. Gift of Divine Love (21-24)

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. ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered 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. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.

Jesus points us to the key to this closeness with Him. We have His commandments preserved in the New Testament. Are you treasuring them and obeying them out of love for Him?

If you love Jesus, as evidenced by your high regard for His commandments, God the Father loves you and Jesus, God the Son, loves you. It's one thing for us to say we love Jesus. Think how deserving He is of our love. But it's astounding that God the Father loves us and God the Son loves us. But look at the personal way Jesus puts it. He reduces it to the individual. It's easier for us to believe God loves us generally, but to know He loves us individually and personally—that is mind-blowing. It's humbling and exhilarating at the same time. If God is for you this way, who can be against you?

Judas (not Iscariot) asks how Jesus will reveal Himself to His disciples but not to the world. He may be thinking of the day when every tongue will confess and every knee will bow in heaven and on earth. But Jesus is addressing the interim time between His first and second coming. During that time He will make Himself known to His followers, but not to the world. The gospel will go to every ethnicity all over the world, but not everyone will receive it. Those who reject it cannot experience fellowship with Jesus or with God the Father.

They cannot understand the things of the Spirit.

But those who do believe—who love Jesus and keep His word and His words—that’s broader even than His commands. They treasure everything He said and taught because they love Him. God loves these people. The Father and the Son will come to them and make a home with them even here during their earthly journey. *One day they will be at home with God. But till then God will make His home with them.* God with us—Father, Son and Spirit. It is an extraordinary privilege and pleasure. A partial recovery of the paradise Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden before their sin marred their world and their human descendants. One day the recovery will be complete, when sin, suffering, and death are no more. But for now, God Himself is with us. And will be all the days to the consummation of the age.

1 John 1:3-4

³ That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Applications

- How convinced are you of the love of God the Father and God the Son for you personally?
- What do you think may be standing in the way of your faith in and perception of His love?
- When do you give yourself to meditating on the word and words of Christ and how could you make His word more significant in your life?

Conclusion

The gospel is all about recovering what we lost in Eden—close, loving communion with God the Father, Son, and Spirit. Believing the gospel and living it rests on how valuable you count Christ’s commands and words to be. How could your life be more and more the story of God with you?—His truth, His life, His love—all yours now and forever!

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Closing Song: Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

Applications Summary

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- In your desire to feel the presence of God, what are you doing to focus on and obey what God has revealed in His word?
- What signs of Divine life can others observe in your life?
- What are you experiencing that comes from the life of Jesus in you?
- Given what Jesus says here, why is a true Christian never really alone in the world?
- How convinced are you of the love of God the Father and God the Son for you personally?
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