

January 21

John 14:8-10 (NIV) ⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.” **1 John 4:7-8, 11-12 (NIV)**

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Having gone to church when I was younger, I had heard of God and of Jesus. I do not ever think I doubted that truth, but I found it difficult to comprehend God Who filled the universe and was everywhere all of the time. When I began reading the Bible and learned about Jesus, I had a better understanding. However, in my mind I was seeing two different truths: God and Jesus. When I came into a relationship with Jesus, I grew in my understanding that Jesus was fully God. However, today, Jesus is no longer with us in the flesh. To tell others that Jesus is Spirit is a difficult concept for many. Therefore, speaking about God seems to be even more complicated.

From Philip’s statement asking Jesus to show him the Father, we discover that this is not a new experience. Jesus answered Philip by saying that because he has seen Jesus, he has seen the Father, for the two are one. Today, we no longer have Jesus’s walking among us, which seems to make it even more difficult for others to know God. Yet, God has made a way for us. True love can only come from God. It is a love that we can never find in this world no matter how “good” a person is. Because Christ died for us and filled us with His Holy Spirit, His love now resides in us. Philip knew the Father because He experienced His love in Jesus. Today, people will know the Father because they are to experience His love in us. If we love one another as Jesus loves us, then God lives in us; therefore, people can know the living God because they know us. That is a sobering, humbling truth that should bring us to our knees and result in constant praise.