

- What if you woke up one morning to find Jesus sitting on the end of your bed ... And wherever you went, He went with you; and whatever you did, Jesus did with you ... How would your day be different? ... What things would you start doing? ... What things would you stop doing? ... How many of us have asked Jesus to physically appear – maybe at an intense time of heartache or confusion or loneliness or being overwhelmed ... Lord, can I just see You
- Not being able to see God, I would imagine, is a factor, maybe a big factor, in why people struggle with religion in general, and with Christianity particularly ... We believe in a God that we cannot physically touch or see or hear ... At one time, Jesus physically lived, but that time is so far removed from our present ... We have the scriptures, but reading about something is different than experiencing something ... Why can't we experience the things that we have read about and heard about for so long? ... Why can't Jesus just reveal Himself, and be present with us ... Wouldn't it be so much easier for our faith if we could physically experience what and who we believe to be true ...
- But yet, is this what our faith should be built upon – what we can physically see, touch, hear, experience ... In this sense, then, faith would be confined to only what is physical; and so, what happens when the physical goes away or is taken away, what happens to our faith? ... Our faith goes away; our faith falls because the physical has been removed ... This is why the author of Hebrews makes the argument that **“faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen” (11:1)** ... Our faith has to be grounded in something greater than mere physical things – more than what we can touch, see, hear, experience ... Faith has to be greater than ourselves ... Faith believes in what we cannot see and still knows to be true, and we hold firmly to this faith and hope ... [Rom8:22-27](#) ...
 - The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that what God has promised will come true – [Eph1:13-14](#), **“In Him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance”** ... Now, this does not solve our desire to physically see Jesus – we eagerly desire this ... However, in such time of need, we must rely on our faith and hold fast to what we know to be true, particularly the truth that though we cannot see the fullness of God, we do possess the fullness of God through the Holy Spirit living within us

John 14

- [John 13-17](#) takes place during the Passover meal – the Last Supper, that Jesus shared with His disciples before dying on the cross ... In [14-16](#), Jesus is teaching the disciples about the Holy Spirit coming to be with them ... The disciples are obviously having a hard time accepting that Jesus is going away – they are troubled and confused; why is He leaving, why can't He stay with them, and what does it mean for them now that He's going away ... (above)
 - So, in trying to comfort His disciples, Jesus begins to explain: [14:2](#), I'm leaving to prepare a place for you ... [14:18](#), I won't leave you as orphans – I won't leave you without a guardian or a guide ... [16:7](#), It is for your benefit that I go away ... Why – why is it a benefit that Jesus is no longer here; how does this benefit them; how does it benefit you and me?
 - If Jesus had stayed, the cross would not have happened, nor the resurrection ... If those didn't happen, we would not have a representative standing before the Father, right now ... And if this were true, there would be no forgiveness, no salvation, no inheritance of eternal life ... Our salvation, then, would be dependent on our own good works – and well, we're not too good at perfectly doing the good works that God requires
 - The next phase of God's eternal plan is about to take place, but it involves Jesus going back to the Father, and yet also coming to His disciples through the Holy Spirit: [14:3](#), If I go, I will come again and take you to Myself ... [14:18](#), You won't be orphans because I'm coming to you ... [14:20](#), I am in My Father, you are in Me, and I am in you ... [14:23](#), My Father and I will come and make our home with you ... It's no wonder that the disciples are confused at what Jesus is saying – He's going away and yet coming again, but in a way that had never been explained before

- One of the greatest works that the Holy Spirit achieves for us, is the truth that He unites us to Jesus and the Father, so that we are always in the midst of God's presence – where we are and where He is ... There is never a time that we are removed from His presence – in fact, in the midst of our suffering and trials and hardships, we are closer to God than we realize ... If He pursued us and stepped in to save us while we were His enemies, why would He keep Himself at a distance when His sons and daughters are suffering and enduring hardship ... The Holy Spirit joins us to our Savior and to our Father, so that we are never apart – ever
 - [14:23](#) – our love for Jesus is evidenced by holding fast to His word – [keep](#) goes beyond mere obedience; from our relationship with Jesus, we hold firmly to what He has said, what He has done, what He is doing ... We don't toss it aside, because life is too hard, because we don't understand, because we don't like what He has said ... No, we press in to go deeper, to be vulnerable with Him, to trust even when it doesn't make sense to do so ... And if we are holding fast to Jesus, then we are holding fast to the Father, too ... If we are trusting what Jesus has said, then we are trusting what the Father has said and done and is doing ... In this, then, we have the assurance that Jesus and the Father have made their home within us – the fullness of God, the Trinity, dwelling within us
 - [Room](#) is used here and in [14:2](#), and it speaks of a [permanent dwelling place](#) ... So, when Jesus says, “[In My Father's house are many rooms,](#)” He's not referring to individual rooms or mansions (KJV/NKJV wrong) ... Plus the emphasis is on the word [many](#); thus, Jesus is assuring the disciples, “[The dwelling place of My Father is massive, enough for every person who belongs to Him. There is no need to fear that you will be left out or forgotten.](#)” ... [14:3](#) – now this passage is full of meaning ... Some interpret this passage as referring to the rapture before the Great Tribulation, but John typically stays away from end time talk in his gospel, so it would be strange for him to drop a reference to the rapture here and not talk about it again ... Besides, the final place for eternity is not up in the sky, but down here on earth ... I believe Jesus to be talking about a reality that is about to come, and is now present for us ... On one hand, it is a promise that when we pass away, He comes to take us to be with Him ([2Cor5:8](#)) ... On the other hand, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit and what it means when He does come ... [Take](#) means [to take to oneself, to join to oneself](#) – think of a husband and wife, the two being joined together as one ... [I will come again and join you to Myself](#)
 - [Box illustration](#) ... One of the great works of the Holy Spirit – while here on earth, we also reside in Heaven with Jesus, as He resides in us ... [Eph2:6](#); we are joined to Christ, and He is joined to us ... [Col2:9-10](#) ... This agrees with what Peter says in [2Pe1:3](#), [God's divine power has given us everything we need to grow and live the life that He calls us to live](#) ... We have His fullness through the Spirit, His word which the Spirit teaches us to understand, and Christian community with whom we practice and live out what we are taught ... So, being joined to Christ Jesus, my life is no longer my own ... Everything I have, everything that I am, belongs to Him ... I'm no longer in charge; I'm no longer calling the shots ... The new life I have been given belongs to Him who gave it to me ... The right response of gratitude and worship is to surrender and have Him take over – completely and daily ([Eph5:18](#)) ... [Gerig](#), “[This \[new\] life involves having the entire Trinity living within by means of the Person of the Holy Spirit of God. We must realize this, we must believe it, and then we must act like it](#)” ...