



**More on the Promise of the Holy Spirit
Doing Life Jesus Style
Living and Loving Fearlessly Today
John 14:15-31**

Scripture quotations are taken from the following translations:

ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission. www.Lockman.org**

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996, 2019 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible (NRSVue), Copyright © 2021, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide

**Scripture taken from the New King James Version (NKJV).
Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.**

**Scripture taken from The Holy Bible: The Contemporary English Version (CEV).
©1995 by The American Bible Society, Thomas Nelson, Nashville TN.**

Scripture quotations marked (CSB) have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

In verse 16, Jesus begins His discussion about how life is about to change once the Holy Spirit is given. We have already talked about the how to be in the Spirit since this was promised for every single believer. Imagine, the power to do life doing the works Jesus did, and even more than that, exceeding those works because the Spirit lives and empowers us individually.

We talked about this being our decision, whether or not we want to live empowered or not.

We only scratched the surface though, there is more. Let's look at the text.



John 14:15–27

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. After a little while, the world no longer is going to see Me, but you are going to see Me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you. The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, what has happened that You are going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him. The one who does not love Me does not follow My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you while remaining with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you. Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.” (NASB 2020)

In verse 15, Jesus tells us a characteristic of being a believer is that we Love Jesus and follow His commandments. Now in verse 21, He expands on that idea. Before He said we would keep His commandments, but now He tells us that this characteristic goes even further, we have His commandments.

His disciples, who should know the Torah, would immediately think of the places in the Torah this same thought is communicated.

Exodus 20:4–6

“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.” (NLT)

To have His commandments implies taking things further than simply obeying does.

The meaning appears to be to make the commandments one’s own, to take them into one’s inner being. Jesus speaks not only of “having” the commandments but also of “keeping” them. This means that it is more important to obey them in daily life than to have a firm intellectual grasp of their content. (Morris 1995, 579-580)

For us as believers, studying the Bible can be either an intellectual pursuit, or a faith pursuit.

As a faith pursuit, we read the text and because we love Jesus, we are impressed by the Holy Spirit, as we read, that a specific text we have just looked at applies to us. It is more than simple head knowledge, He makes it, through the Spirit, heart knowledge. It becomes part of us and as it becomes a part of us, because we love Him, we follow what He is asking of us. Just what does this look like for us? Let’s take another look at something we have already looked at.

John 13:34–35

“I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.” (NASB 2020)



We have just been told that we must “have and obey His commands,” and this is clearly a command. And yes, I checked the Greek text, it is in the imperative, it is a command. It was such a new idea He even said it was a command. The doubt should be gone. He is telling us to agape (love) one another as He agape’s us. Let’s review agape again.

Agape – That is the word used here. This is the love God has for the world and which we are to emulate. A simple way to remember it is unconditional love no matter what. The definition is multilayered too. To love God is to exist for Him as a slave for his lord (cf. Lk 17:7 ff.). It is to listen faithfully and obediently to His orders, to place oneself under His lordship, to value above all else the realisation of this lordship (cf. Mt 6:33). It also means, however, to base one’s whole being on God, to cling to Him with unreserved confidence, to leave with Him all care or final responsibility, to live by His hand. It is to hate and despise all that does not serve God nor come from Him, to break with all other ties, to cut away all that hinders (Mt 5:29 f.), to snap all bonds except that which binds to God alone. (Quell and Stauffer 1964-, 45)

What Jesus us about to do on the cross changes everything. His ultimate example of love for us, through His death on the cross, points the way for how we are now to live.

When we come to Christ, we are also becoming part of a new family. Some of the things we used to do simply will not do in this family, not at all. Then there are some new things we must learn, because we love Jesus and He wants us to be like Him. So, we watch Him in order to do that. The Holy Spirit helps us to do that.

In this new family with Jesus, the primary characteristic that the world can see and know that something has happened in our hearts and life is this, we love each other.

Jesus agapes us to the degree that He left heaven and became a man in order to fully identify with us and the plight we put ourselves into in Genesis 3. Then, rather than taking over and forcing us to follow Him, His love drove Him to pay the penalty for what we did, our sin. He agapes us so much, that He suffered beating after beating, and then allowed Himself to be hung on wood He created, and then suffer on the cross, all so we wouldn’t have to. He died on our behalf. That is how much He agapes us.

So, knowing that, and internalizing that, and making that our own, as He has just said here in the text.

What do we do?

We love our brothers and sisters in the faith the same way that He, agapes us. Stop and think about that brother or sister who has offended you, are you willing to love them that way? Are you willing to put them ahead of ourselves as Jesus did? Are you willing to wash their feet as Jesus did? Are you willing to die on their behalf?

Peter, are you listening?

Matthew 18:21–22

“Then Peter came to him and said, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother who sins against me? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times!” (NET 2nd ed.)

Looking at this one commandment, and taking it and personalizing it, well this is taking a commandment and then making it our own, to truly have it. It means to understand it and fully understand what it is He is asking of us. Now I may not get the why I should love someone who has and continues to be offensive, but that person is a brother or sister, and it really is not an option for me not to.



Jesus tells me it is not an option.

But Ken, they may not even acknowledge me. That usually is the case.

They may even still be going out of their way to offend us. But we are not given any exceptions here.

I do not intellectually get it. We always want to know what's in it for me, but it is about us, not really. It is about Him. So, I really do not need to intellectually get it. It is enough that He says to do it.

This isn't all that new either. Solomon pointed out the wisdom of walking in His path.

Proverbs 3:5–6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will make your paths straight.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Intellectually, following and loving as Jesus loves makes no sense at all. But Jesus adds something else into the mix here as well.

Jesus tells us that as we love Him and reflect that love by acting on it internalizing, making His commandments part of us and obeying them, the Father loves us, Jesus loves us, and we are promised He will reveal Himself to us.

What is this we are talking about here. What is it that taking this step of obedience and love does for us? “It is a spiritual revelation of Himself to the soul! It is a vivid realization of the Savior’s being and nearness, in a deep and abiding sense of His favor and love. “By the power of the Spirit, He makes His Word so luminous, that as we read it, He Himself seems to draw near.” (Pink 1923-1945, 785)

We know we are in His presence, and we know because we hear His words and “see” Him.

When that takes place, you know it. There is a reason why I love to pray with others specifically coming together to do nothing but pray and seek the Lord.

Once we had our own building, we began to do this every week on Friday mornings, as a group of men, at Calvary Chapel Austin. There were not many of us, less than 10 most of the time, starting at 6am does that. But we would do nothing but pray for an hour and then have breakfast together.

The staff was there, all three of them, and then those of us who were led of the Lord to be there and pray. Jesus met us there. He always did. I knew it. I felt His presence and His approval as we prayed for the church and for each other. Once we had our own building, we could do this, and we did.

Once we have our own building here in Hobe Sound, we will do the same. The only way this or any ministry grows or does anything is by prayer. It sure isn't through any expertise I have, or anyone else either for that matter. He gave us the formula centuries ago as Zerubbabel worked though rebuilding the Temple, Zechariah told him the source of how the work would be done.

Zechariah 4:6

“Therefore he told me, ‘This is the LORD’s message to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by strength and not by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.” (NET 2nd ed.)

As we enter into this New Year, that is something we all need to remember. If you have made any resolutions or decision to change or do this or that in the new year, the way anything happens is the same, “Not by might or power, but by my Spirit.”



And about that promise in verse 12 of doing greater things than Jesus as we are empowered by the Spirit. Have you made that your prayer for the new year? I mean, He promised we would do His works and greater. If we pray to do His works and greater, we are praying a prayer that He will indeed hear.

Let this be the year we pray for momentous, eye watering, big-time monumental earth-shattering accomplishments for the Lord.

When we pray, do we ask for hundreds, or millions of souls.

When we pray, do we ask for revival for Hobe Sound, or for this nation.

How big is our God?

As we pray, we also learn. Prayer is a conversation with the Lord and as we expect Him to be listening to us, He also expects us to listen to Him. This is part of making His commands our own.

1. We recognize that He is God, and we aren't.
2. The world does not revolve around us.
3. He gives us the strength to do life, even when it seems impossible.
4. We recognize that He is the one who is always in control, and we give Him that control every single day.
5. We tell Him what we really think about things, out loud. He is always wanting to hear from you and me, so when we talk to Him, He helps us process what is going on in our minds.
6. Most importantly, just as I learned at Cavalry Chapel Austin, you trust and know that God is indeed with you.

Pray to be empowered to do great exploits for God. That could be as small as the necessary power to make it through a conversation with someone, or it could be as big as changing the world.

This whole idea of making His commandments part of how you do life was new to the disciples. Before it was a "to do." But now, it is a "want to." And this idea of Jesus further revealing Himself, that was a new idea as well. His disciples struggled with that idea. I mean they had been with Him physically for a couple of years now, what else is there? And why not to the world? This trashed their idea of Messiah by the way. They thought He would reveal Himself to the world, nope, just those who love Him for now.

John 14:22–23

"Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what has happened that You are going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him." (NASB 2020)

Judas was a popular name for little boys at that time in history. Everyone wanted their son to be as might as Judas Maccabeus

1 Maccabees 3:1–4

"Then his son Judas, who was called Maccabeus, took command in his place. All his brothers and all who had joined his father helped him; they gladly fought for Israel. He extended the glory of his people. Like a giant he put on his breastplate; he bound on his armor of war and waged battles, protecting the camp by his sword. He was like a lion in his deeds, like a lion's cub roaring for prey." (NRSVue)

That all changed because of one man, the one who betrayed Jesus. The name has since become synonymous for betrayal, so John wants us to know this is not that guy.



Judas is not thinking much beyond the physical at this point.

Jesus answers the question, but Judas is not the first question being asked here in John 14. These are believers, those who love Jesus and He is telling them things which lead to questions.

Loving and following Jesus gives us the freedom to also ask Him questions. We too have the freedom, as His disciples today, to read His word and whenever we see something or hear something in His word we don't quite get, to ask questions. No matter how dumb we may think they are.

They aren't dumb to Jesus. He loves you and me and is waiting to hear from us.

Don't ever be afraid to talk to Him about anything. Big or small. A resolution for the new year can be a little thing, like eating fewer sweets this year. Or it could be huge. I knew a man, who is now home with the Lord, who prayed that he would be allowed to lead one person to the Lord, every day. God honored that prayer, and the last years of his life were super productive for the kingdom. But it began with him asking in prayer, what he thought, was a dumb question. Lord, how do I lead someone to Jesus?

"...as the disciples ask questions and receive answers, believers ever since have been free to pray and receive the Lord's tutelage. Now the focus of our getting His teaching, in relation to prayer, is in a diligent search for light in His Word and obeying it (14:15, 23; 15:7; 1 Pet. 2:2-3; 2 Pet. 3:18)." (Rosscup 2008, 1837)

We learn by asking questions. There is no dumb question when we talk to the Lord.

As part of His answer, Jesus gives Judas the key, it all centers on loving Jesus.

John 14:23-24.

"Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him. The one who does not love Me does not follow My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."" (NASB 2020)

The reason why He is not revealed to the world, even today, is simple. They do not have the eyes to see, not at all. Paul wrote a commentary on this question.

Romans 8:5-11

"For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you." (CSB)

The answer for Judas is this. "The power of receiving a divine Revelation depends upon active obedience, which rests upon personal love. Love to Christ brings the love of His Father (my Father and not simply the Father) to the disciple. And this is followed by the realisation and continuance of that fellowship through which God is revealed to man. Love, obedience, and knowledge are correlative." (Westcott and Westcott 1908, 207-208)



As we walk in Christ, we are loving Him, obeying Him, being loved by the Father and by Him and that love is reflected in the Holy Spirit communing with us and living in us. Or as Jesus tells Judas, “We will come to him and make our dwelling with him.”

The simple fact is, that as believers, we have the love of God and Jesus present in us in the person of the Holy Spirit. He loves us and hugs us from the inside out, and if you don't know Jesus, that idea of being hugged from the inside by the Spirit is just, crazy. But I know and all of those who know Jesus know, it is a reality that we are privileged to experience every single day we walk with Him.

This is part one of the answer to Judas. Great questions Judas. But there is the other side of that question, the reason why the world will not and cannot get it. Some of the things that were anticipated from Ezekiel, well they are still in the future. Yes, there will be a day when the Spirit is poured out on everyone, but right now, this is all about retaking ground from the enemy.

Satan is pushing one way to do life, and we no longer follow that, and the contrast is pretty clear.

John 14:24

“The one who does not love Me does not follow My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.” (NASB 2020)

Those who do not know Jesus, do not love Jesus. And if they do not love Jesus, they will not follow His words. Not one. We must not forget that as we do life.

Why protest the world being the world? Why be angry with the world being the world?

I think Dr. McGee made it clear when he answered a question in one of my classes at Biola as to why he or his church stayed away from social justice issues or protesting the world being the world. It all has to do with the Great Commission

He said, “My job is to catch and clean fish. It isn't cleaning up the pond.”

If you are stuck in the pond and have determined it seems a bit too muddy for you, there is a way out and it is only through Jesus.

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



Works Cited

- Morris, Leon. 1995. *The Gospel according to John, The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Pink, Arthur Walkington. 1923-1945. *Exposition of the Gospel of John*. Swengel, PA: Bible Truth Depot.
- Quell, Gottfreid, and Ethelbert Stauffer. 1964-. "Ἀγαπάω, Ἀγάπη, Ἀγαπητός." In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, edited by Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey W. Bromiley and Gerhard Friedrich. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Rosscup, James E. 2008. *An Exposition on Prayer in the Bible: Igniting the Fuel to Flame Our Communication with God*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- Westcott, Brooke Foss, and Arthur Westcott, . 1908. *The Gospel according to St. John Introduction and Notes on the Authorized Version, Classic Commentaries on the Greek New Testament*. London: J. Murray.