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John 14

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

John 14.

Topics.

- Let not your hearts be troubled.
- In my Father's house are many mansions.
- I go to prepare a place for you.
- I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life.
- I am in the Father and the Father is in me.
- Whoever believes in Christ will do greater works than he did.
- Whatever you ask in my name I will do.
- The Father will give you another helper.
- I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
- The Holy Spirit will teach you all things.
- Peace I give to you; let not your hearts be troubled.
- The ruler of this world is coming.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus began having the Last Supper with the apostles, he told them that his hour had come to depart out of this world and go to the Father and that one at the table would betray him, then Judas left the table and went out to betray Jesus (it was night).

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

JESUS IS STILL EATING THE LAST SUPPER WITH HIS DISCIPLES

It is thought-provoking to remember that throughout this entire conversation Jesus is fully aware that Judas is about to come with soldiers and take him to face an agonising, bloody and brutal death.

JOHN 14:1-5

Let not your Hearts Be Troubled.

- **John 14:1-5:** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms (many mansions in KJV). If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

During this conversation Jesus is sitting at the table having the Last Supper with the eleven apostles while Judas has gone to betray him (see John 13). When Jesus said to the eleven apostles, "Let not your hearts be troubled" (v1) he was fully aware that he was about to be whipped, brutally tortured and cruelly nailed to the cross as a common criminal and that all this horror would leave his disciples totally confused and defeated since they think he is going to be made the King of Israel. This no-doubt

is why he is pre-warning them not to let their hearts be trouble and if they believe in God then believe and trust in him (v1) meaning trust he knows what he is doing and trust that what he is doing is in God's eternal plan for his life.

In my Father's House are many mansions: the word mansions (*mone*) from Strong's Concordance is fabulously perfect for what Jesus is telling his disciples since it can refer to the act of staying in a place of abode or to the literal place of abode, thus it applies to both the act of abiding and the place one abides in. Added to this it carries the idea of abiding in a state of expectancy. Spiritually this implies that everyone who belongs to Jesus will have his or her own personal and spiritual relationship that is unique to them.

NOTE: personal relationship with Christ should always be a separate issue to doctrine. There is only one Gospel, but each individual will have their own personal and unique relationship with Christ and his heavenly Father, i.e., a married man is a father to his children, a husband to his wife, a servant to his boss, a son to his parents and a mate to his friends though he is a single individual he will have a different relationship with his children, his wife, his boss, his parents and his friends such is the way in the body of Christ with brothers and sisters though we all come to Christ through the one Gospel we will all have our own unique and individual relationship to our Lord and our King. The statement, in my Father's house are many mansions also carries the idea that in the body of Christ there is room for Jews and Gentiles, there is a place for people from every language and every nation, there is room for the rich and the poor, the famous and the lowly meaning everyone is invited there is a place of abode for all contrasted to the Kingdom only being for the nation of Israel and the Hebrew and Jewish people.

I go to prepare a place for you: Jesus tells his apostle that he is leaving them for the sole purpose of preparing a place in the mansion of God (a symbol of eternal glory) for them and by extension and eternal place of abode for everyone who belongs to Christ.

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I will come again and will take you to myself: Jesus fully aware that Judas is about to come with an armed group of soldiers who will take him to face an agonising, bloody and brutal death pre-warns the apostles that he is leaving them, (v3). His words, "I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also," Immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible student to the following words of the apostle Paul: -

- Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:14-17).

You know the way to where I am going: Jesus said to the eleven, "You know the way to where I am going," because he had told them many times while he was with them, but they did not fully understand what he meant, until he appeared to them after his death and resurrection thus the reason Thomas said, "How can we know the way?" Jesus answers Thomas question in the following verses.

JOHN 14:6-11

I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life.

- **John 14:6-11:** Jesus said to him (Thomas) "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him "Have I

been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

The Way means Jesus is the way to the Father and the perfect example of how to behave and live, the Truth means everything he spoke is true and the way he lived is right there was no hypocrisy or pretence in him and the Life means in him is eternal life and by extension all those who belong to him will not only have abundant life now, but they will be granted eternal life. The words:

- I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life no one comes to the Father except through him.

Does not only mean that one has to believe in him but also embraces the idea of doing what he says, i.e., walking in the fruits of the Spirit with the desire to be a good testimony to God and the name of Christ contrasted to oppressing or using others for one's own gain and being prideful, egotistical and driven by greed and craving for the things of this world such as power and wealth etc.

Jesus manifested God the Father: Jesus words, "No one comes to the Father except through me," clearly show that he is not saying he is God, but that he is the way to God his heavenly Father, nevertheless he is God the Father's word manifested in the flesh, meaning in human form. Jesus perfectly manifested God the Father's eternal plan and His character, mercy, grace, power and love to all humanity; he was the mirror image or exact copy of God the Father's character. It is in this sense that Jesus can say, if you have seen him you have seen the Father. Every man or woman who wants to know the character of God only has to look at the life of Jesus Christ because he faultlessly manifested God the Father's love to all humanity even unto death, but the eleven did not fully understand that he was, the word of God manifested in the flesh (a human body) and that he was not only the Saviour of Israel but also of the entire world (Jews and Gentiles).

3

I am in the Father and the Father is in me: I am in the Father and the Father is in me (v11) means that God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son are of one mind in purpose they have the same goals and plans and are both motivated by the same love. The statement:

- I am in the Father and the Father is in me.

Does not mean they are one person but that they are identical in mind meaning God the Father and Christ his Son have the same mind, purpose, goals, plans, motivation and character, this is what Jesus means when he says:

- I am in the Father and the Father is in me.

There is no division or tension between them everything Jesus does is the will of the Father they are perfect in love, unity and purpose.

Believe on account of the works themselves: Jesus understands the eleven are having difficulty in understanding what he is saying so he tells them to "believe on account of the works themselves" (v11) the miracles they have seen should have been enough to testify that Jesus was who he said he was. The miracles Jesus performed authenticated and testified that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world. No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of. We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by

God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following majestic words:

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isaiah 29:1-24) (Isaiah 35:1-10) (Isaiah 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did. And Jesus when speaking to the Jews said:

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard (John 5:36-37).

JOHN 14:12

Whoever believes in Christ will do Greater Works than he Did.

- **John 14:12:** "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

Works: (ergon) from Strong's Concordance means, to work it carries the idea of labouring and toiling as an effort or an occupation which shows that it is unlikely that the greater works Jesus is talking about has anything to do with miracles especially when one considers that no man or woman throughout history has done greater miracles than those that Jesus did. He casually walked along any street or field and healed all those who came to him, Jesus did not need to be in a church to create an atmosphere of faith before he could heal, he simply walked through villages and cities filled with unbelievers and touched or spoke and they were healed of crippling sickness and in many cases regardless of their faith or their belief. He calmed the raging sea and the stormy wind simply by speaking and walked on water, we don't see modern day ministers doing these kinds of miracles. In this context greater works suggest the following two things:

1. That those who believe in Christ will collectively help reach and save more souls than Christ ever could, this of course is because they have a much longer life span to minister and as the Gospel spreads throughout the nations so do those who are sharing it.
2. It carries the idea that multitudes will do great acts of courage and of self-sacrifice because of their faith in Christ.

JOHN 14:13-14

Whatever you Ask in my Name I will do.

- **John 14:13-14:** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Just as Jesus asked the Father and the Father answered his prayers so that he was able to perform amazing miracles which authenticated he was from God; Jesus is now saying to the eleven apostles that he will answer their prayers to authenticate that they have been sent by him.

NOTICE: the things asked for in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ refer to things that will glorify his heavenly Father so in this context they would refer to forgiveness of sins, prophecy, revelation, wisdom and a clear understanding of the words of Christ and of God, inner contentment, joy, peace and love, eternal life and the power to heal the sick.

If you Love Me, you will keep My Commandments.

- **John 14:15-19:** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper (Comforter in KJV) to be with you forever, ¹⁷even 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. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Keeping the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ is a manifestation of God's love dwelling in the human heart.

Understanding Christ's commandments: the spirit behind the law is love, because each law protects a human being from harm. In the book of Romans Paul states:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

The spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from physical, financial, sexual, verbal, emotional and spiritual harm, thus those who know God aim to keep the law because it is the right and loving thing to do. It fulfils the Ten Commandments regarding man, and the Royal law love your neighbour as yourself. It pleases God and brings a good testimony to His name and the name of, Jesus and the Christian faith. Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because they are saved. They understand that righteousness is a gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort. They know that the law is splendid as a guide to an understanding of God's will, but as a means of reunion with God, the God we have sinned against, it is a hopeless failure nevertheless both law and grace go together, the law without the Gospel is diagnosis without remedy, but the Gospel without law is only the good news of salvation for people who don't believe they need it because they have never heard the bad news of judgment, the law is not the Gospel, but the Gospel is not lawless (Rom. 3:19-20) (Eph. 2:13-22).

God's and Jesus Commandments.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour.

Jesus famous sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. Thus, living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing all we can do to protect people from harm and being dominated by the thought "What action can I take or do that will help and encourage this person. It is all about doing

right to others, thus the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matthew 5).

- These are the things that delight the heart of God, a wicked person is primarily one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus famous sermon see:
- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Father will give you another helper: since the language of personification is common to the Greek language the helper (comforter in KJV) is personified as the Spirit of truth much like wisdom is personified as a woman with children.

Jesus words:

- The Spirit of truth dwells in you (v17).

Means the eleven apostles know the Good News of the Gospel and the way to the Father and eternal life even though they don't yet fully understand or realise it, but Jesus knows that all that he has spoken during his three years with them will come to light when he appears to them after his death and resurrection and when the Holy Spirit (the promise of the Father) is poured out on them as recorded in Acts chapter two. Immediately after this event Peter boldly stands up and clearly proclaims repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit and about three thousand responded to his message and were baptised and devoted themselves to fellowship and the apostles' teachings. For further information regarding personification, see the title:

- Personification in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The world cannot receive the Spirit of truth: Jesus words, "The world cannot receive the Spirit of truth, because it neither sees him nor knows him," but you know him clearly refers to Jesus himself and the apostles. They have literally seen him and for at least three years known him. Jesus refers to himself as the Spirit of truth because he is about to be killed and ascend to the right hand side of his heavenly Father and then whoever knows him will only know him by the Spirit and the words he has spoken and having faith that what he has said is true, thus his words are Spirit and life.

NOTE: the word truth in this context does not refer to all truth, i.e. it is true the sun will rise in the morning and go down at night even the unbelieving world believes this truth. The truth Christ is talking about is all truth regarding the way to God the Father and eternal life. The unbelieving world cannot receive this truth (referred to as the Spirit of truth) because they deny Christ and therefore reject his words which contain the only truth that leads to the Father and eternal life, but it is only while they remain in a state of unbelief that they can never receive the truth, if they do repent and accept Christ their spiritually blind eyes are opened and they are delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Colossians 1:13).

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you: the following words of Jesus are prophetic and majestic, knowing Judas has gone to betray him and that he is about to lay down his life tells the eleven apostles that very soon they and the world will not see him and then comforts them by saying he will not leave them as orphans, but will come to them again (v18) referring to his appearing to them after his death and resurrection as recorded in the last chapter of John's letter (John 20:19-31) (John 21). Jesus then adds, "Because I live, you also will live" (v19), meaning because he is resurrected to eternal glory they also and by extension everyone who belongs to Christ will receive eternal life.

I am in my Father, and you in Me, and I in You.

- **John 14:20:** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

The words, "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you" (v20) refer to the day Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection. The phrase, "The disciples are in Jesus" Obviously does not mean that the disciples are Jesus, rather it carries the idea that they fully embrace all that Jesus is in character, mind, purpose and love. Likewise the words, "I am in my Father" does not mean Jesus is the Father, but that he completely embraces all that the Father is in character, mind, purpose and love similarly the term, "Jesus is in the disciples" cannot mean Jesus is the disciples, but that Jesus embraces all that the disciples are in character, mind, purpose and love, thus; the words, "I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you" Simply mean the Father, Jesus and those who belong to him are all together in unity, purpose and love and have totally invested their life in each other.

You in me and I in you: the phrase, "You in me and I in you" (v20) carries the idea that a person entirely embraces another person and accepts all that they are and do, both will do everything they are able to do to benefit each other because both have the same purpose and embrace the same plans and goals it means that they are both completely devoted to each other in purpose, mind, unity and love.

JOHN 14:21-24

Those who love Jesus will be loved by the Father.

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- **John 14:21-24:** 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." ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³Jesus 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. ²⁴Whoever 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.

These words of Jesus clearly show that simply confessing that one believes in Christ does necessarily mean that they love him, i.e., a person confessing to have faith in Christ but who lives contrary to the fruits of the Spirit is according to these words of Jesus deceiving themselves and everyone else who believes that what they are saying is true. Loving Christ is outwardly evidenced by behaviour that is in accordance to the commandments of Christ and of God and a lifestyle that brings a good testimony to God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Doing what pleases the one that is loved and what they desire outwardly manifests a person's love for that person, if there is no action to please the one loved then love is a fantasy and an illusion of the mind because for love to be real there must be action thus doing the commandments of Christ is an outward manifestation of God's love dwelling in the human heart. If a husband verbally praises his wife and constantly tells her he loves her while he is having an affair with another woman he is not only deceiving himself, but his wife as well since true love does no harm to another person (Rom. 13:10) 1 Cor. 13:2-7) (1 John 4:8).

NOTE: this does not mean that those who belong to Christ will live a perfect life or never offend anyone, but it does mean that their primary desire and consciousness in life is to be a good testimony to God and to Christ's name. To understand the commandments of Christ, see the title:

- Understanding Christ's Commandments (following v15-19) (above).

He will manifest himself to those who love him: Jesus statement, "He will manifest himself to those who love him" (v21) means those who keep his commandments will be given wisdom, insight and understanding of his word and spiritually know his love and at the resurrection he will appear and say to them, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21) (Matt. 25) (Luke 19:17) and will literally dwell with them in eternal glory for all eternity.

NOTICE: whoever loves Jesus and follows his ways is loved by God the Father.

JOHN 14:25-26

The Holy Spirit, will Teach you all Things.

- **John 14:25-26:** "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper (Comforter in KJV) the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Jesus at the Last Supper has been telling the eleven apostles' spiritual truths that those who belong to Christ today have no trouble understanding, but this is only because we are on the other side of his death and resurrection. The eleven were in confusion and Jesus being a man of wisdom and compassion understood this thus the reason he says, "I have spoken to you while I am still with you." Jesus is basically saying, I realise you do not understand, don't worry, it's OK because my heavenly Father will send the Holy Spirit and he will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you over the last three years. (God miraculously did this in Acts chapter two; for further information see the title, "The Father will give you another Helper" (following v15-19) (above).

JOHN 14:27-29

Peace I give to you; Let not your Hearts be Troubled.

- **John 14:27-29:** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

The peace Christ gives: in this context the peace Jesus gives is about peace with God it is about the peace that comes to those who know they are saved by grace contrasted to striving to keep the Old Testament ceremonial law, holy and feast days, Sabbaths and sacrifices etc. The peace Jesus gives comes through knowing we are made righteous through faith in him contrasted to trying to be righteous by our own efforts. Those who belong to Christ have internal peace because Christ has done away with the struggle to keep the Old Covenant ceremonial laws. The peace Jesus is talking about refers to freedom of judgement, it is knowing one will be counted worthy and accepted at the return of Christ contrasted to being in doubt and fear of judgment to condemnation. The peace Jesus gives only comes because of God's grace and mercy that is granted to those who have faith in Christ and faithfully follow him.

The peace the world gives: the peace the world gives demands an outward standard of good works to be accepted by God, it is a peace that comes by doing religious acts and deeds to be accepted by God but because self, ego and pride dwells in the human heart it is impossible for any man or woman to ever attain to a standard of righteousness that would satisfy an absolute Holy God in who no darkness dwells. Pure light dispels even the lightest shade of darkness therefore regardless of how

small our sin might be if we take that darkness in the presence of God who is pure light we would be overwhelmingly crushed without His mercy and grace.

NOTE: in many religious circles the peace the church offers is much the same as the peace the world offers i.e., providing one attends church every week, reads the Bible every day and prays etc., they will be counted as righteous before God, but though all these things are good in themselves it is not true that doing them will make a person acceptable to God. There are many religious people in the world today who attend church every week, read the Bible and pray, but are indifferent to the wellbeing of others and have no idea of what the Royal Law, "Love your neighbour as yourself" means and how important walking in the fruits of the Spirit is not only to Christ but also to God his heavenly Father.

JOHN 14:30-31

The Ruler of this World is Coming.

- **John 14:30-31:** I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

The ruler of this world applies to the religious authorities of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) they had total religious power and control over the entire nation of Israel. The words, "The ruler of this world is coming" refers to the officers and soldiers the religious rulers had sent to take Jesus captive and bring him to the Jewish council to be falsely condemned and sentence to death.

He has no claim on me: the reason Jesus was able to say:

- The ruler of this world has no legal or lawful claim on him (v30).

Was because he had committed no crime and no sin, he had lived such a perfect life that not even the world's most powerful rulers Herod and Pilate could find no fault in him. The only way the Jewish council could condemn Jesus was to find false witnesses and twist what he had said.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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