

## John 14:15-31 - "The Helper"

Opening Question: Besides Salvation, what would you say was the biggest moment that you've seen God break into your life or the life of someone close to you?

The second half of John 14 follows on from the first half! :-)

You might want to read all of John 14. Alternatively, note how that passage ends:

Jesus says, "You will do greater works than me... and whatever you ask in my name I will do." Where "In my name" means, "According to my will."

Read John 14:15-31

Note the condition at the start of the passage, "If you love me." It's optional!

Q. In the context of the passage how would we know if we truly love Jesus?

Q. If not answered yet: What commandments are we to keep?

A. I won't always give an answer but it's super important to note that Jesus has just told them one specific commandment in 13:34.

Q. What's the difference between the Holy Spirit dwelling 'with' you and the Holy Spirit dwelling 'in' you?

Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit is available to all who love him. Jesus will dwell with his disciples even after he's left the earth physically. Jesus gives four reasons (in this and the next chapter) that the Holy Spirit needs to come. The first one is here in verse 26 - "He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." This is directed to the disciples who Jesus is talking to at this specific moment.

Q. How, if at all, can you relate this verse to you and the Church today? Is this still a role for the Holy Spirit in the post first century Church age? If so, how? If not, why not?

This passage definitely speaks to authority because Jesus says (v.28) that, "The Father is greater than I." My suggestion is that Jesus says this before the cross and after the resurrection tells his disciples that "All authority is given to him *in heaven and on the Earth*" (Matt 28:18) because something changed through his death and resurrection; authority was stripped from Satan - Jesus took it back. Now Jesus is giving this authority back to man through the Holy Spirit hence he can say, "If you ask me anything in my name I will do it."

Jesus is saying, "You have the authority to ask for anything according to my will." See also 1 John 5:14.

Q. What's the point of prayer if we can only ask for things that God already knows he's going to do?

By aligning our will with God's we enable his Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven because we no longer become a hindrance through our own selfish idolatry.

Q. If you lost *everything* you had would you still be able to say, "God is good?"

Q. If you lost *everything* you had would that be God's will?

These are very difficult question to answer and it partly answers the question of *why* we pray.

We need to know that we've done as much as we can to faithfully submit to God's authority and to bring about HIS will on earth. God uses us to achieve this - that's why he remains with us in the Holy Spirit.