

## John Chapter 14

The disciples were distressed. They had good reason to be. Jesus had just told them that He was about to leave them. The One whom they had loved most in all the world was going to go away. Soon they would be on their own. How would they carry on without Him? How could they face the world without the encouragement and support of His presence beside them? It seemed to be the end of everything. Then it was that Jesus said some very strange things to them. He told them that it would actually be to their advantage that He go away. Instead of being an irreparable loss, it would be an inestimable gain. There would be no sense of bereavement, no aching void in their hearts and lives, no sadness of farewell. How could these things be? Because, he said, as long as He was with them in the flesh their communion with Him would be limited by his physical presence. He had been beside them. But soon there would come One whose presence would be within them, One who would be their Teacher, their Guide, their Counsellor, Comforter, Strengthenener, and Helper. But now the strength would come not from without, but from within. And that inner Strengthenener is called the "Holy Spirit."

Read John 14: 1-14

- Look at Peter's question in 13:36, Thomas' in 14:5, Philip's in 14:8 and Judas' in 14:22. What problems are the disciples struggling with?
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- Put Jesus' statement in 14:6-7 in your own words. What is the force of the claims Jesus makes here?
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- How does 1:18 relate to what Jesus says in 14:9?
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- Do you think the promises Jesus makes in verses 12-14 are "blank cheque" promises about prayer? Or are there some conditions to them? If so what?
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## JESUS IS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

### 1. Where is Jesus going?

- a. moving to a new house
- b. heaven
- c. right hand of the Father
- d. can't say for sure

### 2. By pointing to Jesus as the only way to the Father, God is being:

- a. unfair
- b. narrow-minded
- c. merciful
- d. short-sighted
- e. old-fashioned

### 3. I am persuaded to believe that Jesus is the Way because:

- a. he said so
- b. it makes sense
- c. I've read about what he did
- d. of his miracles
- e. of the changes I've seen in myself
- f. there is no alternative

### 4. If I have trouble seeing Jesus as the Way, it's because of

- a. anxiety
- b. unbelief
- c. impatience
- d. ignorance
- e. spiritual blindness
- f. fear

### 5. Jesus and his Father were like:

- a. identical twins
- b. business partners
- c. fishing buddies
- d. spitting images of each other
- e. clones
- f. job-sharers
- g. president and press secretary

## MY OWN STORY

### 1. Where are you going?

- a. nowhere, and fast
- b. straight to heaven
- c. not sure
- d. hiding from God
- e. on a side trip

### 2. How do you feel about your faith journey right now?

- a. torn - I'm at a fork in the road
- b. confused - I'm lost
- c. indifferent - too busy looking at the scenery to watch where I'm going
- d. encouraged - my destination is within sight
- e. surprised - by the twists in the road
- f. confident - Jesus is my navigator and guide

### 3. The last time I asked God to "show me the way," he:

- a. forgave my sin
- b. opened his word to me
- c. gave me the words to say to someone in need
- d. worked a miracle in my life
- e. helped me to do something I ordinarily couldn't do

**4. In order for me to walk along the Way, I need:**

- a. a flashlight - illumination of my next step
- b. courage to face the unknown
- c. to repent of my sin - make an about-face
- d. a kick in the butt to keep moving
- e. support-companions to go with me

**5. The thing I look forward to the most is:**

- a. going to be with Jesus
- b. seeing what Jesus can do through me
- c. experiencing answers to my prayers
- d. discovering what it feels like to really trust Jesus

**6. Of all the things Jesus did, I would most like to:**

- a. teach with authority
- b. heal diseases
- c. cast out demons
- d. rebuke the Pharisees
- e. baptize
- f. preach the Good News
- g. change water into wine
- h. tell good stories
- i. forgive my enemies
- j. die on the cross
- k. rise on the third day

### **The Living Way**

Imagine yourself asking for directions in a strange town. Suppose the other person says: "Take the first left here and go left at the second intersection. Turn right at the second street and go left when it makes a Y, and then go right." Chances are you'll get lost halfway there.

But suppose that person says: "Follow me. I'll take you there." In that case, the person is the way. And that's precisely the case with Jesus. He doesn't point the way in the distance or draw us some impersonal map. He takes us by the hand and leads us. If you're lost, or if you've played the prodigal and simply strayed, Jesus is the way home to the Father - the only way. Won't you place your hand in His and let Him lead you there?

### **NOT ALONE**

You are not alone; you have an inward Helper. For the first time, Jesus informs His troubled disciples about the Holy Spirit. "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (vv 16-18).

The thought that devastates us most is that we're alone ... that nobody understands, or cares. As Christians, however, we never have to fear that. For within us dwells infinite comfort and care in the person of the Holy Spirit.

**Read John 14: 15-31**

- **How are the disciples to show love to each other (13:34)? to Jesus (14:15)? and why is this idea repeated four times (vv 15,21,23,24)?**
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- **How does Jesus set the example for us verse 31?**
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- **What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in verses 16-17 & 25-27? What is the relationship of the Father, Jesus and the Spirit to the believer?**
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- **What is the difference between how Jesus gives peace and how the world does?**
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- **Of all the promises made here (vv 16-18, 21, 23, 26-27) which one means the most to you? Why?**
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At the beginning of this Chapter, Jesus calmed the disciples with words about His Father's house. If that is not enough to still their troubled heart, Jesus spoke more tranquil words at the end of our passage. He said that while you remain on earth in your temporary tent (2 Corinthians 5:1), He and the Father will make their home in your heart and dwell in it (John 14:23). Just as the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle in the wilderness, so the Trinity will fill your heart with their majestic presence. And that light residing in you is sufficient to dispel even the darkest and most foreboding of shadows!

Remember, Jesus gave these promises only hours before He would endure the horrors of the Cross. And where was His attention? On comforting others and reassuring them of His eternal love. That's a Lord our hearts can rest in, no matter what. "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you".