

## **Studies from the Gospel of John**

### **The Glory Passages**

1 – Words of Comfort to the disciples - Chapter 13:31 – 14:31

31Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; 32if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately. 33"Little children, I am with you a little while longer You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

34"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

36Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later." 37Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."

38Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

### **John – Chapter 14**

1"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4"And you know the way where I am going."

5Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"

6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

### **Oneness with the Father**

7"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you 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 so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10"Do 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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 12"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

## Role of the Spirit

16"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17that 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 abides with you and will be in you. 18"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.19"After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20"In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"

23Jesus answered and said to 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 abode with him. 24"He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. 25"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26"But the Helper, 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 said to you. 27"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. 28"You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you ' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29"Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. 30"I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me Get up, let us go from here.

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## As the end approaches, "Love"

John 13:31 -35

31Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; 32if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately. 33"Little children, I am with you a little while longer You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come.'

34"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

At this time in Chapter 13 of John's Gospel, Judas has left Jesus to go and do the most dirty of deeds that will seal the fate of Jesus and make way for salvation for all of us. There is precious little time left and the words from the master must be limited to the very most important.

After the departure of Judas, Jesus begins.

**"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;"**

Through the action of Judas, the one who was a traitor to the Master, both Jesus and the Father were glorified. God's intended purpose is fulfilled. Then he tells the disciples that the glorification will come immediately (The Cross). All of creation glorifies God. For Jesus to reference glorification at this point indicates something profoundly important is about to occur.

He calls to his disciples using a term he has never used in his time with them:

**"Little children"**

This is a gentle family term – a tender reference of love and endearment.

**"Were I am going you cannot come."**

In less than twelve hours he will be on the cross. In less than twenty four hours, he will be cold and dead in the grave.

**"Were I am going you cannot come."**

And then our Lord gives a new commandment:

**"Love one another, as I have loved you."**

There is incredible advice in those simple words. It is exactly what the world needs and such love would have the power to totally change the world. How in the world will we be able to carry it out?

The answer is in the words "As I have loved you."

This might be better stated, "In the manner (because) I have loved you, you should love one another." The way that Jesus loves us will awaken the ability in us to love others, as we allow Him to work His love through us. We will love in the manner He loved"

1 – Without respect to persons. He did not love people who were nice to love. He chose to love the unloved, those who were rejected.

2 – He loved them because they needed love.

3 – The love of Jesus was expressed in deeds – not just words. "When I was sick, you visited me. When I was hungry you fed me. When I was naked, you clothed me." (Matthew 25:34-35)

4 - He loved without end "Having loved his own, he loved them to the end."

The love of Jesus is Authentic. It is life changing love and he offers it to us. It is a love that changes us. It will soften the hard, calm the arrogant and humble the proud. Jesus will change us so that we can love as He loved us.

## Peter's Love

**36Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later." 37Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."**

**38 Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.**

John does not indicate that Peter heard the new commandment. It appears all he heard was that Jesus was leaving and he responded to that statement.

**"Lord, where are You going?"**

Jesus calmly told Peter that he could not come with him, but that eventually he would follow him. Peter's response was typical of the stubborn fisherman.

**"Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."**

Peter was perfectly sincere when he said these words. He was thoroughly committed to Christ and his cause. He fully believed he would gladly lay down his life for his Lord.

This was not to be. It would be years before the Love of Christ would change Peter enough to honor his claim. Sadly in the next day (before the cock crowed) he would see how much he still needed to change. Probably 30 or more years would pass before Peter, who was then an old man and a prisoner in Rome, would be led away and, according to the traditional account, was crucified. Peter was so moved by the fact that he was to share the manner of his Lord's death that he insisted on being crucified upside down. At that point our Lord's words were literally fulfilled. "You can not go with me now, Peter, but afterward you shall."

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## Chapter 14 and words of comfort from Jesus:

The Gospel of Matthew records that, early in his ministry, our Lord said, "I have come that I might utter things that have been kept secret since the foundation of the world." Surely some of these truths are found here in the Upper Room Discourse.

**1"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4"And you know the way where I am going."**

Jesus knew the state of the hearts of his disciples and the condition his leaving would create. These men had been with him for three years and within a day would be alone. Understanding this, he now chose to reveal final truths to the men he had selected to carry on and forward.

"Do not let your heart be troubled" (Be at peace). Obviously, Peter needed assurance. He had just been told he would fail in his commitment to the Lord before morning. However, the words were addressed to the others also. A lot had already happened on this night. They had been shamed when in the middle of their arguments about who was the greatest among them, Jesus had demonstrated the proper attitude they should possess, by washing their feet. They had been shocked to learn that one of them would betray the master and then Judas had left. They were afraid of losing Jesus and troubled when he stated that he was leaving and they could not come with him.

Knowing all of these things Jesus gave them words of comfort.

- **1"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4"And you know the way where I am going."**

Jesus understood stress. John has already shared multiple times when Jesus was distressed "deeply troubled in spirit". He was subject to the same stresses. He knew that we cannot be free from or prevent stress there are things we need to remember.

- **"believe in God, believe also in Me."**
  - o As you believe in God, also believe in me.
  - o You must believe both in God and in me.
  - o Just as we have found relief/help/strength many times in the words of God, we will also find relief/help/strength in His son.
  - o As we have turned to God, we can also turn to His son
- **2"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.**
  - o There are other places and other things in store for us. We are here and in this time, but that is not the end.
  - o If Jesus is gone, he has gone to prepare a place for us.
- **3"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4"And you know the way where I am going."**
  - o If he goes, Jesus is coming back
  - o I will come again - He is coming back for us
  - o He will take us to the place he has prepared
  - o In that place, we will be with him - forever
  - o We know where that place is. (We call it heaven – the place where we will be with God the Father and God the Son)

**5Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"**  
**6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. 7"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."**

We call Thomas "Doubting Thomas" because of this, but it might be better to call him "Honest Thomas" because his response was the same as our response would be. Perhaps he was only saying, "I can't say I understand until I do." It is interesting to note that Jesus does not rebuke Thomas. Instead, Our Lord makes a profound statement. In fact it is likely the most important of the "I am" statements Jesus makes.

**"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."**

Jesus did not say he knew the way. He did not say he could lead us to the way. He said "I am the way..." Perhaps more importantly, he offers the only way to the Father. It is through him.

Then Jesus offers Thomas reassurance. Knowing Jesus is knowing the Father. Seeing Jesus is seeing the Father. It would not be too much to stretch what Jesus said and to further say the better you can see Jesus, the better you will have seen the Father.

**8Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."**

**9Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10"Do 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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.**

Phillip spoke the words many of us would think. To see the Father - to gaze into the bright shekinah glory of the creator of the universe would be the answer to many a wish. However, his request – probably blurted out in the action of a moment only brought forth a gentle rebuke from Jesus.

**"Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?"**

The hurt comes forth plainly in Jesus' reply to the disciple. To see Jesus is to see the Father because as Jesus is in the Father, so the father is in Jesus. In Jesus mind there are two things that show the Father in him. They are His (Jesus') words and his works. Both should have been enough to show Phillip the Father. These are the words of one who knows the trinity nature of God. God is the Father. God is the Son. As the Son is in the Father, also the Father is in the Son. They are two and they are one.

Having addressed the poor vision in his disciple, he moves on.

**12"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.**

This is perhaps the greatest promise Jesus ever made. With him, we can do great works. Through him, we can ask and it will be given. The key here is through him and in him. If we are not in him we cannot expect to achieve the through him. If we are in him, no request is too great

However, there are three things of importance in what Jesus promises that we need to understand.

1 – "He who believe in me..." and keeps on believing in me..."the works that I do, he will do also." If our belief is strong and lasting, we will perform miracles of love for others that show the great grace of God.

2 – "Greater works than these he will do" What can this mean? There is no way to do greater (physical) miracles than Jesus did. If not physical, these words must mean we will do greater spiritual works than Jesus accomplished.

Not long after Jesus departed, Peter accomplished this very spiritual "greater than" moment. On the day of Pentecost, 40 days after our Lord uttered these words, Peter, filled with the power of the Spirit, preached with such effect that 3,000 people were converted in one day. That never happened during Jesus' ministry. Perhaps a few hundred on occasion believed when he preached, but mere hands full was the usual response, never thousands as the book of Acts reports.

At one point in his ministry, Billy Graham preached to over a million people gathered in a great public square in Seoul, Korea. That is far more than Jesus ever accomplished.

We can do the same. Greater things in spiritual terms can happen through our belief.

3 - The third thing Jesus says is most important: It is not we who do these "greater works," but Jesus! Notice what he says, "Because I go to the Father," this will happen. By that he means that after he ascends to the throne of power, he will send the spirit and through the Spirit he will work universally. In Verse 13 Jesus links this to prayer. When you pray in his name, when you ask in line with God's will (that is what "in my name" means), what the Father wants, as Jesus himself always did, "I will do it," he promises. Twice he says this. Whatever you ask. "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it."

These are the works of Jesus for the believer. We will accomplish things greater than Jesus, because he had sent the Holy Spirit to work miracles through us.

**15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that 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 abides with you and will be in you.**

In Chapter 14, beginning with Verse 15, Jesus reveals God's plan to send another Person, whom he calls the "Paraclete" (or, as First John 2 translates it, the "Advocate"; also called "Comforter," "Strengthener" or "Helper") who will make all this possible. This is the third person of the Trinity, sent by God the Father and God the Son, to be with us until the Son returns.

Jesus says certain, specific things about the Holy Spirit:

1 – The Holy Spirit is a gift from God, who is the provider of all good things. He is a gift to all true believers.

Earlier, in the chapter 7 of his gospel, in the account of the Feast of Tabernacles John tells us :

**"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, 'If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. ... out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water,'" (cf, John 7:37-38). John immediately adds: "This he said about the Spirit, which those who believe in him would receive," (cf, John 7:39a).**

In this passage Jesus again tells us that only those who believe in Him receive the Spirit. He comes to us when we believe.

2 - Jesus says this Spirit will be "another," a separate but similar Person to himself.

**"I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor,"**

Jesus uses a word for "another" which in Greek means "another of the same kind." This is another statement of the Trinity - three persons in one, Father, Son and Spirit, all distinct, separate one from another, yet forming only one God. The Spirit will take over the work that Jesus had been doing with the disciples. The reason they had held firm in their faith for three and a half years was because they were with Jesus. The minute they lost sight of who he was, even when he was physically present, they began to come apart. He upheld them; he strengthened them; he counseled them; he ministered to them. But now he promises another is coming who will do this same work.

3 – The Holy Spirit will be a continually abiding presence.

**"He will be "with you forever."**

The spirit is with us always. It never leaves us. It does not wander in and out of our lives. It comes to stay.

## **Hebrews 3:5 "Be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you,'"**

The Holy Spirit will **Never** leave or forsake us.

4 – The Holy Spirit will be a revealer of truth to us.

### **... that is the Spirit of truth**

The Holy Spirit will not deceive us. What the Spirit tells us can be absolutely relied upon to be fundamental reality, with no confusion, no deceit, no disillusionment. The Spirit gives us the Word and that Word, understood and interpreted by the Spirit, is absolutely dependable. Truth is also what the Spirit wants from us in our relationship with him. The Spirit will not accept anything but truth (honesty) from us. When dealing with the Spirit we must not attempt to deceive ourselves or the Spirit. Honesty with where we are is what the Spirit wants.

5 – This remarkable new resource (the Spirit) is unavailable to the world.

### **... whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him**

My relationship with the Holy Spirit belongs to me and to Him which is fine because sometimes it seems as if the world has a conspiracy going to shut God out of his own world. There is less and less mention of Him, No credit is given to God for the many blessings we all receive from Him daily. In fact, the world blinds itself to the existence of the great and Holy One of Heaven who holds all of us in his hands and guides and directs the destinies of men and nations. Because of this, Jesus says the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit and because of that is cut off from the third part of the Holy Trinity, available only to those who believe.

There is fundamental knowledge about life, absolutely necessary to properly function as a human being, that will never be found in any secular university or institution, but is made available to us only by the Spirit. This resource is a fountain of strength, an ability to revive, to encourage, to put new vitality into life. The Spirit can grant a cleansing of the conscience and heart that human psychology knows nothing about.

6 – This will be a resource that is available from within.

My prayers to the Holy Spirit thank him for abiding with me throughout whatever may happen – beside me, around me, within me, providing comfort and serving as the voice within urging me to take follow Him down the path toward righteousness for His name sake.

### **you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.**

Jesus spoke these words to the eleven disciples, but they are for all of us and not just to the eleven who were still with Him that last night. We know from other Scriptures that since Pentecost when we come to Jesus we receive the Holy Spirit from that point on, He is with us and within us.

This remarkable revelation concerning the Spirit is confirmed to us by 2,000 years of human history. He did come on the Day of Pentecost; he did impart strength and boldness to these men so that they lost all fear and began to witness boldly in Jerusalem; he has come to every believer since that time. We have seen the fulfillment of these words of Jesus across two millennia of human testimony. Thus we can fully believe that Jesus knew what he was talking about in this revelation of the Person and work of the Spirit.

## **Christ and the Spirit with Us**

**18**"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**19**"After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. **20**"In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. **21**"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

The good news for the disciples and for us is that they would not lose Jesus when the Spirit came. He would be back by means of the Spirit, and he would stay with them.

"I will not leave you as orphans."

They had been with Jesus for three years. It is likely they felt just like orphans. The One whom they had learned to love and trust was leaving them. But Jesus promises, "when the Spirit comes, I will come with him." Here he puts his finger on what is probably the most wonderful truth about the coming of the Spirit: His primary work is to make Jesus real to his disciples. The mark of the Spirit-filled life is not signs, or wonders, or tongues, but an ever-deepening consciousness of the reality of Jesus Christ. That is the Spirit at work.

There is much to say and Jesus continues,

**"After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me;**

Here Jesus refers to his appearances to the disciples following the resurrection. The disciples were assured that he had risen from the dead by his several appearances over the course of 40 days. But, even more than that, he means, "You will continue to see me by means of the Spirit. You will know me more richly, more deeply, more truly after the Day of Pentecost than before."

Matthew wrote at the close of his Gospel that (in the Great Commission) Jesus said,

**"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**  
**(Matthew 28:18-20)**

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age,". The great truth is that Jesus is with us always, because of the Holy Spirit.

Then He adds a truth:

**because I live, you will live also.**

Because Jesus lives we will live also. The Holy Spirit in us gives us life. Remember Jesus saying I am come that they might have life and have it abundantly. That is what the Holy Spirit does for us. He provides life in abundance in us.

This life is beautifully expressed when Jesus adds:

**20**"In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. **21**"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

Jesus in His Father – Us in Jesus – and Jesus in Us – and the Holy Spirit in us.

By having His commandments and keeping them, we show our love for Jesus, and The one who loves Jesus will be loved by the Father. And will be loved by Jesus. And through this Jesus will disclose Himself to us.

## Judas (not Iscariot) has a question

**22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to 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 abode with him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.**

The simple fact is that Jesus abides with those who keep his word. It goes back to obedience to Him and His word.

We love Jesus and keep his word. Through that obedience we receive the love of the Father and the abiding presence of God the Father and Christ the son in our lives.

**25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 "But the Helper, 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 said to you. 27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**

Here Jesus offers three additional revelations of the work of the Holy Spirit:

1 – Jesus reminds us the Father is sending the Spirit in the name of Jesus, as his replacement to carry on for him.

2 – The Holy Spirit will teach and remind the disciples everything Jesus has ever said.

3 – The Holy Spirit will give us the peace of Christ. This is the inheritance of Christ for us. "My peace I give to you." We can have Christ's peace not as the world gives – the way Jesus gives. Freely given peace – Abundantly given peace – Peace with no end. That is why Jesus adds, "Let not your hearts be troubled." You do not have to be all upset and bothered. You have a sufficient basis for confidence if you will act on it. "Neither be afraid." Peace has been supplied to you.

Finally, Jesus answers the question that had to be in the minds of all of the Disciples – When will the Holy Spirit come?

**28 "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you ' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 "Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. 30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me Get up, let us go from here.**

Jesus indicates there will be an intervening period of time before the Spirit comes.

Two things must happen:

First, he must go to the Father. "That should make you rejoice," he says. "If you really loved me you would rejoice, because what I am going back to is deliverance from the agony, hurt, weakness and shame of this existence." Jesus says, "If you loved me you would be glad that I am going back."

Then he says, "You would understand that I am going to my Father, and all the limitations I have experienced in this earthly life will have come to an end." It is only as a man that he says, "My Father is greater than I," for God is always greater than man. When Jesus took upon himself our humanity he entered into limitation that made him less than the Father in greatness. But now that is ending. He is going back to the Father to resume the glory, the equality he had with him at the beginning. "You ought to rejoice in that because the limitations will be over," he tells them. "Now I can do what I have always wanted to do. When the Spirit comes, I will be able to do what I never could do in the days of my flesh." That return to the Father must occur before the Spirit comes.

Secondly, he will come after the devil is conquered. Jesus announces, "I have told you before it takes place, so when it does take place you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you for the ruler of this world is coming." He sees looming on the immediate horizon the most terrible power clash in all history, when he must confront the enemy of humanity head-on and deal with the shame, humiliation and weakness of sin.

Perhaps at this point Jesus is thinking of those remarkable words from Isaiah 53, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was laid upon him," (Isa 53:5a KJV). That chastisement which would eventually become peace with God, was laid on him, not on us. Because of this, he can give us peace, his peace, because he himself has entered into the terrible struggle that resulted in the conquering of the ruler of this world.

And victory is certain, he says. "He has no power over me." There is no foothold of sin in his life that the devil can lay hold of. Victory is absolutely certain.

Why, then, did Jesus do this? "I go as the Father has commanded me," is his reply. Here is an example of the loving obedience which he wants us to follow. He went into hurt, danger, heartache and agony of mind and body only because he loved the Father and the Father had determined that this was the only way that what both of them wanted could ever be achieved. Jesus went with complete faithfulness to do what the Father had commanded him. When that battle had been accomplished, the promised Spirit would come. He would make real to us The presence of Jesus, explain to us the words of Jesus, and grant to us the peace of Jesus.