

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:25-31

Last time we covered verses 15-24 in John chapter 14 and today we will cover the final seven verses of chapter 14, verses 25-31. But because this passage in John 14 from verse 15-31 all belongs together, let us begin by reading the entire passage beginning at verse 15 and then we will begin our customary closer look at each verse beginning with verse 25.

John 14:15-31 NAS:

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.

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?"

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.

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;*

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.*

Before getting to the passage itself we would like to tell you a true story.

"A retired couple was alarmed by the threat of nuclear war so they undertook a serious study of all the inhabited places on the globe. Their goal was to determine where in the world would be the place to be least likely affected by a nuclear war. A place of ultimate security. They studied and traveled, traveled and studied. Finally they found *the place*. And on Christmas they sent their pastor a card from their new home—in the Falkland Islands. However, their '*paradise*' was soon turned into a war zone by Great Britain and Argentina. Jesus said, '*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.*'"¹

There is only one place that anyone will find permanent peace, and that is in faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus wanted His disciples to understand this truth and so He explained to them just how they would be provided such peace. Jesus begins by reminding them of all that He has taught them while they were together here on earth and then begins to tell them about the wonderful gift that He is going to send them when He ascends to Heaven, John 14:25-26 NAS:

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.*

Chapters thirteen, fourteen, and part of fifteen through verse 17 tell us Jesus' final words to His disciples the evening before His crucifixion. It is commonly called the "*Last Supper Discourse*." What He tells them is critically important for them to understand because it involves specific instructions for how His followers are to conduct themselves during the Church Age.

Of particular importance is what Jesus tells them about the Holy Spirit and the role He

¹ James Hewett, ed., in *Illustrations Unlimited*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Peace".

will have in their lives when Jesus has returned to Heaven.²

John 14:26 identifies the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. He is in relationship to both the Father (God) and the Son (Jesus). The Bible tells of a number of things that the Spirit does for and in believers. He is the One who guides and advises us in our development to achieve Christlikeness, 2 Corinthians 3:16–18 NLT:³

¹⁶ *But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

¹⁷ *For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

¹⁸ *So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the **Lord—who is the Spirit**—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.*

Galatians 5:22–23 NLT:

²² *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*
²³ *gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

The Holy Spirit's presence in the life of a believer provides the power we need to live a righteous life, as Paul elaborates in Romans 8:1–17 NLT:

¹ *So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*

² *And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.*

³ *The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.*

⁴ *He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.*

⁵ *Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.*

⁶ *So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.*

⁷ *For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.*

² Richards, Larry; Richards, Lawrence O.: *The Teacher's Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1987, S. 738.

³ Ibid.

⁸ *That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.*

⁹ *But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)*

¹⁰ *And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.*

¹¹ *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*

¹² *Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.*

¹³ *For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.*

¹⁴ *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*

¹⁵ *So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."*

¹⁶ *For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.*

¹⁷ *And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.*

Galatians 5:5–6 NLT:

⁵ *But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us.*

⁶ *For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.*

The **Holy Spirit** is the Source of all our gifts and abilities to minister to others and enrich them spiritually (1 Corinthians 12). How important that we learn to live in harmony with the Spirit, thus letting Him produce in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, and true goodness.⁴

“Television’s ‘60 Minutes’ told the story of a nurse who works with the dying. She counsels the terminally ill patient, helps him or her face death, and plans with the family how to make the patient’s last weeks or months most meaningful. Usually, as the end approaches, the patient wants to

⁴ Ibid.

return home to spend the final days with family and friends.⁵

“As we reach these chapters in John’s Gospel, we can sense a similar feeling. The mood changes. The sharp tone of conflict is muted. No Pharisee intrudes here. Instead we sense only tenderness and a strange sort of peace. Strange, because Jesus’ life is now measured not by months or weeks but by hours. Jesus chose to spend the last hours on earth with His own. To His own—and to you and me—Jesus explains how to practice the presence of, and to know intimate fellowship with God.”⁶

John 14:27 NAS:

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.*

I would imagine the disciples were getting pretty stressed out by the events of Jesus’ final days on earth and they were undoubtedly in need of something that would bring them peace. The peace that Christ gives is not like the peace the world offers. The world’s peace is shallow, unsatisfying, and temporary; while Christ’s peace rests deep in the heart, is always satisfying, and will abide forever.

Our world today is full of un-peace. Society flees from calmness, quiet, and gentleness. If you don’t believe us, just listen to these facts: On radio or TV you rarely hear one voice speaking. There is almost always a beat or rapid music in the background, sometimes almost drowning out the voice. Restaurants are acoustically built to be noisy and the clutter of dishes, voices, and music requires you to almost shout so your dinner companions can hear you. People frequently have an Ipod or something else in their ear listening to loud music. People get up in the morning or return home from work and immediately flip on the radio or TV, not to pay attention to it but so as to have noise, a sound in the room. As a society we cannot tolerate silence. Contrast that to God’s words:

Isaiah 30:15 NKJ

For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: “. . . in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”

Zechariah 2:13 NLT

Be silent before the Lord, all humanity, for he is springing into action from his holy dwelling.”

Isaiah 32:17 NIV

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Also we are a highly anxious society. We are jittery, anxious, and on the go. We guzzle

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

coffee and energy drinks and add caffeine to food and drinks that don't have it naturally, such as orange drink and potato chips.⁷ We even double-dose our coffee to get extra jolts of caffeine. Psychologists and psychiatrists say that anxiety disorders are the major category of disorders they treat.⁸ Valium and Xanax seem to be staples in many medicine cabinets. There's a proliferation of self-help groups to deal with emotions and phobias of all sorts, along with over-eating and over-drinking. Contrast that with God's words:

Psalm 46:10 NAS

"Cease striving [literally, "relax"] and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Luke 12:22 ESV

And he [Christ] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on."

1 Peter 5:7 ESV

"Casting all your anxieties on him [God], because he cares for you."

Why do we worry and fail to turn our anxieties over to God? Often because we do not trust that He will do what is best for us. Why do we run away from quiet? For a lot of reasons, including that we can't stand ourselves, or that aloneness terrifies us, or because we don't want to hear God's voice or even the voice of our own conscience.

The world offers peace through outward means; Christ gives peace that dwells in the heart. Christ, through His death, resurrection, and ascension, gives "*peace with God*" (Romans 5:1). Philippians 4:4–9 outlines how the believer may have the peace of God:⁹

⁴ *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!*

⁵ *Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.*

⁶ *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

⁸ *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*⁹ *The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

⁷ NRG Phoenix Fury Potato Chips became available in some areas of the country in 2007.

⁸ Personal communication from B. A. Riley, Psy.D., clinical psychologist licensed in Illinois.

⁹ Wiersbe, Warren W.: *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1997, c1992, S. 250.

John 14:28 NAS:

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.

If the disciples had loved Jesus in the way He had taught them to love and the way He had shown them to love by washing their feet, they would have been glad for Jesus that His ministry on earth was close to being completed and He would be returning to His Father in Heaven. But their love was still in the selfish stage, which is the same love condition with which many of us suffer. They should have been happy for Jesus.

Verse 28 contains a mild slap on the wrist. The words *because I go to my Father* should have made them understand that Jesus was returning to Heaven, and if He was returning to Heaven that must mean that His purpose for coming had been accomplished, and that salvation and eternal life would be available to them and everyone else. They should not just have been rejoicing over this news, they should have been doing back flips. However, you will remember as we have mentioned a number of times, the disciples were not the fastest minds in the West, and often could not understand that which should have been obvious. But in all fairness, we must remember that the **Holy Spirit** had not yet come upon them. How understanding would we be without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit of God and Christ?

But why would Jesus immediately follow what He said in the first part of verse 28 with the statement that the Father was greater than He? Well let us remember the exact conditions whereby Jesus came to earth, and this concept can be very difficult to understand. As the Son of God, He is equal with the Father; as the Son of Man in a human body, He was obedient to the Father (John 14:10, 24)."¹⁰ Jesus had to take on flesh and blood when He came to earth so that He would be like all other humans. Yet Jesus was still God. He was therefore fully God and fully man. He thus had to take on a role of submission to God in Heaven although Jesus was still God. Now we really do not mean to confuse you but this concept could be considered on an equal difficulty scale as understanding the Trinity. Philippians 2:6-8 tells us that Christ temporarily emptied Himself of His equality with God in order to come to earth to walk among us and be our Savior. Let it suffice that to take on His role as God/Man, Jesus had to allow Himself to come under the guidance of God the Father. When He returned to Heaven He again assumed His role as God with equal authority with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. In John 10:30 Jesus said: "*I and the Father are one.*"

Jesus was about to go away and yet He would come to them again. In fact, He would come to them after His resurrection to give them proof that He was alive again and that He had overcome death. But He would also come to them after that in the form of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁰ Wiersbe, Warren W.: *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1997, c1992, S. 251.

John 14:29 NAS:

²⁹ *"Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."*

The promise of verse 29 was made so that by predicting the future and having that prediction come true, the apostles would know that such a prediction and the fulfillment of that prediction could only be accomplished by God, thus confirming to them who Jesus was. *"God predicts the future so when it comes about His people will finally acknowledge that He, unlike the gods of the nations, is true."*¹¹ The apostles did not have to wait long for the prediction to come true because Jesus would be crucified the following day and then rise again three days later.

In fact if we look back to the Old Testament in the book of Isaiah listen to what God Himself says:

Isaiah 41:21-29 NLT:

²¹ *"Present the case for your idols," says the Lord.*

"Let them show what they can do," says the King of Israel.

²² *"Let them try to tell us what happened long ago so that we may consider the evidence.*

Or let them tell us what the future holds, so we can know what's going to happen.

²³ *Yes, tell us what will occur in the days ahead. Then we will know you are gods.*

In fact, do anything—good or bad!

Do something that will amaze and frighten us.

²⁴ *But no! You are less than nothing and can do nothing at all. Those who choose you pollute themselves.*

²⁵ *"But I have stirred up a leader who will come from the north. I have called him by name from the east.*

I will give him victory over kings and princes.

He will trample them as a potter treads on clay.

²⁶ *"Who told you from the beginning that this would happen?*

Who predicted this,

making you admit that he was right?

No one said a word!

²⁷ *I was the first to tell Zion,*

'Look! Help is on the way!'

¹¹ Keener, Craig S.; InterVarsity Press: *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1993, S. Jn 13:19.

I will send Jerusalem a messenger with good news.

²⁸

Not one of your idols told you this.

Not one gave any answer when I asked.

²⁹

See, they are all foolish, worthless things.

*All your idols are as empty as the wind.*¹²

John 14:30 NAS:

³⁰

"I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;

Jesus no longer saw Judas Iscariot as a man but as Satan himself. Satan had taken complete control of Judas (13:27). Judas' situation must be contrasted with Peter's (Luke 22:31) when Peter denied Jesus, for while Satan had power over both Peter and Judas, Peter had not embraced Satan. In God's sight there is a difference. Even though Satan was controlling them both, Judas willingly embraced temptation; Peter, though unwilling, simply gave in to it. God draws all the distinction in the world between these two positions, and what a comfort that should be to a believer. Judas no longer had any part in Christ, for he had betrayed Him (verse 30). When Judas left the upper room he crossed the line whereby the Holy Spirit stopped supporting and protecting him.¹³

The *prince* or *ruler of the world* is recognized as the director and producer in the coming Passion of Christ. Satan undoubtedly believed he was in charge of Jesus' trial, persecution, and crucifixion. But we know it was God who was allowing these things to happen in order for His will to be done, so that salvation and eternal life would come to all those who would put their trust in Jesus. Jesus was keenly aware of the powerful forces lining up against Him. Yet He knew Satan had *no hold* on Him; Satan could not alter the plans of God. Part of the aim of the mission of Jesus was to teach the world of His love for the Father (verse 31).¹⁴

Jesus could have destroyed the plans of the "*ruler of this world*," but He did not because He wanted to show God's love for the rest of the world in sacrificing His beloved Son for their sin. Jesus also wanted to show His love for the rest of the world by being willing to go to the cross for their sins. And finally Jesus wanted to show the world that He loved His Father so much that He would do anything that the Father told Him to do, even if it meant dying on the cross, and that such obedience would bring great blessing.¹⁵

John 14:31 NAS:

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.

¹²

Also see Isaiah 44:7, 11 and 48:3-7.

¹³

Mills, M.S.: *The Life of Christ: A Study Guide to the Gospel Record*. Dallas: 3E Ministries, 1999.

¹⁴

Carson, D. A.: *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*. 4th ed. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994, S. Jn 14:1.

¹⁵

Hughes, Robert B.; Laney, J. Carl; Hughes, Robert B.: *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001 (The Tyndale Reference Library), S. 479.

It was difficult for the disciples to grasp that the relationship between love and keeping commandments could be accomplished through the cross. But God was pretty specific about the love He had for those who obeyed Him.

Exodus 20:4-6 ESV:

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.¹⁶

Deuteronomy 5:29 ESV:

²⁹ *Oh that they had such a mind as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!*

In Ezekiel 36:27, we see that the gift of the Holy Spirit enables one to keep the commandments: *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules (ESV).*¹⁷ Anyone who obeys the commands of God and Jesus has the promise of tremendous blessing forever. If that does not motivate you, I do not know what will.

As we reflect back over all of John chapter 14 we see an interesting “sandwich.” Verse 1 opens by referring to peace: *Let not your heart be troubled.* Verse 27 assures those who love and serve Christ of a special, supernatural peace that will keep our hearts from being troubled. And what lies between those two verses? The “recipe” so to speak. If we fully trust and love Christ we will obey Him (verses 15, 21, 23). Obedience leads to peace because it stems from a desire to please the other person and it removes tension and fear of punishment from the relationship. Obedience is a barometer, a measure, of our love for God. To the degree we love Christ is the degree that we obey Him. Love brings peace. But also, when we have this love relationship with God, which is reflected in our desire to please Him or our obedience, we have the promise of answered prayer (vss. 13, 14). Answered prayer also contributes to peace, for obvious reasons. And then to cap it all off we receive the Holy Spirit (vs. 26) who bathes us with the peace of God. What a fantastic “sandwich,” a diet the world knows nothing about, but one I hope you chew on every day.

Christ demonstrated His love for the Father by being obedient to the Father’s command and dying on the cross. He was obedient even to death (Philippians 2:8). He is our grand

¹⁶ Also see 1 Samuel 15:22.

¹⁷ Keener, Craig S.; InterVarsity Press: *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1993, S. Jn 14:15.

example of obeying the Father's commandments. If Jesus thought it important to obey God, we should also make obeying God a high priority. Jesus' obedience even to death is an example of supreme love (15:13), an example that is addressed to us. Jim Elliot said,

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose."

This is the principle that should underlie our lives as Christians; we need to recognize it and live it. Jesus clearly took pleasure in obeying the Father. If He, being God, regarded it as a privilege to serve God, how much more then should we?¹⁸

The command to 'arise' or to 'get up' (verse 31) was apparently to begin preparing for departure. The table would need to be cleared, and the room straightened up before leaving.¹⁹

Before concluding, let us summarize the principles which we have noted in our study of this section:

- a) Fulfilled prophecy is grounds for belief.
- b) Love demands obedience (remember, love between man and God is not love between equals).
- c) A person yielded to Satan has no part in Jesus.
- d) Jesus took pleasure in obeying the Father.²⁰
- e) Obedience leads to answered prayer and to peace.
- f) God promised to give us the Holy Spirit who would be our Teacher, Helper, and Comforter.

Now, get up and let us go from here.

¹⁸ Mills, M.S.: *The Life of Christ: A Study Guide to the Gospel Record*. Dallas: 3E Ministries, 1999.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.