

A. John 14:8-15 – The Father explained

1. John 14:8 – *Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”* Some historical background may help us understand Philip’s **request**.
 - a. When Philip said he wanted to see the Father, he may have been thinking of the kingdom. The kingdom was prophesied to be a time when everyone would **know** the Lord from the high down to the low. Jeremiah 31 explains how things will be during the kingdom. Joel 3:17-21, John 6:45, Hebrews 8:10-11
 - 1) Jeremiah 31:33 – *“But this is the **covenant** which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*
 - 2) Jeremiah 31:34 – *“They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will **all** know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”*
 - b. Philip was likely requesting that the Lord bring in the **kingdom** so they could know the Father. Jesus had said in John 14:7, *“...from now on, you know GNOSKO Him and have seen Him.”* There Jesus’ used the verb to *know* GNOSKO in the present tense, active voice, and indicative mood emphasizing present, first-hand knowledge, of the Father.
 - c. How do we get to know the Father today? Now that Christ is no longer here in person, we get to know God the Father through studying His **word**. Without a correct knowledge of God, as revealed in scripture, no one can have real fellowship with the Father. Jeremiah 9:23-24, John 17:3
2. John 14:9 – *Jesus 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?’”* Jesus designed this question to encourage Philip and the listening disciples to consider His verbal testimony as evidence of His **unity** with the Father.
 - a. God spoke through the **Son**, Jesus Christ. Peter once said, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.”* John 6:68
 - b. Jesus was God’s spokesperson to the **world**. In John 7:46 we read, *“Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks .”* Matthew 7:28-29, Luke 4:22,32, John 7:26-28
 - c. Sadly, Philip had heard the words of the Lord for three years, since the beginning of His ministry, and yet he still failed to realize Jesus and the Father were **one**. John 1:43-46
3. John 14:10 – *“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.”* Interestingly, instead of saying to Philip, “Don’t you know,” Jesus said, “Don’t you **believe**?” It is one thing to know about something, but it is totally different to believe in it.
 - a. Jesus essentially told Phillip, “If you do not know I am God because I tell you that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; you should at least believe My unity with the Father based on My **works**.”
 - b. Jesus’ works proved the Father was abiding in Him. This **statement** is key to unlocking some of Jesus’ later teachings in these chapters.
 - 1) Jesus stated that His words were not His own but rather were from the Father. Jesus was not doing freelance work for God. He was not doing things on His **own** initiative and then asking the Father to come and bless them. He was not doing His own will. Instead, He walked dependently on the Father, obeying His orders.
 - 2) The Father was abiding in Jesus and Jesus was abiding in Him. From that posture, the Father easily carried out His desires through the Son. Jesus was a **channel**, or conduit, for the Father’s ministry. This statement gives us the groundwork for understanding what Jesus said in John 15, that without Him we can do nothing.
 - c. Philip needed to know God’s word; then he needed to respond in faith. The fact that the Father was doing His works in and through the Son was something to be accepted by faith. The way Jesus dependently walked, trusting in the Father, was precisely how Philip and the other disciples were going to be taught to **walk** with the Lord. John 15:4-5
4. John 14:11 – *“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.”* Jesus told Philip to believe Him when He said He was in the Father and the Father was in Him. More than describing their equality, this statement refers to the **interdependence** between God the Father and God the Son.

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- a. If Philip found Jesus' statements hard to accept, Jesus suggested he at least believe based on His miraculous works. These easily **proved** that the Father was working in and through the Son.
 - b. Jesus' encouragement here showed that Philip was struggling with His faith. Does that problem sound familiar to you? Do you sometimes struggle with doubts and confusion? Do those doubts keep you from trusting the Lord? Typically, knowledge is not our struggle; believing what we know is our biggest **challenge**.
5. John 14:12 – *“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.”* Jesus stated that whoever believes in Him will do the **works** He did.
- a. Since Jesus was going to the Father, He entrusted God's work to His disciples. Jesus was going to send the Holy Spirit to empower them. Just like Jesus was a channel for the Father, believers are a **channel** for Christ to live through us to do His work as we present our members to Him. Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 4:7; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:6
 - b. One way believers do greater works than what Jesus did is that we now enjoy a global impact because through the Spirit God has many servants through whom He **works**. Jesus, on the other hand, had a localized ministry. Acts 1:8
6. John 14:13 – *“Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* Jesus told His disciples that when He went to the Father, they needed to live by faith, looking to Him in believing **prayer**. He promised to faithfully answer their requests. In this way God would be glorified in the person of the Son. Hebrews 10:38
7. John 14:14 – *“If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”* Praying in the name of Jesus is not a magic **formula** that forces God to obey us. Jesus died for our sins and rose again. He paid the full penalty for our sins. Now He sits at the Father's right hand contending for us. Based on His merits, we can approach God in prayer. Hebrews 4:15-16
- a. To do something in the name of someone means to be authorized by them to do it. A policeman can enforce the law because he is **authorized** by the government to do so.
 - b. In the same way, based on Jesus' **authority**, we can present our requests to the Father.
8. John 14:15 – *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”* When you truly love someone, you carefully **guard** their instructions.
- a. Jesus made an interesting word choice here to describe our relationship with His commands. He used the word to **keep** TEREIO rather than other more direct and stronger Greek concepts like to obey HUPAKOULO (Rom. 6:16), to obediently submit to HUPOTASSO (Eph. 5:21), or to obey one's leader PEITHARCHEO (Acts 5:29).
 - b. This word translated to *keep* TEREIO has obedience built into it and is sometimes used that way, but obedience is a **secondary**, implied meaning.
 - c. The literal meaning of to *keep* TEREIO is to **guard**, protect, or keep in custody (Acts 12:56, 25:21). Similarly, the figurative meaning of to *keep* TEREIO is to hold, reserve, preserve, protect, carefully observe, treasure, and even believe. John 17:11,12,15
 - d. We can safely conclude that Jesus intended a greater meaning than a simple command to obey. Beyond mere obedience, we are called to believe God's word, holding firmly to His teaching, protecting it from error, and guarding it as a very valuable treasure. We show our **love** for Christ by cherishing what is valuable to Him.

B. John 14:16-21 – Christ's promises

1. John 14:16 – Jesus made His disciples an important promise. Notice that our **triune** God is clearly seen in this verse.
 - a. John 14:16a – *“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper...”* We see that the Spirit would be given to Jesus' disciples in **answer** to Jesus' petition to the Father.
 - 1) Jesus planned to ask the Father to grant a special request. He knew the Father would give Him His request, and He promised His disciples that this would happen **after** He was glorified and stationed in heaven.
 - 2) This statement cannot refer to the New Covenant, since under the New Covenant God promised He would pour out His Spirit on all of **Israel** and would do so without the need of Christ or anyone making it a special request.
 - 3) Under the terms of the New Covenant, God will without **hesitation** give forth His Spirit in fulfillment of His covenant promises. There will be no asking for this to be the case. Ezekiel 37:14, 39:29; Joel 2:28-29;

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Zechariah 12:10

- b. John 14:16b – “...and He will give you another Helper...” Jesus also told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would continue serving them as He (Jesus) had **served** them. The phrase *another Helper* PARAKLETOS literally means one who comes alongside to help. PARAKLETOS could also be translated comforter, advocate or intercessor.
- 1) The Holy Spirit would **comfort** them just as Jesus had comforted them. John 14:18, Romans 8:16
 - 2) The Holy Spirit would **testify** concerning Jesus just as Jesus had testified concerning the Father. John 15:26
 - 3) The Holy Spirit would **teach** them just as Jesus had taught them. John 16:13
 - 4) The Holy Spirit would **guide** them just as Jesus had guided them. John 16:13
 - 5) The Holy Spirit would **intercede** for them just as Jesus had interceded. Romans 8:26,34
- c. John 14:16c – “...that He may be with you forever.” Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would always **be with** those who believe. John 7:39
2. John 14:17 – “... 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.” Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit did not continually dwell in the disciples, but here Jesus promised that in the future the Holy Spirit would come to continually **dwell** in them.
- a. Just like the disciples knew the Father because they knew Jesus, they also knew the Holy Spirit because they knew Jesus. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all three equally one and they are the **same** God. God the Son had been with them, but now God the Holy Spirit would be in them.
 - b. Today, the Holy Spirit indwells **every** believer. This fact is unique to this present age. He does not live in the unsaved. They do not see Him or know Him. Romans 8:9-11, Ephesians 2:22
 - c. The Holy Spirit in us allows Christ to greatly impact our lives. Because the Holy Spirit eternally resides in us, Christ can now live out His life in us and do His work **through** us. When we humbly walk by faith, fully dependent upon Christ, we are changed into His image. John 15:4-5; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20, 5:22-23
3. John 14:18 – “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” The Lord was not going to leave His disciples “parent-less.” Even though Jesus returned after His resurrection, it seems likely that here in this context He referred to the **Holy Spirit** whom He would send to live inside them after He ascended. Acts 1:8, Romans 8:9-10, Colossians 1:27
4. John 14:19a – “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me.” Jesus fulfilled this promise with His post-resurrection **appearances**. He appeared to the disciples and other believers on several occasions. Luke 24:36-48; John 16:16-22, 1 Corinthians 15:5-9
5. John 14:19b – “...because I live, you will live also...” Jesus spoke of the fact that His resurrection would **ensure** their future resurrection as well. Romans 6:8-9, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, 2 Corinthians 4:14
6. John 14:20 – “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” Later, when the disciples would see Jesus resurrected, they would know the **unity** that exists between the Father and the Son. The disciples also had unity with both the Son and the Father. However, although they were united with Christ, they were not His equal! Colossians 3:3
7. John 14:21 – Our **love** for God is evidenced by keeping, or guarding, His words.
- a. John 14:21a – “He who has My commandments...” To **possess** God’s commands, like the Pharisees did, is not enough. A person can own a Bible or even recite large portions of scripture, but that is likewise not enough.
 - b. John 14:21b – “He who has My commandments and keeps them...” It is one thing to have Christ’s words and teachings; is quite another thing to keep them. Remember that *to keep* Christ’s commandments, means to guard, protect, **value**, preserve, believe and ultimately conform to His instructions. Colossians 3:16
 - c. John 14:21c – “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me...” Our love for the Lord is measured by the **extent** to which we *keep* His commands, owning them as a precious treasure. Job 23:12, Psalm 1:2, Proverbs 2:1-12
 - d. John 14:21d – “...and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” If we love our Savior by guarding His instructions, Jesus said we will be loved in a special way by the Father. As we guard Christ’s instructions, we enjoy **intimate** communion with Him.
 - 1) 1 John 2:3 – *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments*. Many Christians boast of intimately knowing the Lord; however, we only enjoy **true** intimacy with the Lord to



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the extent that we value and believe His words.

- 2) 1 John 2:4 – *The one who says, “I have come to know Him” and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him...* Let’s suppose a believer brags about having a close and intimate friendship with the Lord yet does not actually cherish Christ’s word. That person is self-**deceived**. Talk is cheap. James 2:14-16
- 3) 1 John 2:5 – *... but whoever keeps His Word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected* . John taught that a believer’s spiritual **walk** progresses from knowing God, to keeping His Word, to ultimately becoming mature in God’s love.
 - a) A believer who is mature in God’s love is very secure and **confident**. This believer trusts God and His word refusing to doubt then even when faced with fierce trials and setbacks. Romans 8:35-39, Ephesians 3:19, 1 John 4:16-18
 - b) **John**, the author of this book, was mature in Christ’s love. His maturity gave him confidents in Christ’s love. He did not suffer with paralyzing doubts, instead he boldly believed in Christ’s words.