

The Gospel of John

Believe and Live!

Lesson 15

John 14:1–31

One Way to the Father

On the heels of Jesus' shocking revelation to Peter that he is going to deny his Lord, He turns to all the disciples to comfort their distressed hearts. It is easy to understand why they were troubled: they were aware the religious leaders wanted to put Him to death and He had just announced that one of them was about to betray Him. They were also no doubt ashamed at their argument about who was the greatest among them. Jesus knew that they were afraid and needed comforting and, in chapter 14, we see some of the most hopeful words in all of Scripture.

At a glance ~ **Read John 14:1–31.**

In the words of this chapter, we find the prescription for life's stress. As you read through the chapter for the first time, remember that whatever situation you are facing, Jesus is there with the answer! Today, make note of what it is you need most from Him and commit it to prayer. Then watch how He will meet that need this week through the time you spend with Him in His Word.

Are Christians not supposed to feel fear, anxiety or pressure in daily life? Obviously, the answer is "no!" Jesus Himself experienced these human feelings, but He did not succumb to them and that is what He communicates to all His followers in this text. Feelings of stress are very normal when dealing with the problems of life. While we cannot control many of those problems, we can control our responses and overcome the stress.

1. According to verse 1, what is the key to overcoming stress?

Of all the words Jesus could offer His disciples at this moment, the essence of His command is, “*Trust Me.*” He said, “*You believe in God, believe also in Me.*” The word *believe* means to place your faith and trust in Him. It’s that simple, which is why we miss it at times—we’re looking for a formula or solution that we can control when all He asks is that we trust Him.

2. In verses 2–4, Jesus shares a number of reasons *why* we can trust in Him. What are they?

a. v. 2:

b. v. 3:

c. v. 4:

The disciples needed assurance that they would not only see Jesus again, they would also one day be with Him in heaven. At this point, that is all they wanted or needed.

In verses 5–11, two of the disciples—Thomas and Phillip—are confused about Jesus’ words and question Him further about His meaning.

3. What does Thomas want to know? vv. 5–6

a. How does Jesus respond to his question?

Thomas genuinely wants to know where Jesus is going and the way to get there. Notice Jesus does not teach the way or show the way; rather, He says *He is the Way*—the one and only way to the Father! No one ever before had made such a startling claim. He tells them in no uncertain terms: “*No one comes to the Father except through Me.*”

b. How does Jesus take His assurance even further for Thomas? v. 7

Simply put, Thomas didn’t realize that he already knew the Father because he knew Jesus. Everyday with Jesus meant being on a first-name, face-to-face basis with God! Thomas had a relationship with God because he knew Jesus.

Only Jesus could make the claim that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! No other religious leader in history has ever made the case for being equal with God. Many religious leaders have offered themselves as prophets or guides into the truth; but none of them *are* the Source of Truth and Life.

4. Personal: Many people will bristle at Jesus' claim because they feel it is a very narrow-minded perspective. Have you ever come across one? How did you handle that person and did you point them back to what Jesus said in Scripture? Please explain.

Phillip, hearing this explanation to Thomas probes further: "*Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us*" (v. 8).

5. Jesus' reply is a gentle reproof to Phillip. In your own words, what is the essence of the Lord's response? vv. 9–11

- a. On whose authority does Jesus speak?
- b. Who does the miraculous works through Jesus?

Jesus is revealing here the three persons of the Godhead at work: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We access the Father through faith in the Son; and the Holy Spirit is the power working in the believer's life to accomplish His purpose and will—and that is sufficient for us!

6. What does Jesus say that believers will do? vv 12–14

- a. What more does He promise to those who have faith in Him?

The *greater works* Jesus speaks about in verse 12 is a reference to the Holy Spirit empowerment Jesus gave after He ascended to the Father. He will elaborate further in the remainder of our text.

- a. In whose name does Jesus tell us to pray? Why?

Selah ~

There is something profoundly deep behind the truth that we can ask for absolutely anything and Jesus will do it. When a believer prays in the *name of Jesus*, it does not mean that we have a spiritual butler on hand who does our bidding. It actually means we acknowledge His Lordship and are accepting His will above our own. Jesus always spoke words on the authority of the Father. He performed the works the Father did through Him. He prayed according to the Father's will and so must we. When He said, "*Not My will, but Yours be done,*" Jesus was praying in the name of the Father, just as we are to pray in the name of Jesus. The goal of prayer should always to accomplish His purpose in us and bring His glory through us! What would you like to pray for today? Please note it below and then lift it to Him.

In focus ~ (Key words) **Helper / Counselor**

John uses the word *Helper* (NKJ) or *Counselor* (NIV) in verses 16 and 26 in speaking of the Holy Spirit. Look up these words using the resources you have on hand (Bible translations, dictionary, concordance) and write a definition.

Helper / Counselor: _____

The promise of the Holy Spirit is by far the greatest promise offered to the believer in the Bible. Pay particular attention to what Jesus says about Him and how He empowers your life.

Take a closer look ~ **John 14:6**

(Memorize and meditate on the memory verse each time you open your lesson.)

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

What assurance does the revelation of this truth give you today?

The Gift from the Father

Outlook ~ Read John 14:15–31 for review.

In verses 15–17, Jesus introduces the Person He calls the *Helper*. The word translated in the Greek is “Paraclete”—meaning *Counselor* and *Comforter*. It literally means *one who is called alongside*. It is He who will comfort the disciples when Jesus is gone and empower them to carry on His mission.

1. Jesus gives us a picture of this *gift from the Father*. What does He say about Him? vv. 15–17
 - a. Who will receive this gift?
 - b. How will He be received?
 - c. What can we rely upon Him to be?

Jesus promises *another* Helper—meaning another of the same kind as He is; another who is fully God and who will remain with believers.

- d. Is He available to everyone in the world? Why?
- e. How will He manifest Himself?

In order to comfort them and enable them to carry on the “greater works,” Jesus tells them, “*I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you*” (v. 18). He means that prior to Pentecost, the Holy Spirit would be with these men, alongside them, but not in them.

Since Pentecost, believers receive the Holy Spirit the moment they come to Christ. When He comes to indwell, He remains forever. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way: “. . . *For He Himself has said, ‘I will never—no never—no never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’*” (vv. 5–6)

In verses 19–27, Jesus continues addressing the fears of His disciples and the difference that the *Comforter* will make to them.

2. There is more good news for them . . . what does Jesus promise in v. 19?
- a. On “that day,” referring to the Day of Pentecost, what will they come to understand? v. 20

Jesus announces that *because “I live, you will live also”*; and *“You are in Me, and I am in you.”* Children of God, adopted forever into the family of God!

- b. All those who have Jesus in their hearts will desire to do what? v. 21 What will the result be?

3. At this point, one of the disciples, Judas (not Judas Iscariot who betrayed Him) asks a question: *“Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”* How does Jesus respond to Judas?

- a. *“The one who loves Me . . .”*

- b. *“The one who does not love Me . . .”*

Selah ~

Obedience is the manifestation and measurement of your love for Jesus Christ. Take a moment and ask yourself this question: *“How willing am I to do what Jesus asks of me in His Word?”* Please be honest as you record your thoughts below.

- Share a recent example of how you were obedient to the Lord. What was the result?

4. What other role does the Holy Spirit have in the believer's life? vv. 25–26
 - a. What does Jesus leave with them before His departure? v. 27 What will this do?
 - b. How does He want them to feel about Him going away? Why? v. 28
 - c. Why is He telling them ahead of time what is going to take place? v. 29

These verses of chapter 14 bring the discourse in the Upper Room to a close. Before Jesus and the disciples leave to go out to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus tells them He will not have another opportunity to speak with them because the ruler of this world—Satan—was about to come and Jesus was about to enter into the greatest spiritual battle of all time! But Jesus knows the outcome. He tells them that the enemy has no hold on Him—He is the Victor!

- d. What example of loving obedience does Jesus leave His disciples with? v. 31

More like Jesus ~

Are *you* becoming more like Jesus? Absolutely! Every time you open the Word and spend time getting to know Him more intimately, you partake in the life-long process of drawing near—going deeper—bearing fruit—becoming more like Him. As you close your lesson today, determine to put into practice what you've learned by noting it below.

- Recite your memory verse _____

- Reflect on a lesson you received _____

- Respond with prayer and praise to God _____

Notes