

## JOHN

Stories Related To The Last Days Of Christ

January 27, 2019

### I. Introduction

A. Last Sunday, our focus was on the inseparable link between loving God and obeying Him.

1. And as I explained last Sunday, the two are inseparable because love, by its nature, seeks the good of everyone who is in any way affected by our choices and behavior. And because God's commandments are designed to seek God's good and the good of our fellow man, in keeping them we are loving God.
2. Therefore, we are not loving God when we seek our good at the expense or to the harm of others – which we do when we willfully break or carelessly ignore God's commandments.

B. Today, we will focus on the results or the rewards of loving God and keeping His commandments.

1. And there are essentially two results or rewards from living out this love that keeps God's commandments.
  - a. **First**, God, in the person of Jesus Christ and in the form of the Holy Spirit will come and dwell in us and do His work within us.
  - b. **Second**, God will love us and reveal Himself to us – that is, God will make Himself and His presence known to us.
2. Finally, just as loving God and obeying God are inseparably linked, so the aforementioned results or rewards are inseparably linked to loving God and keeping His commandments.

C. With this in mind, I am going to read **John 14:15-26**, and I am going to break it into three sections.

1. (**Part 1 – vs 15-20**) "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. [16] [**And**] 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."
2. (**Part 2 – vs 21-22**) "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?"

3. (**Part 3 – vs 23-26**) 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."

#### D. Pray

II. Love that invariably compels us to keep God's commandments results in receiving marvelous gifts from God . . .

#### A. (**Part 1 – vs 15-20**)

1. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. [16] [**And**] I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; [17a] that is the Spirit of truth . . .
  - a. Jesus presents us with an "**if – then**" statement that goes like this: "If you love Jesus – which includes keeping His commandments, then He (*Jesus*) will ask God to give you the Holy Spirit."
  - b. Now you may be wondering how we know that the label "Helper" and the label "Spirit of truth" refers to the Holy Spirit? We know this because there are other scriptures that confirm that these two labels refer to the Holy Spirit. For example,
    - (1) Jesus identifies the Helper as the HS in **John 14:26**, where He says, "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."
    - (2) And Jesus identifies the Helper as the Spirit of truth in **John 15:26**, where He says "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,"
    - (3) And so we see that the Helper and the Spirit of truth are just two different names or labels for the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Therefore, what Jesus is saying here in **John 14:15-17a** is that if we fulfill the condition of loving Jesus and keeping His commandments, He will ask God to give us the Holy Spirit.
  - d. But this is not all Jesus tells us about the Holy Spirit. Continuing on in the second half of **vs 17**, we read –

2. [17b] “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.” Jesus makes two statements here that you might ignore because they can be a bit confusing.
  - a. **First**, Jesus says that unbelievers cannot receive the HS because they do not see Him or know Him.
    - (1) This implies that seeing the HS and knowing Him is at least a significant pre-requisite or condition for receiving Him.
    - (2) And assuming this is true, then it seems – according to the context – that only those whose love for God compels them to keep His commandments see and know the Holy Spirit.
    - (3) Now before you write this off as extreme or heretical, let me remind you that Paul says something similar in **Romans 8:5-8**, where we read, “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. [6] For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, [7] because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, [8] and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
      - (a) The point here is that unbelievers do not see the Holy Spirit or know Him because they are focused on loving themselves and living according to their own will, and according to the pleasures of their own flesh, and according to the ways of the world that enable them to fulfill their desires and calm their fears.
      - (b) In other words, the unbeliever’s problem is not his inability to see and know the Holy Spirit, but a hostile resistance and rebellion against the reality and the presence and the work of the HS.
    - (4) Moving down to **Romans 8:12-14**, we read, “So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—[13] for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body (*this is a prerequisite to and requirement for keeping God’s commandments*), you will live. [14] For all who are **being led** by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” **But being led to do what? And how do we know we are being led?**

- (5) According to the context of **John 14:15-26** and the context of **Romans 8**, we are being led by the HS to love and obey God, to learn and discern how to apply the teachings of Jesus, to put to death the ungodly deeds of our flesh, and to live a life that is pleasing to God.
  - (6) And we can realistically and measurably know that we are being led by the HS
    - (a) **IF** we are growing in a love for God that compels us to obey Him,
    - (b) and **IF** we are growing in our knowledge of Jesus' teachings and in applying them to how we live,
    - (c) and **IF** we are moving forward in putting to death whatever ungodly thoughts, desires, words, or deeds that are still in us,
    - (d) and **IF** we are continuing to progress in living a life that is pleasing to God.
  - (7) In other words, when we are doing these things, we can realistically and measurably know that we are being led by the Holy Spirit.
- b. In the **second** part of this statement, Jesus tells His disciples that they know the HS because the HS is currently with them and one day will be in them.
- (1) It is easy to understand what Jesus means by saying the HS would one day be in them. But what does He mean when He says they know the HS because He is currently with them?
  - (2) After all, at this point in time and according to Jesus himself, the HS was yet to be sent by God (**John 14:26**), and He, that is Jesus, had to leave this world first before the HS would come (**John 16:7**).
  - (3) So why would Jesus say that the HS was currently with the disciples, and because of this, they knew Him already?
    - (a) I believe Jesus could say this because He was the HS in human form.
    - (b) In other words, just as Jesus was God in human flesh, so He was the HS in human flesh. Therefore, we can conclude that if God was present with the disciples in Jesus, so the HS was present in Jesus.
3. Jesus goes on to make three more statements that, in my opinion, affirm that Jesus was the physical presence of the HS in the world.

- a. The **first statement** is found in **vs 18**, where Jesus says, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”
  - (1) In other words, Jesus was not going to leave and be gone from their presence forever – like parents who die and leave their children as orphans.
  - (2) Instead, He was going to leave them physically, but return to them in the physically unseen form of the HS.
- b. The **second statement** that affirms that Jesus was the physical presence of the HS in the world is found in **vs 19**, where Jesus says, “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me.”
  - (1) In other words, Jesus was going to be put to death, buried, and then 40 days later ascend to heaven – which means the world would no longer see Him – physically or spiritually.
  - (2) But those who believe, and as a result have a love for God that compels them to keep His commandments, will see and know that Jesus is with them in the form of the HS – which is why He could say to the disciples, “The world will not see me any more, but you will.”
- c. The **third statement** is found in **vs 20**, where Jesus says, “In that day (*the day when Jesus comes to you in the form of the HS*) **you will know** that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”
  - (1) What do you suppose Jesus means when He uses the words, “**In that day you will know?**”
  - (2) Do you suppose Jesus means that in that day when He comes to you in the form of the HS that you will know that He is in God and you are in Him and He is in you based on what you have been taught from the Bible or your groups theology?
    - (a) Will this knowing be **solely** based on your knowledge of the Bible and theology?
    - (b) I don’t think so, for it is my experience that when we love God – and in loving Him we make it our intentional and perpetual aim to keep His commandments – then the kind of knowing Jesus speaks of in **vs 20** is the combined result of an intellectual understanding along with a personal and experiential understanding.
  - (3) In other words, the words “**you will know**” does not seem to be a knowing that is only intellectual or theological, but also personal and experiential.

- (4) Let me give you one more example to support my point. In **vs 17**, Jesus said that the disciples knew the HS because He was with them, that is, He lived with them.
  - (a) And if, as I am asserting, Jesus was the HS in human form, then for the disciples to know the HS would be a knowing that goes far beyond book knowledge or theological knowledge.
  - (b) It must have included a personal and experiential knowledge, just as our knowing each other in this room is personal and experiential knowledge.
- (5) My point in all this is that Jesus seems to be saying that we can know the HS, His presence, and His work as personally and experientially as the disciples knew Jesus' presence and work.

B. (**Part 2 – vs 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."

1. The thought here in **vs 21**, is that keeping God's commandments verifies that we love Him, and as a result or as a reward two things will happen.
  - a. **First**, we will be loved by God and loved by Jesus.
  - b. **Second**, Jesus will reveal Himself – that is, Jesus will make Himself real and present to us so that we can know by personally experiencing His self-revelation that He is as real today as the disciples knew Him to be when He walked and talked with them.
2. Now I understand that not every Christian senses the love of God and has an experiential awareness of the presence of the HS in them and with them.
  - a. But I do believe that those who seriously and intentionally pursue a love for God that includes being committed to keeping His commandments as fully as is humanly possible, [they] do come to the place in their relationship with God where they are convinced God loves them, and they personally and experientially experience His presence with them.
  - b. And so I urge you, rather than being discouraged in your pursuit of God that such things are not real in your life yet, don't give up. Intentionally, purposefully, and in a planned way, press on. Leave your failures and halting efforts behind and reach forward. Do

your part to lay hold of what God has for you in this life, and trust God to do the rest in fulfilling His word.

- C. (**Part 3 – vs 23-26**) [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."
1. Once again, in vs **23-26** Jesus affirms that loving God and keeping His commandments results several rewards.
    - a. **First**, you will be loved by God and become a dwelling place of the combined presence of God and Jesus.
      - (1) Paul affirms this when he says, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (**1 Corinthians 3:16**)
      - (2) And again Paul says in **1 Corinthians 6:19**, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"
    - b. **Second**, the HS will teach you all things, that is, all that you need to know about God, the ways of God, the Word of God, and godly living.
    - c. **Third**, the HS will bring to your remembrance the teachings of Jesus – surely as needed, such as when meditating on any portion of scripture, and when examining your own thoughts, words, and deeds, and when evangelizing, and when considering how to love those around you, and when wondering what to do in certain situations . . . and on and on.
      - (1) Of course, you must at least read the words of Jesus enough times for them to in your memory in order for the HS to bring them to your remembrance.

### III. Conclusion

- A. What you have heard today may not fit into your view of the presence and work of the HS. I understand that. My purpose today is to speak about Jesus' view of the presence and work of the HS in hopes we can learn from it and live more godly because of it.