

What does God want us to know, to feel, and to do?

**Series Title:**



**“Growing Closer to Jesus”**

The Gospel According to John Ch 14:7-14

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Intro:**

Review from last two weeks:

**John 14:1-6** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God<sup>[a]</sup>; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- In our study of John chapter 14, so far, we have learned:
  - o Jesus never fails
  - o Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people
  - o Jesus is coming back again
  - o The answer to life's greatest question: “How can we know the way?” Jesus declared, “I am the way, the truth and the life...”

**Transition:** Tonight we continue to learn about the Person of Jesus Christ, but to be more specific... we will be talking about growing closer to Him...

**John 14:7-9** “If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

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9Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

### 1. Jesus is all we need and all we need is Jesus

Have you ever had something happen in your life and you said, "Where is God?" ...

You know, when we say things like that... Jesus is standing right there... And He says, "Hey Beau, I'm right here buddy" ...

We believe in Jesus, but we can lack a full comprehension of His character [the fact that He is God] and we forget that in Jesus we see how God works...

The closer we walk with Jesus, the more we know the plans and ways of God.

You see... by knowing Jesus Christ personally tonight, we know God the Father as well...

**John 14:10** "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work."

Notice that Jesus is asking a question... "Do you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?"

Jesus is asking his disciples... most of them Jewish guys, if they believed their own statement of faith from Deuteronomy 6:4...

**Deuteronomy 6:4** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."

The same is true for us tonight... we say we believe that Jesus is God and that through Him we have access to God, but when was the

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last time we prayed to simply know Him better, thus we would know God more...?

Jesus said that **“The words I say to you are not just my own.”**  
Meaning believe in the words I’ve spoken...

## **2. Take Jesus at His Word**

We can build our lives on the teachings and on the person of Jesus Christ...

**John 6:66-68** “From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. <sup>67</sup>**“You do not want to leave too, do you?”** Jesus asked the Twelve. <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have **the words of eternal life.**”

The words of Jesus are to be read, loved and obeyed.... They carry promises for this life on earth and for life everlasting...

**John 14:11** **“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”**

We are to believe in the Words of Christ and the Works of Christ...

If His Words are alive today, so are His Works... you and I are called to do the works that Jesus did... He is still working by the power of the Holy Spirit today... right now... in this moment...

**John 14:12** **“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”**

The important thing to know and remember here is not “greater in magnitude”, but rather, “greater in multitude”.

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Are we currently carrying out the works of Jesus in our lives...? Are you walking by faith and not by sight?

When we walk by faith, we do not limit God to the rules of the natural but rather we see and believe in the possibilities of God to accomplish the supernatural.

I believe our lack of faith is what's to blame for not seeing more of the supernatural works of God... may we be people of faith...

**Hebrews 11:1** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and **certain** of what we **do not** see."

**John 11:13-14** "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

Jesus promises that He will do whatever we ask in His name... what is the catch here...? Can I pray whatever I want and Jesus will do it as long as I tag it with "In Jesus name" ...? No-

But if we pray prayers that are for the glory of God and the will of the Son... that, in essence is praying "in Jesus' name", thus He will do it...

### 3. Our prayers should glorify God, not self

**(Turn to) Mathew 6:5-13** "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

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**9**"This, then, is how you should pray:

" 'Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

**10**your kingdom come,  
your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

**11**Give us today our daily bread.

**12**Forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**13**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one."

Prayer isn't easy... and (according to my wife) neither is giving birth... both can be painful... both yield amazing results...

**Galatians 4:19 (KJV)** "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you..."

If Satan can get us to stop praying, we become deaf to the voice of God... resulting in powerless Christianity... we must pray and we must pray often... and we must love to pray...

### **(Time of Prayer)**

Let us pray now... that we would grow closer to Jesus Christ...

### **(Time of Communion)**

As we prepare to take communion, it is good for us to understand the seriousness of it and the reason for it...

**1 Corinthians 11:27-30** "Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup>That is why many

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among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.”

We practice open communion here, but if you are not a believer in Jesus Christ tonight, please let the elements pass...

**(The Bread): 1 Corinthians 11:23-24** “For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “**This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.**”

**Pray:** Lord, we thank you for your broken body... if you wouldn't have endured the cross, we wouldn't have life tonight... thank you. You are our great God and Savior. And tonight, we take the bread in remembrance of You.

**(The Cup): 1 Corinthians 11:25-26** “In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.**”  
<sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

**Pray:** Jesus, thank you for making a new way... thanks for making it possible for us to experience forgiveness and receive joy and peace in our hearts... it has all been made possible because of your blood that was shed for the sins of the whole world. Lord, you are coming back again... and we joyfully look forward to that day when you will come and take us home...

Right now, in this time of prayer, would some of you be willing to stand and pray as the Holy Spirit would lead you... and pray that we would continue to grow closer to Jesus Christ...

Next week: “Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit” ...

**1. Recognize you are a sinner.**

You must admit your spiritual need. The Bible says, *"There is none righteous, no not one."* (Romans 3:10) Stop making excuses, blaming everyone and everything else for your actions. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

**2. Recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you**

The Bible tells us, *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God."* (1 Peter 3:18). He paid the price for your sin. The apostle Paul acknowledged, *"...the life which I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20)

**3. Repent of your sins.**

The word "repent" means "to change your direction". The Bible tells us, *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* (Acts 3:19) God commands people everywhere to repent. You must be willing to turn away from those things that displease God.

**4. Receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.**

Jesus said, *"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28). It is essential that you come to him as you are. Don't try "to clean up your life" before you come to God. Instead receive him, and allow Him to do the cleansing. Jesus said, *"All the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."* (John 6:37)