

John 14b

15 The reason Jesus gives us a command is because of His love for us. If we love Him, we will obey the command. Disobedience causes Him grief because of the pain we put ourselves through. In the next chapter He tells us the command is to love each other (15:10-14). If you love Him, you will love others in obedience to His command. In a military sense, the best commanders in history have been those who earned the love of their troops. They obeyed out of love and respect for their commander. Should we do any less? 21:15-17; 2Corinthians 5:15; 1John 5:2-3

16-18 Is obedience connected with sending of the Holy Spirit? If you love me... obey and I will... If we are not walking in obedience, the Holy Spirit would be an unwelcome "gate-crasher". The greater the obedience, the more at home the Spirit will be in your life.

Only those born of the Spirit can discern His work and leading 1Corinthians 2:14. This 17th verse is an explanation of the difference of the Holy Spirit before and after Pentecost. Up until the day Jesus sent the Counselor, He was with men. From that day forward He would work in men. 1John 4:12-13

He promised He would not leave us like grieving children who had lost their parents, and said, "I will come to you." (also see 23) He is one with the Spirit. He calls this One who comes to us the *parakletos*. The Greeks used the word as a person who testifies on another's behalf, or a defense attorney or someone who helps you through the court procedures. In other words, you are in for a tough time, but I will help you through it. NKJV uses 'Helper' and NIV 'Counselor'.

19-21 (from September 20th evening devotional) Jesus is no longer physically manifest in the form of the incarnation. The world no longer sees Him. But do you see Him? He promised His disciples that they would, and I don't believe that He meant the short time between His resurrection and ascension. He goes on to say that they will realize He is in them. That happened after the ascension. How did the disciples see Christ after the ascension?

They saw Him as the body of Christ functioned throughout the book of Acts and onward through time. You see Him every time you see the church minister in all its varied forms of service. When Ananias touched Saul of Tarsus, Jesus touched him. When Peter and John laid hands on the Samaritans, Jesus touched them. When the transformed Paul spoke the words of life, his hearers heard Jesus. And when your church acts in the Spirit, Jesus is acting in your world and seen by those who love Him.

Not only that, but you also see Him at work in the details of your life. If you are one that loves Him and obeys His command to love, then He promised to show Himself to you. When the world says "coincidence", you see the hand of God. When a verse of Scripture is spoken on the radio, and then comes up in you

devotional time speaking to your current situation, you hear the voice of Jesus. As you observe the beauty of nature, you see lessons from Jesus to give you insight as to how He is working in your life. The world doesn't see it and might think you are one card short of a full deck, but you know He has shown Himself to you. It is then that you realize that you are in Jesus, and He is in you.

22-23 Jesus reiterates what He said in 15 and 16. If you love Him, you obey Him, and He sends the Holy Spirit to help guide you. But this time instead of using the term *parakletos*, He says that He and the Father will make their home in us. There we have the three in one, Father, Son and Spirit. I wonder if Judas understood the answer?

24 The contrast is not loving Him – the truth, and not obeying our Creator's instructions. Again Jesus tells us that this is not His idea, but God's divine instruction. 5:19; 12:50

25-26 The authority of Jesus in His victory over sin will send the Holy Spirit. He will be our Teacher. He will show us when we think in a worldly way. He will remind us of Jesus' words. If we will hear Him, He will be our Teacher and Guide. What are the conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit? Believing obedience and asking. Luke 11:13

27 Jeremiah 31:33, The peace of the world is totally conditional upon favorable circumstances. The peace of Jesus goes beyond circumstances to the depths of your very being. The Hebrew word Shalom is not just the absence of turmoil, but the presence of everything that makes for our highest good. He said it was His very own peace. He has peace because He is peace. His omnipotence and omnipresence assures that nothing will escape Him. Realize that He sees it all right now and that nothing escapes Him. His guiding presence with us provides a peace that goes beyond circumstance. Psalm 27:1

28-29 Jesus was very careful to be sure His disciples understood what was about to happen. Even then they were completely forlorn. He explained that if they loved Him, they would be glad He was going to the Father. It is the same with the death of a fellow believer. If we love them we will miss them, but we should be glad they are in the unhindered presence of God. It is one thing for us to have His presence in these bodies, but it will be altogether different when we see Him face to face.

30-31 Satan is referred to as the Prince of this World. He has no hold or rights over Jesus because Jesus was free from sin. 12:31; 16:11; 1John 5:19 Jesus love for the Father meant He obeyed completely. That is what He was trying to tell them in this chapter. Jesus love for the Father resulted in a sinless life, and that means Satan has no power over Him. Why must we learn that? 10:18 It is essential that we see His obedience to God out of God's love for man.