

DO NOT LET YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

14 Do not let your heart be troubled; trust in God, trust in me also. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me; so that where I am, you may be also ...

¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive him; because it does not see him, nor does it know him. [But] you know him; because he remains with you and will be in you.

¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹After a little while the world will no longer see me; but you will see me. Because I live, you shall live also. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹The one who has my commandments and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. The one who loves me shall be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and I will reveal myself to him. ²²Judas (not [Judas] Iscariot) asked him, Lord, what has happened that you will reveal yourself to us, but not to the world? ²³Jesus responded to him by saying, If a man loves me, he will obey my teaching; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and live with him. ²⁴The one who does not love me will not obey my teaching—and the teaching that you hear is not mine, it is from the Father who sent me. (Jn. 14:1-3, 16-24)

Introduction

“I am not sure of directions this morning,” writes a Christian woman named Ruth.

“I am irritated because of my own uncertainty as well as by the traffic.

“I glance at the seat beside me to the list of errands to be performed before 9 a.m. Number one on the list is stamps. I find a parking spot and rush into the post office, not knowing that I will leave the place with more than stamps.

“I step into line—fourth place—for another irritating wait. From the corner of my eye, I am aware that someone is approaching slowly and cautiously. I turn to see a woman in gray. Then I see the white-tipped cane.

“She does not stop at the end of the line. To her, there is no line. She feels her way straight down the middle, slightly tapping a child who scurries in fright to her mother.

“Then, as if she has lost her sense of direction, the young woman halts uncertainly. The dozen or so of us witnessing the drama shift uneasily. We should be doing something, but we don't know what to do.

“Next!’ a clerk calls from the farthest window. The lady in gray turns her head in the direction of the voice but moves straight toward the wall. A man from our queue rushes forward.

‘Here, may I help you?’ A hand reaches out to lead the woman in the right direction. “I am touched as surely as if that hand had reached out to me.

“I buy my stamps and leave. As I head across the street to my part-time job, I am at peace with my own grope in the dark. I have been reminded that, even when I cannot see, there is always that invisible hand reaching out, guiding me in the right directions.” (*POWER*, 10/22/89, p. 8)

That gentleman, reaching out to guard and guide a blind woman, reminded Ruth of how our Lord—although not physically present—continues to watch over us. Even though we do not presently enjoy Christ’s physical presence, do not let your heart be troubled, because Jesus has not abandoned us.

I. Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled, Because Jesus Has Gone to Prepare a Place for Us

We must bear in mind the context and the situation in which the Lord Jesus now addresses His disciples. Jesus has just announced that He is about to be betrayed by one of His own disciples (Jn. 13:21.) Jesus has just announced that within a very short time He will depart from His disciples; His disciples will miss Him—desiring His fellowship as they have enjoyed it for the past 3 ½ years—but for the time being they will not be able to follow Him (Jn. 13:33.)

It is in this context that our Lord Jesus Christ directs their attention and ours to the house of God (i.e.; the heavenly kingdom of God,) to the spaciousness of that house (in His Father’s house are “*many rooms*”—there is ample room for all who believe in Christ the Son of God,) and to the fact that He is departing in order to prepare a place for His disciples (for all of His disciples throughout the ages) in that house.

Thus Jesus specifically declares that one of the reasons for His departure is to go and prepare a place in His Father’s house for each one of His disciples. Is not this fact **the proof** that He will come again to bring us unto that place He has gone to prepare for us? At the time of our Lord’s ascension into heaven, the angels testified to the disciples:

Men of Galilee ... why do you stand here looking into the heavens? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:11)

The Apostle Paul assures the Thessalonians of our reunion with Christ our Lord:

... the LORD himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And so we will be with the LORD forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage each other with these words. (1 Thess. 4:16-18)

Jesus specifically declares that one of the reasons for His departure is to go and prepare a place in His Father's house for each one of His disciples. Is not this fact **the assurance** that He will guard His people and preserve us so that we may enter into that place He has gone to prepare for us? Jesus Himself testifies, *"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom"* (Lk. 12:32.) The Apostle Paul declares the same assurance when he writes, *"The LORD will rescue me out of every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen"* (2 Tim. 4:18.)

Christian, here is our great hope and certain confidence: our Lord Jesus Christ will return to receive us into His divine presence, so that where He is, we may be also. This is His heart's desire, as expressed in His prayer to His heavenly Father: *"Father, I desire those whom you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world"* (Jn. 17:24.) Furthermore, this is His Father's will, as He testifies to His disciples:

And this is the will of him who sent me, [namely,] that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰My Father's will is that every one who looks to the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (Jn. 6:39-40)

Jesus says, "Christian, do not let your heart be troubled; I have gone to prepare a place for you, and I will come to receive you unto Myself." Jesus invites our simple and complete confidence in Him, because of His simple and complete honesty with us. He declares, *"If it were not so, I would have told you, for I am going to prepare a place for you"* (Jn. 14:2.) Here is the straightforward honesty of the Lord Jesus Christ, the trustworthiness that invites our utmost confidence.

Christian, do not let your heart be troubled, because Jesus has gone to prepare a place of us.

II. Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled, Because Jesus Has Supplied Us with the Holy Spirit

In verse 16 Jesus assures His disciples that He will petition His Father on their behalf. With regard to the effectiveness of Jesus' petitions, consider the testimony of Martha: *"Lord, Martha said to Jesus ... ²² ... I know that ... God will give you whatever you ask"* (Jn. 11:21-22.)

Jesus will request His Father to provide His disciples with *“another Counselor”* (or, *“Comforter”*)—that One being the Holy Spirit. The Greek term (παράκλητος) refers to one who appears on another’s behalf as a mediator, intercessor, and helper (Arndt and Gingrich’s *Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*, pp. 623-624.)

When Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as being *“another Counselor,”* He indicates that the Holy Spirit will continue to carry on the work and fulfill the role of Christ Himself. In John 17:11,15 we find Jesus carrying on His ministry of intercession on behalf of His disciples:

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one ...¹⁵My prayer is not that you would take them out of the world but that you would protect them from the evil one. (Jn. 17:11,15)

In John 17:12 we hear Jesus testify of His work of preserving and guarding His disciples:

While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by your name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. (Jn. 17:12)

Now, on Jesus’ behalf, the Holy Spirit continues to carry on this work in the life of the Christian and for the sake of the Christian. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us before the Father’s throne of grace:

... the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know for what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. (Rom. 8:26-27)

The Holy Spirit continues to keep us in Christ and will bring us safely unto God—He carries out on our behalf a work of holy guidance: *“When you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it’”* Furthermore, He also carries on within the Christian’s heart and life a work of holy coercion: *“I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep my ordinances and do them”* (Ezek. 36:27.) The petitions made by the hymn writer, Heinrich Held, well express the preserving ministry of the Holy Spirit:

Show us, LORD, the path of blessing,
When we trespass on our way.
Cast, O LORD, our sins behind You
And be with us day by day.

Should we stray, O LORD, recall;
Work repentance when we fall.

It is means of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus Himself continues to be present with us: *“I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you”* (Jn. 14:18.) Jesus promises His disciples that He will not abandon us like orphans on the doorstep of the world. He requested the Father to supply us with the Holy Spirit to carry on the work He Himself has begun (vs. 16.) Furthermore, by means of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Himself abides with us (vs. 18.) As He assures His disciples shortly before His ascension into heaven, *“I am with you always, even to the end of the world”* (Matt. 28:20.) In Romans 8:9-10, the Apostle Paul brings out the unity between Christ and the Holy Spirit:

*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if **the Spirit of God lives in you.** If anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if **Christ is in you**, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.* (Rom. 8:9-10)

Jesus’ request of His Father is that this Counselor (the Holy Spirit)—who carries on the work of Christ and by whom Christ Himself continues to abide with His people—be present with us *“forever.”* The Holy Spirit shall abide in the individual hearts of God’s people and in the midst of Christ’s church until we are safely gathered into the Father’s eternal kingdom. With complete confidence and with the assurance that such is God’s certain will for each of His children in Christ and for the church of Christ collectively, we can sing with the hymn writer, Thomas Benson Pollock,

Jesus, with Your church abide,
Be her Savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried:
We beseech You, hear us.

As Christians, we need to appreciate our relationship to the Holy Spirit—this blessed Counselor/Comforter provided by the Father in answer to Christ’s petition: We must recognize the Holy Spirit’s presence in our life. As a Christian, you are not an empty vessel needing to have the Holy Spirit come down and be poured into you; on the contrary, the Holy Spirit resides in your heart and from that residence He desires to come forth and overflow throughout your life—like a geyser gushing forth from the depths of the earth. We must release ourselves to the Holy Spirit; yielding our wills to Him in confidence and allow Him to produce within us the life of the kingdom of God, as the Apostle Paul declares, *“**the kingdom of God consists in ... righteousness, peace and joy by the Holy Spirit**”* (Rom. 14:17.)

As a Christian, do not let your heart be troubled, because Jesus has supplied us with the Holy Spirit.

III. Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled; Because Jesus Has Promised to Hold Communion with Us

In verse 19a the Lord Jesus assures us that as His disciples, unlike the world, we have an abiding fellowship with our Lord. He declares, *"After a little while the world will no longer see me."* Following the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, the world would no longer observe Jesus walking among them as He has done in the years of His earthly ministry. But, Jesus continues, *"you will see me."* Jesus' words are actually in the present tense (*"you see me;"* or, *"you continue to see me,"*) emphasizing the fact that there will be no diminishing of the fellowship between Jesus and His disciples following the events of His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. Following His resurrection, the disciples would fellowship with Christ physically. Following His ascension, we continue to fellowship with Him spiritually through the person of the Holy Spirit. In the case of Mohammed, as well as all the other religious leaders of the world, the relationship between himself and his disciples was permanently severed at the time of his death—but this is not the case with the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples! As the hymn writer expresses it, "What a Friend we **have** [present tense] in Jesus!"

In verse 19b Jesus informs us that as His disciples we participate in His resurrection life: *"because I live, you shall live also."* Prior to the crucifixion, Jesus was physically living with His disciples. Following His resurrection and ascension, His disciples would spiritually live in Him, as the Apostle Paul explains: *"you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory"* (Col. 3:3-4.)

In verse 21 Jesus indicates that this spiritual communion occurs in the context of covenant faithfulness: *"The one who has my commandments and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. The one who loves me shall be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and I will reveal myself to him."* Here is the continuing demand of God's covenant, as first specified in Deuteronomy 7:9,

Know, therefore, that Jehovah your God, he is God; he is the faithful God who keeps his covenant and lovingkindness to a thousand generations with those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deut. 7:9)

It is by grace and through faith that we enter into this communion with Christ and with God the Father; and it is by the Holy Spirit-generated obedience that this communion with Christ and God the Father is cultivated and experienced.

Genuine love for Jesus will express itself in obedience to His commandments. Jesus speaks of *"the one who **has** my commandments."* The commandments of Christ find a place in the Christian's heart; this fact itself is an evidence of conversion, as it is expressed in Jeremiah 31:33,

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Jehovah. I will put my law in their minds, and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jer. 31:33)

Jesus then goes on to add that, not only does His disciples possess His commandments, accepting them from their Lord and Savior, but the one who is His disciple also *“obeys (or, “is obeying”) them.”* In reliance upon the Holy Spirit, the Christian seeks to bring his life into conformity with Christ’s commandments; the Psalmist’s prayer is also the Christian’s prayer: *“Make me to go in the path of your commandments, for that is my delight”* (Psl. 119:35.) This is the one, declares the Lord, the one who possesses and obeys My commandments, *“he is the one who loves me.”*

Genuine love for Jesus will result in the experience of communion with Christ and with God His Father. The man who loves Christ will have a deep and personal communion with Christ: *“The one who loves me shall be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and I will reveal myself to him”* (vs. 21b.) Christ will *“reveal”* Himself to that man; that is to say, Christ will share Himself and make Himself known to that man in a very deep and personal way. The man who truly loves Christ, however imperfectly that love is presently expressed in his life, will experience, at least in partial measure, the blessing of heaven on earth in his life and soul: *“If a man loves me, he will obey my teaching; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and live with him”* (vs. 23.) Jesus has informed us that by virtue of His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, He has gone to prepare a place for His disciples in His Father’s house (vs. 2.) He now informs us that in this present time He and His Father will make the disciple’s life to become their dwelling place (vs. 23.)

As a Christian, do not let your heart be troubled, because Jesus has promised to hold communion with us.

Conclusion

Our Lord Jesus Christ has supplied us as Christians with three reasons why we should not let our hearts be troubled: 1) He has gone to prepare a place for us; 2) He has supplied us with the Holy Spirit; and 3) He has promised to hold communion with us.