

Supernaturally Empowered by the Indwelling Spirit (Jn 14:16)

I. JESUS' COMMAND NOT TO LET TROUBLE DOMINATE OUR HEART

A. Jesus commanded the disciples not to let trouble dominate their hearts (14:1).

1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God [a fact], believe also in Me.” 27 My peace I give to you... Let not your heart be troubled... (Jn. 14:1, 27)

B. John 13-17 tells how to engage our troubled hearts to overcome *grief, fear, shame, and betrayal*. Jesus gives us line-upon-line insight into God's heart and promises that anchor our hearts. The truths in John 13-17 equip us to respond to the end-time troubles highlighted in Matthew 24.

C. Two weeks ago, Sunday May 3rd, we looked at ***7 reasons why they were troubled***: ***Trouble #1—Death of their beloved leader and friend***: (Jn. 13:36-38) ***Trouble #2—Personal failure***: (Mt. 26:31; Jn. 13:38). ***Trouble #3—Bitterness of betrayal***: (Jn 13:21) ***Trouble #4—Crisis in the culture***: Pressures disrupted the social order (Mt. 24:4-12) ***Trouble #5—Persecution***: (Mt 24:9) ***Trouble #6—National destruction***: Jerusalem and the temple destroyed (Mt 24:2) ***Trouble #7—Delay of God's promises***:

D. Last week we looked at ***8 truths that He told them to believe*** to equip them to not be troubled. ***Truth #1—Belief in the truth about Jesus***— (Jn 14:1) ***Truth #2—Jesus promised to return to be with us in the Father's house forever*** (14:2-3) ***Truth #3—We can engage in a deep relationship with God in this age.*** (14:20,23) ***Truth #4—He supernaturally empowers us by the indwelling Spirit*** (Jn. 14:16, 26) ***Truth #5—God's love for God and His people***— (15:9, 17:23) ***Truth #6—Access to supernatural resources through Spirit-led prayer.*** (Jn 14:13) ***Truth #7—How Jesus responded to the apostles when they stumbled.*** (Jn 21:17) ***Truth #8—The joy of eternal rewards related to being faithful to Jesus*** (2 Cor 4:17)

II. TRUTH #3: WE CAN ENGAGE IN A DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IN THIS AGE

20 I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him; We will come to him and make Our home with him. (Jn. 14:20, 23)

A. ***If anyone loves me, he will keep My Word***: We engage in a deep relationship with God in this age by expressing our love through pursuit of obedience.

B. Jesus connected prayer in 14:13-14 with the power to love and obey Him in 14:15-16. When Jesus said to “ask anything” (14:13), He immediately focused them on the grace to love Him more (14:15). The ultimate “anything” we can ask for is the grace to walk in first commandment. The Father is glorified most by those who grow in the grace to walk in obedient love for Him.

12“...the works that I do he will do also...13And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. 15If you love Me, keep My commandments...16the Father...will give you another Helper... (Jn. 14:12-16)

- C. Jesus defined loving God as being deeply rooted in a spirit of obedience (14:15, 21, 23). He calls us to love God on God’s terms or by His definition of love. He is the most qualified to define love since the essence of His being is love (1 Jn. 4:16). There is no such thing as loving God without seeking to obey Him. The sentimental definitions of love in our culture that minimize obedience to Jesus are a deception.

15If you love Me, keep My commandments...21He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...23If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...24He who does not love Me does not keep My words...31I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. (Jn. 14:15-31)

- D. Expressions of deep relationship in this age.

1. *We are the bride:* John made a stunning prophetic declaration that the end-time Church will be a “prepared Bride” (Rev. 19:7). God’s ultimate purpose for creation is to provide an equally yoked Bride for Jesus. The greatest social miracle in history is the transformation of the end-time Church from spiritual compromise to be a prepared Bride.

7 ...for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

2. *We are the friend of the bridegroom:* The Spirit is raising up His messengers who will reveal the cherishing heart of Jesus and who will call others to define loving Jesus as God’s highest priority. They will make encountering Jesus’ heart and walking in the first commandment the primary focus of their life and ministry.

He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. (Jn 3:29)

3. *We are Sons:* When we trust in Jesus we are brought into His family. We are forgiven, adopted, and given the Spirit, so we can truly call God our Father.
4. *He calls us brother:* Jesus became truly human, joined Himself to His redeemed people, and brings believers into the family of God. He sympathizes with our weakness, represents us before the Father, and is not ashamed to call us His own. (Heb 2:10-12)

III. TRUTH #4: HE SUPERNATURALLY EMPOWERS US BY THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

- A. Jesus is so zealous for us to love Him that He sent us the Spirit to supernaturally teach, inspire, and empower us to love God with a spirit of obedience and to participate in union with God

16“I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever —17the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (Jn. 14:16-18)

- B. ***I will pray the Father:*** Jesus continues to ask the Father for things that the Father has promised. This is the model for the believer. We are to ask for the things that God has promised.
- C. ***He will give you another Helper:*** The Father set us up for success by sending us the ultimate Helper to empower us (14:16, 26). The Spirit will help us to the degree that we ask Him. Weak people can be used by the Lord to do miracles (14:12), pray in a way that He answers (14:13-14), walk in obedient love (14:15), experience His manifest presence (14:21-24), and be taught by the Spirit (14:25-27) because Jesus sent the Helper to us. Thus, this lifestyle is not out of reach for us
- D. ***Another Helper:*** The Greek word paraclete is translated “Helper” (NAS), “Counselor” (Holman), “Advocate” (NIV), or “Comforter” (KJV). The term refers to a legal counsellor—an advocate who represents someone in court. The verbal form parakaleo is often translated as “to call alongside” in order to strengthen, help, or to represent one as a defense attorney in the Roman legal system.
- E. Jesus is the first Paraclete who helped His first apostles. The Spirit is “another” Paraclete (14:26; 15:26; 16:7) who took Jesus’ place after His death. The title parakletos continues to refer to Jesus as our advocate (“lawyer”) before the Father in the courts of heaven (1 Jn. 2:1). Jesus prays for us before the Father (Rom. 8:34), and the Spirit prays for us and within us (Rom. 8:26). The Spirit prays for, empowers, teaches, comforts, and guides the redeemed.

34...It is Christ who...at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us. (Rom. 8:34)

26The Spirit helps in our weaknesses. We do not know what we should pray for...the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Rom. 8:26)

- F. ***He may abide with you forever:*** The Spirit came on various leaders under the old covenant on a temporary basis (Ps. 51:11). In the new covenant the Spirit dwells with and in the redeemed forever

- G. **The Spirit of truth:** Jesus identified the Helper as “the Spirit of truth” (14:17; 15:26; 16:13) who communicates truth to His people. He guides them into the truth about God, His Word, His will, their personal life, ministry, and loved ones, including things about the future (16:13), and more.

17“The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (Jn. 14:17)

- H. **Whom the world cannot receive:** Jesus highlighted two aspects of the Spirit’s ministry that unbelievers cannot receive—they do not “see” or “know” Him—they cannot recognize His activity.
- I. **You know Him:** Believers can “know” or recognize the Spirit’s activity in their life and in the lives of others. They perceive His activity—including His works, “whispers,” and prophetic impressions.
- J. **He dwells with you and will be in you:** The Spirit lives “in” the redeemed impacting their mind and heart or emotions (Heb. 10:16) and is “with” them—affecting their circumstances. (Isa. 52:12). A vibrant walk with Him is essential in our quest to experience more of God. It is futile to seek deep experiences with God while neglecting the Spirit’s presence and His leadership in our lives. We cannot go deep in God with a dull spirit. We can all fellowship with the Holy Spirit. He is a dynamic Person who lives inside us to empower our hearts as we walk in friendship with Him.

16...“I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them”... (Heb. 10:16)

- K. **I will not leave you orphans (14:18):** Jesus will not leave His people as vulnerable orphans who often feel alone and helpless without direction, protection, provision, or a sense of belonging. In 14:18, Jesus restated the promised divine blessing of being “with His disciples” from 14:16-17. The promise of not being left as orphans speaks of God’s blessing using family language.

14For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15...you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs—heirs of God... (Rom. 8:14-17)

- L. **I will come to you:** Jesus applied His promise to “come to them” in three ways. First, this refers to His physical return (14:3) pointing back to what He said in Matthew 24:30. Second, He comes to them by appearing to them physically soon after His resurrection (14:3, 19; 16:16-17; 21:1-14). Third, He came to them spiritually by dwelling in them through the Spirit given at Pentecost (14:3, 16-18, 23, 26; 16:13).

IV. CALLED TO LIVE IN DEEP UNION WITH GOD (JN. 14:19-20)

- A. Because of Jesus' resurrection life, His people will live forever. Jesus made a dramatic declaration calling His people to participate in the union that He enjoyed with His Father as a Man (14:20). We can engage in conversation with Him with these promises saying, "Thank You, show me more!"

19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you." (Jn. 14:19-20)

- B. ***At that day you will know:*** The disciples came to know that Jesus was in the Father, and they were in Jesus, and Jesus was in them. "That day" refers to the day of His resurrection (Sunday) and also the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Jesus' resurrection appearances would convince them of His deity or that He was "in" the Father—and of their union with Jesus, or that they "in" Him and He "in" them.

1. By saying, "You are in Me" and "I in you" in 14:20, Jesus added to what He said in 14:10, that "I am in the Father" and "the Father is in Me." This was a new revelation to them.

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?... 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works... (Jn. 14:10-11)

2. John 14:20 is one of the most glorious statements in the Scripture—He applied the relational reality that He enjoyed with the Father in His humanity to our relationship with God. This is the climactic point of John 14. It is how we overcome trouble and mature in love (14:1, 15).

- C. Jesus developed what He taught here in 14:20 by what He taught in 15:5-7.

5 "...He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit... 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." (Jn. 15:5-7)

- D. ***You in Me:*** Born-again believers are "in" Jesus. We "abide in Him" by talking with Him, trusting in Him, and obeying Him (15:5) and by our words and thoughts being "in" His heart. The very fact that He answers our prayers and gives us eternal rewards related to our words and deeds assures us that they are "in" His heart—that they move His heart and that He delights in them.

- E. ***In you:*** Jesus is “in” a believer. He lives or “abides in us” by His Spirit dwelling in our spirit, by releasing the Spirit’s activity in our heart and mind, and by His words “living in” our heart (15:7). How glorious that the very substance of God’s Person dwells in the spirit of a born-again believer!
- F. The Spirit is the Helper who came to lead into transforming union with God. The Spirit helps us to develop some of the elements that describe the union between the Father and Jesus—in their mind (thoughts), heart (feelings), will (values), words (speech), and works (actions). We are to seek to think, feel, value, speak, and act in ways that agree with God, knowing that this deeply moves the Father’s heart. Over time, what He thinks, feels, says, and does will fill our hearts.
- G. Thoughts and words in agreement with the Spirit help bind people to God and to each other. Thoughts and words are two of the main elements in the union between Father and Son and between Jesus and His people. We grow spiritually as we exert effort to bring our thoughts and words into unity with God’s; this is foundational to abiding in Christ (15:4-7; cf. Ps. 19:14).

***14“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight...”
(Ps. 19:14)***

V. CALLED TO ENJOY GOD’S MANIFEST PRESENCE (JN. 14:21)

- A. Jesus called us into union with God by experiencing His presence on our mind and emotions. Jesus linked obedient love to our capacity to experience God’s manifest presence (14:21, 23).
21“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (Jn. 14:21)
- B. ***It is he who loves Me:*** This one of the most glorious things that Jesus can say to person.
- C. ***Manifest Myself to him:*** Jesus linked obedient love to our capacity to experience God’s manifest presence (14:21, 23). A believer’s obedience does not earn God’s love, but it positions them to experience more of His love for them because they live in agreement with His heart and leadership. The implication of the phrase “I am in you” in 14:20 is described in 14:21: “Jesus moves in us by His manifest presence on our mind and emotions.” This is the normal Christian life.
- D. Our capacity to receive and return His love increases as we increase our agreement with Him. Obedience brings our mind and emotions into agreement with Jesus’ heart—He is the most beautiful, fascinating, interesting, happy, and satisfied person who ever walked the earth.