

Our Lord's Promise of Peace and Teaching on the Holy Spirit

John 14:25-31

John 14:25-31 - *"These things I have spoken to you while being present 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 things that I said to you.²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.²⁸ You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.²⁹ "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.³¹ But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here."*

Background Notes

The Lord's "Upper Room Discourses" began in John 13, and were given only to the disciples in the room where the Last Supper took place. The discourses continued through John 17, but in John 12:31 the Lord said, *"Arise, let us go from here."* They were about to leave the upper room and go to the Garden of Gethsemane.

If they left immediately, the rest of the discourse (including our Lord's prayer in John 17) would have been spoken as they walked from the city of Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley, and into the Garden of Gethsemane. But it's probable that after the Lord said *"Arise, let us go"* they lingered a little longer, and didn't actually leave the upper room until after John 17. In fact, John 18:1 indicates this: *"When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered."*

In verse 28 the Lord said, *"You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I."* Now that doesn't seem like a logical statement, does it? Normally when you love someone, you want him or her to stay with you! What the Lord meant here was that if they had fully appreciated Him and the work of redemption that He was accomplishing, they would be glad that He was returning to the Father. His work for their salvation would then be complete, and He would no longer be subject to the cruelty and indignity of wicked men.

Why did the Lord say, *'My Father is greater than I'?* In essence, as Persons of the Godhead, the Father and the Son are equal. However, in His role as Redeemer, God the Son - the Lord Jesus Christ - became Man, and as Man submitted Himself to the will of the Father. This is called "functional subordination." The Father and the Son are equal in essence, but the Son willingly became subordinate to the Father in His earthly ministry. A good illustration would be a father and a

son today. The father is not **intrinsically** “greater” than the son. They are ontologically equal - that is, they are equal in essence or in being. But for the purposes of order and harmony in the family, the son is **functionally** subordinate to the father.

“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me” (v30). The Lord referred to Satan as “the ruler of this world.” Speaking of His death on the cross, the Lord said, *“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out” (John 12:31).* Satan tried to thwart the mission of Jesus Christ, but Satan had no power over Him. Satan had no hold on Jesus Christ. Why? Because Jesus Christ was sinless! Jesus was true Man, but he was also 100% God, and therefore He was sinless. But notice the end of verse 31: *“...as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do.”* The Father’s “commandment” was for the Lord Jesus to go to the cross for our salvation. Although Satan had no power over Christ, at the cross Satan was allowed to *“bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15).*

Doctrinal / Teaching Points

1. There’s no better teaching for the believer than the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

“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 things that I said to you.” The same Greek word for the Holy Spirit was used both here and in verse 16 – “helper” or “comforter,” from the Greek word *paraklete* or *parakletos*. This word refers to someone who comes alongside to help in time of need. In this verse, the specific help given by the Holy Spirit is teaching - **teaching of the Word**.

In the context of John 14, the Lord referred specifically to the disciples. The Holy Spirit would bring everything to their memory when they would write the New Testament. Did you ever wonder how the Gospel writers were able to remember all the details of the things the Lord said and did? Well, here’s your answer!

Now while verse 26 refers in the specific context to the disciples, it certainly can be applied to us. There is no better teaching for the believer than the teaching of the Holy Spirit! As we read and study Scripture, the Holy Spirit helps us remember what we read, and he can bring it to our minds as we need it. He helps us by teaching us.

One of the courses that I teach at Emmaus Bible College is “Hermeneutics,” a course on interpretation of Scripture. The first principle of hermeneutics that I teach is “meditate and pray” when studying Scripture. As we meditate on Scripture and pray about the interpretation, the Holy Spirit teaches us. There is no better teaching for the believer than the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

So next time you’re wrestling with a difficult passage of Scripture and struggling with the interpretation, don’t just say, “Well, I think it means this!” Or “My pastor (or a favorite author or TV preacher) says it means this, so I’ll just go along with him.” No! Meditate and pray about the proper interpretation of that Scripture. The Holy Spirit is **with** you and **in** you to help you. He is God! He is the Author of the Bible, and certainly He knows the meaning of what He wrote! There is no better teaching for the believer than the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

2. There's no better peace for the believer than the peace of God.

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (v27). Do you want peace? If you're a believer, peace is available. The Lord promised to give us peace, and we can have it!

The peace that the Lord offered in verse 27 is not like the peace that the world talks about. When the world speaks of peace, they mean "absence of, or exemption from, conflict and trial." But the Lord doesn't promise us that kind of peace. The peace that the Lord gives is the "calmness of confidence in God" so that we can **pass through** conflict or trial without anxiety and without fear.

Notice the end of verse 27: *"Let not your heart be troubled [that's anxiety], neither let it be afraid [that's fear]."* We don't know what the future holds, but we can be confident because we know Who holds our future! We don't need to have anxiety attacks about our jobs or our financial security. We don't have to fear death. We can be calm because of our confidence in God! Isaiah 26:3 says, *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."*

3. There's no better proof for the believer than the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe"(v29). "Before 'it' comes" and "when 'it' comes to pass." What is the "it" here? Looking back at verse 28, as well as verses 19-20, it appears that the "it" refers to the future events of the Lord's resurrection and ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

"When it comes to pass, you may believe." When these future events happened, the disciples would be strengthened in their belief. These events would be **proof** for them - and for us as well! We were not present when these events occurred, as the disciples were, but they were **historical events**. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the crux of the Christian faith, can be checked out and definitively shown to have taken place in history. In fact, if anyone asked me for proof of Christianity, I would begin with the resurrection of Jesus Christ! And if I were ever to have serious doubts about the Christian faith, I would look again at the resurrection of Christ - because there is no better proof for the believer than the resurrection of Christ!

Another course I teach at Emmaus is Christian Evidences. This course discusses some of the many and varied evidences that are available to show the credibility of the Christian faith. One section of the course deals with the resurrection of Christ – and there is **a lot of evidence for the resurrection!** Not only is there **biblical evidence** (and that should be enough for us!), but there is also a lot of **extra-biblical evidence** that deals with the resurrection of Christ. (Extra-biblical means sources other than the Bible.) There is so much evidence that people have to kiss their brains goodbye if they refuse to believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Just one piece of extra-biblical evidence for the resurrection of Christ is **Sunday** as the Christian day of worship! How did that get started? We know that the earliest Christians were Jews. Why would devout Jewish people change their special, God-given day of worship on the seventh day of the week, to Sunday, the first day of the week? The Lord Jesus never

told them to change the day of worship! Yet as far back as we can trace, all the way back to the 1st century, Christians have met together for worship on **Sunday**.

Those early Jewish Christians argued about all kinds of things, like what Jewish laws they should continue to keep, and whether Gentile Christians should be required to keep the laws of Judaism, and so forth. But there's **no** record that they **ever** argued about **Sunday** as their new day of worship. Something unbelievable must have taken place on a Sunday to cause these Jewish believers to change from their centuries-old practice of worship on Sabbath!

What monumental event happened to cause this change? **The resurrection of Jesus Christ!** It happened on the first day of the week – **Sunday!** The first day of the week became “the Lord’s Day,” and the early believers began to meet for worship and to remember His resurrection on the first day of the week! “Sunday” is just one piece of evidence of the resurrection. There are many, many more! There’s no better proof for the believer than the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Practical Application

How selfish is our love?

“*You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I*” (v28). Now the disciples certainly loved the Lord, but it was a somewhat selfish love. They didn’t want the Lord to leave them. So the Lord was saying, “If you **really** loved me, you would rejoice because I said I’m going to the Father. You need to see the bigger picture of the whole plan of redemption. I am returning to Heaven so that the gospel will go out to the whole world. You would not be so short-sighted, thinking only of yourselves and holding Me back!” Their love for the Lord was a rather “selfish” love.

What about us? How selfish is **our** love for the Lord? In the months and years ahead, disappointments and troubles will come into our lives. When disappointments and difficulties arise, we often tend to think, “Lord, where are you? Have You left me? Do you love me? What has happened?”

If we’re thinking along those lines, that’s a selfish love! Why? Because we **know** that in everything God is working for our good! Romans 8:28 tells us that “*in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*” Notice that Romans 8:28 does **not** say, “all things that happen in our lives are good.” No, sometimes God allows circumstances to come into our lives that are **not** pleasant. They may even be painful and tragic. But God is **working** through **all** the circumstances and events of our lives, and we know that He’s working all of them together for our eventual **good**. And God’s good goal for our lives is to help us become more like our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29)!

Do we really believe that Scripture? Then why do we question God? That’s a good question for all of us to ask ourselves, isn’t it? How selfish is our love?