

"If you love Me"

John 14:12-17

12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

16 " [And] I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper [another Counsellor of the same kind as I am], that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

This is a power-packed passage! There are 4 really big deals in these six verses.

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1. Greater works (verse 12)
2. Answered prayer (verses 13-14)

3. Loving Christ (verse 15)

4. Another Counselor-the Holy Spirit (verses 16-17)\

Last Sunday, we considered the second subject – answered prayer, prayer in Jesus' name.

What does it mean to ask for something in Jesus' name?

To ask for something in Jesus' name is to ask for something that will glorify the Father in the Son!

This gives us the key test as to whether or not a prayer is in Jesus' name:

/If this prayer is answered, will the Father be glorified in the Son?\

How do we know what prayers will accomplish this?

/One cannot ask for anything in Jesus' name until he has come to know Him.\

When a believer has come to know Christ, that believer will know what he should ask for in Jesus' name.

/A person cannot effectively ask for anything IN JESUS NAME until he or she has come to know Jesus sufficiently well to know for a fact that Jesus endorses that request.\

John 16:23-24

"In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. 24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

/The apostles would come to know Him better not by performing miracles but by continuing in His word, by learning the truth from their new teacher- God the Holy Spirit, and- most importantly- by doing what Jesus commanded them to do.\

/It's what John, in 1 John 5:14-15, meant by the expression "according to His will".\

1 John 5:14-15

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

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/This would revolutionize their prayer lives.\

Col 1:9-12

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

/The apostles – including Paul - would come to understand that they could ask for and receive a power greater than miracles.\

2 Thess 1:11-12

to this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Let us pray today, asking for the same things that Paul prayed for

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1. That we may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ;
2. That we may be filled with the knowledge of God's will;
3. That we may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects;
4. That the Lord will open a door for us to proclaim the gospel .\

/So that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in us, and us in Him.\

Now we continue with the third subject in our passage: loving Christ (verse 15).

John 14:15. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments

/In our relationship with the Lord, love and obedience are inextricably linked.\

John 15:10

10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

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/Once again, our Lord Jesus Christ sets the precedent for us with his love for and obedience to His Father.\

John 14:15 does not interrupt the train of thought in John 14:12-14 before resuming it in John 14:16. It could serve as a stand-alone precept. But here it is more than that.

It is an essential element in the Lord's teaching here in verses 12-17. It is third in an orderly sequence where what follows directly from what came before, a vital addition, which then in turn establishes the link to what comes directly after.

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1. *greater works than these he will do*
2. *"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it*
3. *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments*
4. *The Father will give you another Helper (the Spirit of truth)*

Doing what the Lord commands us to do magnifies our capacity to effectively and genuinely ask for things in His name.

/Keeping His commandments indicates that we have come to know Him.\

1 John 2:3-5

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

As we come to know Jesus better, we come to love Him better.

/ As we love Him better, we come to obey Him more completely. \

5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

/When we obey Him, we abide in His love. \ We get to know more about His love for us. And our prayer life becomes more effective.

This is a circle. The circle is reinforcing. The Lord has designed it to be that way.

/Circles are a good way of representing mutual relationships.\

And in most cases, relationships between people are designed to be mutual.

Marriage, for instance. <Picture>

John 14:15. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments

Jesus is giving a seminar on the interlocking and reinforcing power of obedience and love. These are the means by which our prayer life becomes more productive.

With that it's time to consider scriptures which speak of love and obedience.

First of all, we need to understand what love is according to Jesus.

What is love according to Jesus and His Father?

/Love is giving or acting sacrificially on behalf or for the benefit of the one loved.\

God set the precedent for love by loving the world, even though the world was and is in rebellion against Him. He loved by giving the world the greatest gift possible.

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Jesus will put it this way in chapter 15:

John 15:13-14

13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14 "You are My friends if you do what I command you.

/Earlier that evening, Jesus had defined love as service to one another.

John 13:14-17

14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16 "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

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And in 1 John, the apostle John has this to say about love:

1 John 3:16-18

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

We see this same thing in our passage this morning.

John 14:15. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments

/Love is not simply a mental attitude, although it begins there.

Keeping His commandments requires more of us than simply knowing them.

You do need to know them before you can keep them. Yet... "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

/Keeping His commandments means actually doing what He says.

Luke 6:46-48

46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like:

48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

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The essence of love is not a feeling, although a feeling may accompany it.

The demonstration of love is not just telling someone you love them.

The perfection of love is not a thought, although it starts with a thought.

/The essential thing about love is taking action on behalf of the one you love.\

let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

/And when it comes to loving Jesus, taking action means obeying His commands.\

Next Sunday, we will complete our look at loving and obeying Jesus by seeing more of what John has written on the subject in both His gospel and His letters.

And we will experience how John writes in circles! In a good way. Because love and obedience run in the same circles.