

“THE COMFORTER’S PRESENCE”

John 14:15-24 Lesson #4

How much do you really experience the joy of a relationship with Jesus Christ each day? The Holy Spirit (HS) was sent into our lives to make us more aware of God’s presence.

It is the coming of the HS that brings the Triune God into the believer’s life. Not every Christian is aware of God’s presence in a practical way every day that enables them to obey like they want to.

What would motivate you to obey? What moves people to action? What motivates obedience to God's commands? Some say: "Obey because God says it." Don't put a "?" where God puts a "period." Others say: obey for a good testimony.

So many ideas about how to live the Christian life. The most important factor motivating obedience is found in the principles Jesus gave in John 14:15-24.

The awareness of God’s presence is directly proportionate to the level of “love atmosphere.”

“Love Atmosphere”: The amount of love present in the Christian's life as demonstrated by obeying Christ’s commands.

The 1st level of ‘love atmosphere’ is given in v.15, where we learn an important principle:)

Level 1 -- If we love, we will obey, Jn.14:15

- We need to understand what the Lord is saying:
 1. Some misread it: "Love me, and you will obey me."

Commanded love is cold. Augustine: "Love God & do what you please."
 2. Others - that we should obey to prove our love. 2nd part not a command either: "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (KJV). Obedience does prove our love, but that shouldn't be the primary motivation for obedience. It can produce frustration--"I'm trying!"
 3. Some say that obeying Christ's commands creates love for Christ.
 - a. They turn it around: "Obey Me, & you will love Me."
 - b. Produces cold legalism. Performance (frustration)
 4. Jesus says: "If you love Me, the result is that you will keep my commandments."

The way to obey is to love Christ more.

What prompts us to love? KEY principle found in 1 Jn.4:19.

- "We love because He first loved us," 1 Jn.4:19.
- The more we love, the more we obey.**

Where do we get more love?

We should be concentrating on Christ's love for us.

"Why paddle in the puddles of your love for Him when you can swim in the ocean of His love for you?"

ENJOYING THE GREATNESS OF CHRIST'S LOVE MOTIVATES OBEDIENCE.

1 THE BELIEVER MAY ENJOY AN INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE, 14:16-17

A. Jesus will ask the Father to give another Helper, 14:16

¹⁶ "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever."

"Helper" – paraclete -- translated "comforter" or "advocate".

ILLUS: not a blanket or rocking chair beside the fireplace. Instead, the image is a cold winter's night when an frail older lady is walking down a lonely road. A kind man helps her to walk, provides a warmer coat, and speaks to her in ways that make the walk easier. Meaning – "to be strengthened by the company of someone."

B. The Spirit's presence is an exclusive privilege of the blvr, 14:17a.

¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him,

1. "truth" – God revealed.
2. The world cannot rcve, see, or know the HS.

C. The Spirit's ministry provides an increasing depth of relationship with God, 14:17b.

but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

1. Meta – "with you forever" (v.16) -- relationship; association
2. Para – "He abides with you" (beside") – personal presence
3. En -- "will be in you" (within) – individual indwelling

2 THE BELIEVER MAY ENJOY AN INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE LORD JESUS' PRESENCE, 14:18-20

A. Jesus promises His presence, 14:18

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

1. "orphans": "to be deprived of one's parents"
2. Time of His coming: Jesus' coming in person of HS (Day of Pentecost – Ac.2)

B. Jesus predicts an exclusive spiritual perception of Him, 14:19.

¹⁹ "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also.

C. Every believer may become more aware of the depth of relationship to Christ, 14:20.

²⁰ "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

1. New awareness of Jesus' relationship to the Father.
2. "you in Me" introduces union with Christ made possible by the baptism of the HS (1C.12:13).
3. "I in you" predicts the spiritual presence of the Lord made possible by the HS.

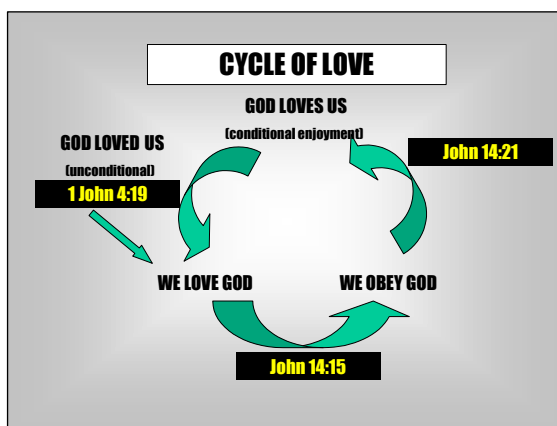
The 2nd level of "love atmosphere" is found in Jn.14:21.

Level 2 -- If we obey, He will love us, Jn.14:21, 23.

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

- D. Increasing enjoyment of His love depends on our obedience
1. The heavenly Father will love us.
 2. Jesus will love us.

The Love Cycle:



The more we love, the more we obey. The more we obey, the more we enjoy the greatness of His love. The more we know how great His love is for us, the more we want to obey!

- E. The Lord promises deeper levels of intimacy when we obey: "I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."
1. Spiritual revelation of Christ
 2. Special awareness of Jesus' presence

What motivates obedience? Enjoying the greatness of His love! When you get "off track" focus on the greatness of His love!

ENJOYING THE GREATNESS OF CHRIST'S LOVE MOTIVATES OBEDIENCE

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"

Level 3 --

3 THE BELIEVER MAY ENJOY AN INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE PRESENCE OF THE TRIUNE GOD, 14:23-24

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."

Positive side:

A. The triune God will take every room in the heart of the believer, 14:23.

Negative side:

B. If there is no love-relationship with Jesus, there is no obedience to God the Father, 14:24.

²⁴ "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

Next Session: "Peace for Troubled Hearts" John 14:25-31