

**“SEEING GOD”**  
**John 14:7-12**  
**Pastor Keith E. Gephart**

INTRODUCTION

Yes, there is only one Way to the Father—and that One Way is Jesus Christ (14:6). No one can come to the Father apart from Christ. After making such a powerful statement, now Jesus tells His disciples that they are **knowing** God and **have seen** God.

This is quite a shock to the disciples; how can they genuinely know a so distant God? Moreover, since God is spirit, how can they see Him? In fact, how can Jesus say that they have already seen Him? Oh, if only the Lord would remove the veil and give these disciples a genuine vision of God—maybe like that of Moses in Exodus 33. If they could just have a real theophany—a vision of God—they would be satisfied.

Many Christians through the ages have longed for such a literal vision of God; some have actually manufactured apparent visions. [Illus. of MacArthur’s pastor friend].

But, such a vision of God is unnecessary; for God has already given these disciples a powerful vision of Himself—in the person of His Son. In fact, the Son is in a unique relationship with the Father like no other individual in all of creation. Moreover, the Father manifests Himself in the “words” and “works” of the Son.

If all of this were not enough to get Philip to think deeply about his request to have a vision of God, Jesus went on to say that these disciples who are believing in Him will be able in the near future to manifest the same works that Jesus was doing—yes the *same works*! In fact, Jesus’ disciples would be able to do “greater” things than Jesus has done! Why, because Jesus is going away—He is going to the Father.

What amazing thoughts Jesus gives to his bewildered disciples in these verses.

- They have already seen God.
- Those who have seen Him have seen the Father.
- Jesus’ words and works are really those of God.
- They will do Jesus’ works; in fact, they will do greater things than Jesus.
- He is going away, but that is not bad for them; in fact, it is good for them.

For now we will stop here, but Jesus was not finished with His amazing thoughts—as we will see next message.

In this text we see that **Jesus reveals the Father**, and that **the church carries on His work**.

WE MUST BE CONTENT WITH JESUS CHRIST, and WE MUST BE BUSY IN CARRYING OUT HIS GREATER WORK.

## I. JESUS IS ALL WE NEED (7-11)

### A. We Need to Know Him Better. (7)

#### 1. In the Past

Jesus gives His disciples a mild rebuke here for not taking advantage of all the opportunities they had during His earthly ministry to really get to know Him better.

Are we doing any better—do we spend time getting to know Him?

#### 2. In the Present—“from now on “

“You are knowing Him”

“You have seen Him”—in the person of His Son

Post resurrection and Pentecost brings a new and vital relationship with Jesus—and thus with the Father.

Will we see marked improvement in our relationship with our Lord?

### B. We Do not Need a Special Revelation of the Father (8).

The thought of having seen the Father arrested Phillip’s attention.

This is the **fourth** time that we have seen Phillip in this gospel.

- He was an early disciple from Bethsaida—home of Peter and Andrew (1:43-46).
- He wondered how they could afford to feed the entire multitude with the meager money they had (6:5-7).
- The Greeks came to him to request to speak with Jesus (12:20-22).

*Have you ever wished that you could see the Lord? Oh, if only He would show me Himself; if I could just have absolute proof!*

**It will be enough for us if we can just see the Father—maybe like Moses (Ex. 24:10; 33:17ff) or like Isaiah (6:1ff). “Lord, hide me in the cleft of the rock and show me thyself!**

But, look at what we have—Scripture, Historical evidences, a personal, living relationship by faith, loving Christian friends.

### C. Jesus is the Revelation of the Father (9)

1. I have been with you (plural—he now speaks to all of them) a long time—and you still don’t know Me well. Jesus had taught them **repeatedly—the same is true of us!**

Jesus had been with them over three years.

- How long have you had a relationship with the Lord?
- Do you know Him better today than ever before?
- Are you in a growing relationship?

2. To “see” Jesus is to see the Father (cf. 12:45; 13:20.)

They are one in essence. [Note the three *perfect tense* verbs in v. 9.]

Abiding results.

3. How can we ask for more? Why insult Him further? (**Hebrews 1:1-2**)

## D. We need to Believe Our Lord (10-11)

### 1. Believe His words (10)

- He is in the Father—they are ONE—in essential nature (10:38).
- Jesus has been speaking and saying truth from the Father for all this time! “No man ever spoke like this man!”
- He never spoke merely from His own initiative. Someone who is really **willing to do the will of God will know of His doctrine!** (7:17)
- Such teaching shows that the Father is **in Him—He permanently abides in Him.**
- Jesus’ words are part of the Father’s “works.”

### 2. Believe His works (11)

Believe the fact of the mutual indwelling of the Father and the Son—on the basis of His words—but if you struggle with that, believe on the basis of all of His **works**—the various SIGNS that He miraculously worked by the power of the Father.

Note that this belief has **content**—yet, it is faith in a living **person**. Faith is not blind; it is not credulous. But faith does recognize *the truth of what Jesus says*.

**One who does not believe in the full deity of Jesus Christ, who does not accept that He is One with the Father, will not make it to Heaven. Jesus is the only way to Heaven—and only the Jesus shown to us by John is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”**

Yes, Jesus is all we need. We do not need a special revelation of the Father, for Jesus is the revelation of the Father. We simply need to know Him better. And once we know Him, we need to totally believe Him—both His words and His works.

**Once that is true, the believer in the Lord has a job to do. In fact, he will do the works that the Lord has done. More amazingly, he will do even greater things than Jesus—all because Jesus goes back to the Father.**

## II. JESUS LEFT US WITH AN UNFINISHED TASK (12)

This is an important statement—“Truly, truly”

This statement applies only to “believers”—the one who continually believes in Him.

### A. We Must Do His Works—in His absence.

He is no longer physically present to do His works.

The primary point here for Jesus’ apostles is the performance of the same miraculous works that Jesus did while on earth. They followed Jesus’ pattern and example. Of course even the non-miraculous works of kindness, charity, ministry, preaching are included.

B. We will do greater Things than Jesus did.

This does not refer to miracles! No man has ever done greater miracles than our Lord. Has there ever been a miracle comparable to feeding the 5,000? Has anyone ever walked on water? Who has turned water into wine?

No one has ever come close to the amazing miracle of Raising Lazarus from the dead after four days. But the most spectacular miracle of all is Jesus' **self-resurrection from the dead!**

It is silly to **number** the miracles of the followers of Christ and to say that they did twice as many as Jesus (as many have done over the years), or to mention the specific occasions of Peter's shadow bringing healing on people (Acts 5:15), or Paul's handkerchiefs resulting in healings (Acts 19:12). These were in no way "greater."

Besides, the Lord does not use the term "works" for miracles in this clause. Moreover, to omnipotence, all miracles are alike!

The emphasis here is on the **mighty work of conversion that would take place in the early church as described partially in the Book of Acts**. *Jesus had but limited success in this realm due to 1) His physical limitations, 2) His being misunderstood by many—even His closest followers, and 3) His not having yet accomplished His work of redemption through the cross, tomb, and resurrection.*

Note that on the day of Pentecost there were more conversions than during Jesus' entire ministry. Moreover, they would take the Gospel not merely to a small portion of Palestine, but to the entire Roman world. Both Jews and Gentiles would be reached.

C. These Works are possible because Jesus goes to the Father.

From Heaven He can manifest His resurrection power and oversee the entire earthly ministry of His disciples.

From Heaven He will intercede for them.

From Heaven He will send the Holy Spirit to empower and enable His servants.

## CONCLUSION

Yes, we must be content with Jesus Christ. He is all we need.

We must also be content with the work that He has left for us to do.

He went away; but He has left us to work for Him.