

“ASK AND HE WILL DO IT”

John 14:13-17

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INTRODUCTION

The point that we saw last week remains: Jesus *is sufficient, and He has given us His work to do in His absence*—that “greater” work as we saw is primarily the work of evangelism—soul winning and discipling.

So, we have **very important** work to do in Jesus’ absence. But the thought of being on our own is a burden and depressing! Therefore Jesus offers us **two** helps that will sustain us in our ministries—*The privilege and promise of answered prayer (13-14)*, and *a second Helper to replace Himself when He leaves (16-17)*. **However, both of these blessings and aids are conditioned on His disciples loving Him and keeping His commandments (v. 15).**

The faith of the “one who believes in” Him (v. 12) is followed by works of service to the Lord (v. 12). **But that faith is always accompanied by a love that obeys Jesus’ instructions** (15).

The idea of this entire section seems to be this:

“Don’t be troubled by my leaving. You are Mine and I am yours. I prepare a place for you and you remain and continue and even surpass My work on earth. True, you can not serve Me in my flesh, but “you can prove your love for Me even more perfectly by keeping *My* commandments when I am gone.” (Plummer, 277)

So the promise here is, ***ask and He will do it***; moreover, ***He will ask*** and the Spirit will be given to us *so that we can do it*—His work! But all of these gifts—answer to prayer and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit—are given only to those who are His genuine followers and evidence that by **loving Him and keeping His commandments**.

LOVE HIM BY KEEPING HIS COMMANDS THAT HE MAY BLESS YOU IN ANSWERING YOUR PRAYER AND MANIFESTING HIS SPIRIT’S POWER IN YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY.

I. IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS. (15)

Genuine love for the Lord will show in the life of a believer. Does it show in yours?

II. WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, THAT WILL I DO. (13-14)

A. The Nature of the Action—“Ask” as a petitioner, a subordinate.

B. The Persons petitioned

1. The Father (13)

2. The Son (14—“Me”) **This shows the deity of Christ to whom we may pray!**

C. The Unlimited Offer

1. “Whatever” (13)

2. “Anything” (14)

D. The Condition—“In My name”

- E. The Promise—“That will I do.” “I will do it.” **Again this evidences His deity.**
 F. The Reason for this prayer blessing and promise—“That the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

We don't pray enough; we don't trust enough; we don't do enough of His work so that we need to pray and depend upon Him for His power and blessing!

III. I WILL ASK THE FATHER AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER. (16-17)

- A. The Petitioner—Jesus! (“I”—emphatic)
 B. The Nature of the Action—“Ask”, as one who is not necessarily subordinate—often an equal.
 C. The Person Petitioned—The Father (by the Son!)
 This is not merely His Father in a special sense, but also their Father. One who already cares for them and who **always favorably responds to His Son!**
 D. The Promise—“He will Give you Another Helper.”
 1. “Another”—of the same kind. **This puts Him on the same level as Jesus.**
Here we see the full deity of the Holy Spirit.
We also see that the Holy Spirit is a Person—He is a “helper” just like Jesus is! Jesus is a personal being; so is the Spirit.
 - *Jesus is leaving them; He sends another of the same kind to take His place.*
 2. “Comforter”
 The advocate does “argue, plead, and instruct”, but it is the court, not the client that He does so with. In this gospel it is those whose Helper He is that are instructed! **Therefore, “Helper, Supporter, Sponsor” seem to be the best renderings.**
 3. “The Spirit of Truth”
 The Spirit is characterized by Truth; He has nothing to do with error, nor will He bless and prosper error or those promoting error!
 Also, the Spirit communicates truth.
 E. The Time of the Fulfillment—Primarily referring to Pentecost and the Spirit Outpouring (See Acts 2)
 F. The Limited Offer—“whom the world cannot receive”
 “The world” refers to the organized system of wickedness and the unsaved who are under the dominant control of the Wicked One—Satan.
 1. Cannot receive the Spirit—God will not give the gift to them. (Compare 1:11—did not receive Jesus either)
 2. It does not see Him (no genuine spiritual perception—(I Cor. 2:12-14; John 3:3-5)
 3. Nor does it know Him through experience (Cf. Mt. 12:22-37—ascribed Jesus’ works to Beelzebub; Acts 2:12-17—said the apostles were drunk with wine)

I am convinced that what Jesus speaks of here is the impossibility for the “world”—the unregenerate who refuse to be “born again”—to receive the Holy Spirit when Jesus later sends Him because they are currently unwilling to receive

Him and to believe in Him. *They do not behold Him or know Him.* Where else could they be doing that currently except in the words and works of the Son of God Himself who came to manifest the Father?

G. The Reason for This Promise—“That He may be with you forever.”

This refers to the permanent relationship of the Holy Spirit with the church as a whole from Pentecost onward, as well as to the permanent indwelling of the Spirit in the individual believer. The Father and the Son call Him to the side of the believer in order to be their Helper. *Thus, the disciples, in losing Jesus’ presence, become richer! Also, Jesus though physically absent, still remains a Helper by helping in Heaven as their Intercessor; the Spirit helps on earth.* As Hendrickson points out, Jesus pleads our case with God while the Spirit pleads God’s case with us!

1. “You (emphatic) are knowing Him.” How? “Because He abides with you”—literally beside you. How was this currently true of the followers of Christ?

Because they “see” Him in the person of Christ—in His words and works. “Beside”—Today this stresses His presence in the church.

2. Thus, they can and will *receive* Him (implied here)—in fact, He “will be in you.” Jesus will be sending the Spirit to them to meet their every need, and these true believers will receive Him.

CONCLUSION

Ask and Receive—What a privilege we have!

Enjoy the Helper’s presence—Jesus’ special gift asked from His Father!

But we must manifest our love for Him by keeping His commandments.