

Monday, 10 July 2017 John 14:11

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

If I substitute "believe/trust" for believe, the first phrase begins to open up to me. How often did I say to my children, "Trust me, this is the way it is?" But my Lord takes my understanding a huge step further. His "or else" introduces another form of evidence. "Look at what I have been able to do" is equivalent to my request to my children to watch how I accomplished a task. The Lord Jesus is offering His version of Tell and Show.

Tuesday, 11 July 2017 John 14:12

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

"Truly, truly" is absolute assurance that I am empowered to accomplish far more than my Lord but if and only if, I will believe/trust/commit/obey, i.e., have faith in Him. Don't miss the "because" because that "because" introduces the phrase that activates the first portion of this sentence. One of the first tasks upon returning to His Father was to ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to us to guide us and lead us into everything that He taught us, vv16, 26.

Wednesday, 12 July 2017 John 14:28-29

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

There is a valuable teaching in the emphasized phrases, one which the Spirit brought to my attention as I was studying this passage. The significance is heralded by the "If" pointing out that there is a test coming. This passage tells me in no uncertain terms that the final test of my love for someone is the extent to which I rejoice when the Father calls them home. Does my, oft times selfish, sense of the departure of a loved one overshadow my joy that they are absent from the body and present with our Lord? Is this

another way in which Christians must demonstrate that they are called to be counter-cultural?

Thursday, 13 July 2017 John 16:7-11

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Conviction of sin in the world and belief in the LORD, God the Almighty, are linked; there is no disconnect/off switch. You cannot have one without the other. I cannot truly believe in the Lord Jesus, the Christ, without being convicted of my sinful state. And once I am convicted of my own deplorable and sinful state I am inexorably led to the Cross and His sacrifice as the only solution. (See Martin Luther as an example)

Friday, 14 July 2017 John 16:25-28

"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

There is a weaker example for many of us when we realize that a future in-law child loves one of our children. Suddenly we find our hearts being strangely warmed towards this newcomer who loves my son or daughter. The Father loves me because I love and believe/trust/commit/obey/have faith in His Son, His one and only Son. We were heartbroken when a daughter-in-law announced

that she no longer loved our son and was divorcing him. Imagine the Father's heart when we break our covenantal relationship by disobeying the Son.

Saturday, 15 July 2017 John 16:30-33

Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Do I catch an element of doubt in Jesus' voice? "Do you truly believe?" He saw the scattering that would begin in a very short time. Out of His love for His disciples and those of us to come there was a final word of encouragement. "But take heart; I have overcome the world."

I believe that our brothers and sisters who are undergoing unimaginable martyrdom are holding this final promise in their hearts. They have taken heart.

Lord's Day, 16 July 2017 Psalm 119:79

Let those who fear you turn to me, that they may know your testimonies.

Lord, that I, in my latter years, would be able to counsel and advise my younger brethren, leading them to a fuller understanding of Your Word. What a blessing that is and would be.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



July 10-16, 2017

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

LORD, as we meditate on this precious prayer from the Apostle Paul for his flocks and reflect on our callings, we find similar concerns for our [congregation] and our missions.

We pray that we may increase in love for each other. We pray that in spite of the constraints of family and work, that we may find suitable means to employ the technology to bring us into a closer relationship; that we will become as *cara anum*. (*Soul friends as Jonathan and David, see 1 Sam. 18:1*)

We pray that we will be holy and blameless on that Day when You come to carry Your chosen ones home; to enter into Your presence and assume our callings as Your stewards of Your creation. *Amen*

Creational Theology hint for the week--What a glorious bounty in tonight's dinner. Truly representing The LORD's love for His people and His creation. A significant portion of the meal was from our own garden, but some from the store; all displaying the results of God's promise in Genesis 1:29

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