**February 24, 2021**

BIBLE STUDY

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“DO YE NOW BELIEVE?”**

**John 16:15-33**

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***John 16:15, "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you."***

We see in this verse above, the fact that the Father and the Son have joint ownership and creatorship. Jesus is showing the harmony of Spirit and intent of He and the Father. He shows the Godhead. We see in this the working of the Godhead. In a sense Jesus sends the Holy Spirit; in another sense, the Holy Spirit comes. The wishes of Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the same. Jesus was sent of God but came to lay His own life down; no one took His life, He gave it. The Holy Spirit’s role is to glorify the Son, receiving the Son’s words and disclosing them to his followers. Once again, we see the Godhead harmoniously in action in that the Son took revelation from the Father and would declare it to his disciples through the Holy Spirit. Though the Spirit provided the apostles with perfect revelation in order that they might write Scripture, this does not mean that we are excluded from his ministry. This text applies to us in two ways. First, we are recipients of the Scriptural revelation that the apostles received. Second, the Holy Spirit provides us with personal illumination, enabling us to understand Scripture and to see how it applies in the details of our lives. This work of the Spirit in the life of the believer is called “the anointing.”

***1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.***

***John 16:16, "A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father."***

***John 16:17, "Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, and, Because I go to the Father?"***

***John 16:18, "They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith."***

***John 16:19, "Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?"***

The time of Jesus’s crucifixion was drawing near. In a little while, the disciples would no longer see him because he would be dead and buried. Jesus is first speaking here of the three days between the crucifixion and the resurrection of His body. Then He will walk with, and be seen of, the disciples for forty days, before His return to the right hand of the Father. You see, these followers of Jesus did not even then realize what Jesus was about to do for all mankind. They are whispering among themselves, afraid to ask Him outright what this meant. Of course, He is speaking of the death of His body on the cross and the resurrection of that body on the third day. Then Jesus will be seen a short time and go away again into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. This will not be a separation forever. Actually, Jesus is present even now with every believer, because the Spirit of the risen Christ dwells in the believers. This is understandable, in that they really do not know the details of what is to happen. You can easily see from this, that Jesus is very concerned about how this is affecting these disciples. He knows their very thoughts. He is always tenderly teaching them of His ways. Don’t be upset when you don’t understand what Jesus is doing in your life. After all, Jesus’s first disciples were confused, and they had Jesus right there with them! Choose to pursue him in the midst of your confusion.

***John 16:20, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy."***

***John 16:21, "A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world."***

***John 16:22, "And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you."***

Jesus foretold the great sorrow that they would soon experience at his crucifixion (while the world rejoiced), but he also foretold that their grief would turn to joy at his resurrection. To explain how they could go from mourning to elation in such a brief span of time, he gave them an illustration. A woman experiencing labor goes through great pain. But when her child is born, her suffering is forgotten and replaced by rejoicing. The reason Jesus did not specifically tell them the details is so they could look back at this and realize that Jesus is speaking prophetically to them. Jesus wants them to experience the death of His body, His resurrection, and then His glorious return to the Father in heaven. Their sorrow must be real, so they can experience the overwhelming joy of His resurrection. Jesus uses an example here that everyone will understand. There is pain involved in the birth of a child, but all mothers soon forget the pain when they see the baby. The crucifixion of Jesus is much the same. There was great pain to His flesh when they nailed Him to the cross. His suffering on the cross brought everlasting life for all who would accept Him as their Saviour. The baptism of suffering is a step on the way to everlasting life. In the same way, the disciples’ pain would lead to joy. And, Jesus told them, No one will take away your joy from you. Why? Because it is rooted in the presence and work of Christ on the inside—not on the ever-changing circumstances of life (i.e., happiness).

***II Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."***

You see, there is always a certain amount of pain on the way to life. Jesus is just explaining that the suffering is nothing compared to the joy that will follow. This joy that comes when Jesus is resurrected is a joy that shall never end. This joy is not for just that generation of people, but for people for all ages to come. The joy felt by these disciples in Jesus' time is felt by everyone who receives the Lord as Saviour throughout the ages. The Old Testament makes us all feel guilty of sin, and the only relief from this guilt is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

***John 16:23, "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."***

***John 16:24, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."***

The “in that day” means from the first resurrection morning to the end of time. Jesus is teaching them here the manner in which to pray to get results. Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, and God the Father will give you whatever you ask for. Notice the verily, verily. Those two words together tell us that the statement is absolute. It will happen. Their prayers, as long as they were with Jesus, had not been spoken in His name. After Jesus rises from the tomb and goes to sit at the right hand of the Father, they are to ask in Jesus' name. Jesus is on our side. He pleads our case with the Father. Jesus enjoys doing things for us that will bring joy to us.

***I John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"***

***Hebrews 7:25, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."***

No matter what sorrow you experience, remain in Jesus because God is still in the prayer-answering business when we love and seek to honor the Son. In fact, Jesus encouraged his disciples to take advantage of the opportunity to ask of him so that they might experience joy. There’s nothing like the joy that comes when the Creator of the universe answers your personal prayer. This joy does not depend on what happens; rather, it can be chosen based on our confidence in and commitment to God.

***John 16:25, "These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father."***

Jesus had been using figures of speech with them (e.g., the vine, 15:1-8; the woman in labor, 16:21). But in time, he would tell [them] plainly about the Father. The parables were given so that worldly people could not understand with their natural mind. Parables are understood with the spirit of man. The Holy Spirit reveals to the believers what is to be learned in the Parable. God wants our heart and not our mind. The Spirit of the risen Christ dwells within the Christian. This is what opens our understanding to the Father and the Son. There is a principle at work here for believers in Christ: God only explains what you are ready and able to handle. You may not understand the circumstances that you’re experiencing, but God loves you and is taking you through a growth process. He calls for your trust and obedience now. Further understanding will come later, when you’re prepared to receive it.

***Proverbs 3:5-6***

***5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.***

***6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.***

***John 16:26 "At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:"***

***John 16:27 "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God."***

***John 16:28 "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father."***

“At that day” when the disciples would ask the Father in Jesus’s name, they would not need Jesus to ask on their behalf. Why? Because the Father himself loved them due to their relationship to his Son. There is no greater relationship than the Father with His Son and His Son with His Name. There is also no greater name than the name of Jesus. Which is the family name of the Father and the Son. Whatever we ask for in the name of Jesus, will be done. God the Father's love for mankind shows the greatest love that has ever been known. We did not deserve His love, but He loved us anyway.

***Ephesians 3:14-15***

***14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,***

***15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,***

***Philippians 2:10-11***

***10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;"***

***11 "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."***

***Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."***

***I John 4:9-10***

***9 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."***

***10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."***

Propitiation means atonement. In other words, Jesus paid our debt for us. He died, so we might live. Jesus' Spirit is eternal. He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He was the Word of God in heaven.

***John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”***

***John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”***

He took on the form of flesh and became Jesus (the Saviour) for His stay on earth. The Holy Spirit of God hovered over Mary, and she conceived by the Spirit of God. The flesh was only a house to live in while Jesus was on the earth. The Spirit went back to heaven in a new spiritual body. You may read the difference in the natural body and the spiritual body in I Corinthians chapter 15 beginning with verse 40 and going through verse 50. Jesus is even now sitting at the right hand of God the Father in heaven.

***John 16:29, "His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb."***

***John 16:30, "Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God."***

***John 16:31, "Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?"***

***John 16:32, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me."***

This plain speech of verse 28 they understood. The wisdom of Jesus has thoroughly convinced them that He was much more than man. Their understanding has been opened that this is actually Messiah standing before them. They know that Jesus is God the Word, the Son of God. After this, the disciples affirmed their belief in Jesus. He had known and answered their private questions. They were certain that he was the Messiah who had come from God. Jesus knows that the statement they have made here is not under pressure. However, Jesus knew them better than they knew themselves. He said, Do you now believe? He knows that their faith will be sorely tried when He is crucified. They will not be able, at the time it is happening, to believe that Jesus being nailed to the cross could be any kind of victory. Jesus is speaking prophetically of when the authorities take Him. The disciples scatter for fear of their lives. Peter follows afar off and denies Jesus three times.

***Luke 22:54-61***

***54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.***

***55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.***

***56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.***

***57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.***

***58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.***

***59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.***

***60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.***

***61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.***

The only specific mention of any of them with Him at the cross is John, Mary (His mother), and some of the women. At one point Jesus will even cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me". The Father really has not forsaken Him. Jesus dismisses His Spirit and commands it to go to the Father. Indeed, an hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered and you will leave me alone. Translation: “You don’t believe as strongly as you think you do. Now, while all is quiet and safe, this is easy for you to say. But very soon you’re going to forget your fragile faith and run for your lives.” Have you ever made a vow to God during a church service only to back away from it later, perhaps as quickly as when you left the church parking lot? This is one of the reasons why God causes us to experience challenges. Through them, we come to see how brittle our faith is and how mighty our Savior is, and thus our faith is made a little stronger. Though the disciples would abandon him, Jesus was not alone. His Father was with him. He was “sent” from the Father, is “in the Father”, and would return “to the Father”. The Son and the Father “are one”.

***John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."***

Jesus, in this sentence above, is telling the disciples of that day and His followers today, as well, that we are not to be discouraged when trials come. Jesus has overcome the world. Jesus won the battle. Victory is ours, because He paid the price for us. A person who knows he will spend all of eternity in heaven with Jesus should have the perfect peace of God. These little minor problems we have in the flesh are nothing compared to all of eternity we will reign with our King Jesus. We enjoy the pleasures of the victory that Jesus has won for all of us. Peace is not mere serenity and the absence of crisis. The peace that Jesus was talking about is something that only he can give, and it’s something that believers can experience in a crisis. In reality, you can’t know if you truly have peace until conflict strikes. A Christian’s peace is found in his or her connection to Jesus Christ based on his Word. No matter what suffering you endure in this life, Jesus exhorts you to be courageous. How can we have courage to pursue God’s agenda in the midst of tribulation? Jesus gave us the answer: I have conquered the world. Regardless of how the world beats you down, you have reason to live with bold faith because Jesus is the sovereign King over the world. He has defeated sin, Satan, and death. If you’re a believer, your eternity is secure. And Jesus has the power to overrule your earthly circumstances. Knowing this truth and maintaining an intimate relationship with the Lord (in me) will radically change your perspective as you face whatever obstacles come your way. His peace gives you peace in the midst of life’s crises.

**QUESTIONS**

1. All things that the Father has are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. In verse 16, what does Jesus mean by a little while, and ye shall not see me?
3. What was He trying to convey to them in verse 17?
4. In verse 19, we see that Jesus even knows what our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_are.
5. When the world is rejoicing, what will the disciples be doing?
6. Why does a woman in travail have sorrow?
7. What does she forget as soon as the child is born?
8. When they nailed Jesus to the cross, did He suffer pain?
9. Who will be able to take their joy away?
10. What name must you use for God to answer?
11. What does Verily, verily show us?
12. In I John 2:1, who is our advocate with the Father?
13. Hebrews 7:25, says who is our intercessor?
14. How had Jesus spoken to them in the past?
15. How would He now speak to them?
16. Who prays to the Father for us?
17. Why does the Father love us?
18. In I John 4:9, how did God show His love for us?
19. What does propitiation mean?
20. Whom had Jesus come from?
21. Name two sets of names Jesus is known by that shows His eternity?
22. In verse 30, the disciples said they now understood what about Jesus?
23. Who will be with Jesus to the end?
24. In the world ye shall have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
25. Jesus says be of good cheer: I have overcome the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.