

Nuggets and Gems from the Bible

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BRINGING
THE BELIEVERS
INTO THE FATHER

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Living Stream Ministry

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JESUS GOING THROUGH DEATH AND CHRIST COMING IN RESURRECTION TO BRING THE BELIEVERS INTO THE FATHER

In [John 14:1-6](#) we see Jesus going through death and Christ coming in resurrection to bring us, the believers, into the Father. This matter is crucial. Please notice that it is not Christ going and Jesus coming, but Jesus going and Christ coming. This does not refer to Jesus going to heaven and coming back at the time of the second advent. No, it refers to Jesus going through death and Christ coming in resurrection to bring the believers into the Father. This crucial matter is covered in the first verses of this chapter.

In both [13:3](#) and [14:2-3](#) we are told of the Lord's going. At that time the Lord told His disciples that He was going. According to the natural concept, the Lord's going meant that He was

leaving the disciples in order to go some place else. The disciples did not understand what the Lord meant. In fact, for almost two thousand years the saints have misunderstood this chapter. Even today it is not easy to understand what the Lord meant when He said that He was going. Now, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we have found the correct meaning: the Lord was going by death and resurrection. When He said that He was going, He meant that He was going to die and be resurrected.

THE SON BEING THE SAME AS GOD, OMNIPRESENT, WITHOUT THE LIMITATION OF TIME AND SPACE

In [verse 1](#) the Lord said to His disciples, “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.” This verse reveals two very important points. The first is that the Lord is the same as God. If one believes in God, he must also believe in the Lord, for the Lord is the same as God Himself. In fact, the Lord is God Himself. Even up to that time, the disciples did not adequately realize that the Lord was God Himself.

God is omnipresent: He is not limited by time and space. On the one hand, the Lord was in the flesh, and with the flesh there are the elements

of time and space. On the other hand, the Lord is not the flesh but the very God, and with God there are not the elements of time and space. In this book we are told both that He was limited in time and in space and that He was not so limited. In 7:6 He said, “My time has not yet come,” indicating, that although He is the eternal, infinite, unlimited God, He lived on earth as a man, limited in the matter of time. In 3:13 He said, “No one has ascended into heaven, but He Who descended out of heaven, the Son of Man Who is in heaven.” This verse indicates that while the Lord was on earth, He was still in heaven. This means that He, as the very God, is omnipresent. With Him there is not the limitation of time and space.

Why did the Lord mention to His disciples that He was the same as God? Because He told the disciples that He was going and they had the human thought that His going meant that He was leaving them. Since the disciples knew that God is omnipresent, the Lord told them that He was the same as God. Just as God is omnipresent, so He likewise is omnipresent. Just as God is without the elements of time and space, so He is also without these elements. Whether He went or stayed it was the same, for He, as God, is omnipresent. Since His going was actually His coming,

their hearts did not need to be troubled by His going. He is the same as the God in whom they believed. If they believed in God, they also had to believe in Him because He is the same as the God who is always present. The Lord seemed to be telling His disciples, “Do not be troubled by My going. Do not let your hearts be perplexed. If you believe in God, you must also believe in Me. God is omnipresent. With Him, there is no time or space limitation. It is the same with Me. I shall go, but I shall still remain with you. And while I remain with you, I shall go. I am omnipresent. If you believe in God, you must also believe in Me, for I am the same as God.”

The second important point in [verse 1](#) is that to believe God is different from believing into God. You may say that you believe God, but do you believe into God? In Greek, the preposition *in* means into, that is, to believe into God. In other words, this is not an objective believing; it is a subjective believing. The basic thought of this chapter is that the Lord intends to help or instruct the disciples to be in God. We must remember that to believe God is objective but to believe into God is subjective. It is this kind of subjective believing that brings us into God. In effect, the Lord was saying, “If you believe into

God, you must also believe into Me.” The preposition *into* is very important. It is regrettable that many have the wrong concept, thinking that to believe in God means to believe God. We must not miss the preposition. It is not a matter of believing the fact objectively; it is a matter of the subjective believing that brings us into God. The central thought of this chapter is that we must believe into God.

MANY ABODES BEING MANY MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, WHICH IS THE CHURCH

In the Father’s house are many abodes (14:2). The Greek word for abodes in verse 2 is the plural form of the same word that is translated as abode in verse 23. What does “abode” mean? The many abodes are the many members of the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:5), which is God’s temple (1 Cor. 3:16-17). The Lord’s Body has many members, and each member is an abode. That the many abodes are the many members of the Body is adequately proved by verse 23, which says that the Lord with the Father will make an abode with the one who loves Him. Every lover of Jesus is an abode. We all are the abodes of God’s building.

This building is the Body of Christ, and all the abodes are the members of the Body of Christ.

GOING THROUGH DEATH AND RESURRECTION TO BRING MAN INTO GOD FOR THE BUILDING OF GOD'S HABITATION

The words “I go” in [verse 2](#) mean that the Lord was going through death and resurrection to bring man into God for the building of God's habitation. This is the building of the church mentioned in [Matthew 16:18](#), where the Lord said, “I will build My church.” Here, in [verse 2](#), the Lord says, “I go to prepare a place for you.” Are these two separate things? It is impossible. The Lord has only one work. He is not going to prepare a place for us in heaven and, at the same time, build a church on earth. This is not logical. If we put these two portions of the Word together, we shall see that the preparing a place is just the building of the church. In order for the Lord to build the church, He had to go to prepare a place. The consummate result of this will be the building of the New Jerusalem ([Rev. 21:2](#)). The Lord is now building the church. This building of the church is equal to the building of the New Jerusalem. In all the universe God has only one

building—the building of His living habitation with His redeemed people.

**“TO PREPARE A PLACE”
TO OPEN UP THE WAY
FOR MAN TO GET INTO GOD**

“I go to prepare a place for you,” means that the Lord will prepare a place, accomplish redemption, open up the way, and make a standing for man to get into God. It means that the Lord will pave the way for us to be in God. This is the central thought of this chapter. If we are going to allow God to dwell in us, we must firstly get into Him. If we do not get into Him, He will not get into us. Once we dwell in God, then He will dwell in us.

But how can sinful people like us get into God? How can we get into the righteous and holy God? It is impossible. We are a people separated from God. Do you know how far we are from God? It must be a long, long distance. Have you ever measured the distance between you and God? Have you ever counted how many obstacles there are between you and Him? The first obstacle is sin, the second is our many sins, the third is the world, the fourth is the Devil, the ruler or prince of the world, and the fifth is death. In addition, the flesh, the self, and the old man also increase

the separation between us and God. We are far, far away from God. How can we be brought into Him? How can sinners get into God? All of the separating elements, the obstacles of sin, sins, the world, the Devil, death, flesh, and self, must be abolished. Then we shall be brought near to God, and not only to God but into God.

For this, some work, some preparation, was needed. The Lord had to do a work of preparation. He had to go, not to the heavens, but to the cross to remove all of the obstacles. All of the obstacles have been removed by the Lord's all-inclusive death. On the cross the Lord abolished all the barriers between us and God. He dealt with sin, sins, the world, the prince of this world, the flesh, the self, the old man, and even death. By death and resurrection the Lord paved the way and prepared the place that we might be brought into God. I believe that this is the correct meaning of "I go to prepare a place for you."

In the United States there are many freeways and highways. The Lord's death and resurrection have prepared a highway that brings us into God. Before He was crucified, there were many obstacles, many frustrations, that hindered our going into the Father. There was no way to get into Him. But by His death and resurrection, the Lord

cut and prepared the way and paved the highway that can bring any person into God immediately. The Lord removed all the mountains, filled all the gaps, paved the highway, and paid all the tolls. There is no charge for us to pay. We may come directly into God.

By His death and resurrection, the Lord has not only opened the way into God, but also prepared a standing for us before and in God. Listen to the good tidings: a place before and in God has been prepared for us. As long as we believe in the name of the Lord Jesus, we have a standing before God and in God. We all must shout, "Hallelujah! I have a standing before God. I even have a standing within God. Even God Himself cannot reject me. Oh, because of the preparing work of Christ, the righteous God can never cast me out. I have such a firm standing in God." I can testify to you that I am so secure about the fact that I am in God. Without the crucified and resurrected Christ, we could never have this assurance. But since the Lord has gone through the cross and has been raised from the dead, we know that we have a position before God and a standing in God.

Do not think that the Lord is going to heaven to prepare a mansion there in heaven so that some day we may go to heaven and live in that

mansion. This thought is too low. It is similar to Buddhism. This thought is held by the teachings of Catholicism and even, to an immense extent, by the teachings of Protestantism also. We all must rid ourselves of this kind of thought, which is similar to that of Buddhism. The Chinese version of the Bible even adopted the phrase “the heavenly mansion” for “heaven” in its translation of [Hebrews 9:24](#) and [1 Peter 3:22](#). All the Chinese know that the term “the heavenly mansion” is a Buddhist term. It is a term invented by Buddhism. I am very sorrowful that Christianity has adopted this thought. Catholicism adopted many things from heathenism. This is the leaven spoken of in [Matthew 13:33](#), where the Lord told us of the woman putting leaven in the fine flour. The fine flour of this parable denotes the Son of God as the living bread to be our nourishment, and the woman represents the Roman Catholic Church. The leaven that she took is symbolic of the sinful, unclean things, such as paganism and heathenism. The Catholic Church brought paganism into the doctrines and teachings concerning Christ. This thought of going to live in a heavenly mansion is a kind of leaven in the fine flour.

The Lord’s redemption is not to prepare a place for us in heaven. The Lord’s redemption is

to prepare a place for us in God. How divine is this thought! This thought is on the highest plane. The Lord redeemed us to bring us into God, to prepare a place for us in God. After reading your whole New Testament, where does it say that we are? After we have been redeemed, after we have been saved, after we have been regenerated, please tell me where we are? We are in Christ and in God. Even John's first Epistle reveals that we abide in God and that God abides in us (4:13). Throughout the whole New Testament, the central thought is that, after we have been saved and regenerated, we are in God and in Christ. God and Christ are our dwelling place. Furthermore, we have become the dwelling place for God. Thus, God and we, we and God, are a mutual abode. The Lord says clearly that He was preparing a place for us in God, not in heaven. He was preparing a place that we might get into God, that the Lord might bring us into God by His redemption. By His death and resurrection, He has brought us into God. Praise the Lord that each one of us has a place in God! Do you prefer a place in heaven or a place in God?

The Lord's going was to bring man into God for the building of His habitation. He went to the cross to accomplish redemption, removing

all the obstacles between man and God, that He might open the way and make a standing for man to get into God. The standing in God, being enlarged, becomes the standing in the Body of Christ. Anyone who does not have the standing, a place in God, does not have a place in the Body of Christ, which is God's habitation. Hence, the Lord's going to accomplish redemption was to prepare a place in His Body for the disciples.

THE LORD'S GOING BEING HIS COMING

In [verse 3](#) the Lord said, "If I go...I am coming." I like this sentence very much. This word proves that the Lord's going (through His death and resurrection) is His coming (to His disciples—[vv. 18, 28](#)). The tense here is very strange to the English language. It means that His going was His coming, that He was coming by going. The Lord's going was not His departure but actually another step of His coming. The Lord's death and resurrection was a further step of His coming. His going to die was His coming into us. The Lord's intention was to get into His disciples. He came in the flesh ([1:14](#)) and was among His disciples, but while He was in the flesh He could not get into them. He had to take the further step of passing through death and resurrection that He

might be transfigured from the flesh into the Spirit that He might come into them and dwell in them, as is revealed in [verses 17 through 20](#). After His resurrection, He came to breathe Himself as the Holy Spirit into the disciples ([20:19-22](#)). Therefore, His going was just His coming.

Let me use as an illustration a story of something that happened in Taiwan many years ago. One day I bought a huge watermelon. When I brought it home and put it on the dining table, all my children were excited. Then we took this watermelon into the kitchen. One of the children cried out, “Don’t take the watermelon away!” I told them to be quiet, for the taking away of the watermelon was that they might eat it, that the big melon might get into them. The melon had to be processed, to be cut and slashed. After a few minutes, the big melon came back to the children in slices. Every child was happy. In less than an hour the entire watermelon was gone. Where did it go? It went into the children. Eventually, all the children became watermelon children. The taking away of the watermelon was not its going away. Its taking away was a further coming of the watermelon into the children. Jesus was like that watermelon. How could the disciples swallow Him? It was impossible. He had to be processed,

to be cut in pieces. He went to the cross and there He was cut and processed, not only into slices, but into watermelon juice good for drinking. Now Jesus is no longer just the watermelon but also the juice. Whoever drinks Jesus gets Jesus into him. Jesus went through death that He might come back as Christ in His resurrection.

“RECEIVE YOU TO MYSELF”

The Lord said, “I am coming again and will receive you to Myself” (14:3). This does not mean that the Lord receives us into a place but that He receives us into Himself. For the Lord to receive His disciples to Himself is to put them into Himself, as is mentioned by the words “you in Me” in [verse 20](#).

“WHERE I AM YOU ALSO MAY BE”

In [verse 3](#) the Lord said that He would receive us to Himself that “where I am you also may be.” Where is the Lord? Is He in heaven? No, He is in the Father ([vv. 10, 11, 20; 17:21](#)). The Lord wants His disciples also to be in the Father ([vv. 17, 21](#)). Since the Lord is in the Father, He will also bring us into the Father. By being in the Lord, we, the disciples, are also in the Father. The Lord was in the Father. Through His death and resurrection

the Lord has brought us into Himself. By being in Him we are also in the Father because He is in the Father. Where He is, there we are also. This was made possible through the Lord's death and resurrection. Before His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus was in the Father, but the disciples were not. After His death and resurrection all the disciples got into the Father, just as the Lord was and is in the Father. At that time the Lord could say, "Where I am you also may be."

"THE WAY" BEING THE SON HIMSELF

The way for us to get into God is the Lord Himself. Since the way is a living Person, so the place to which the Lord brings us must also be a living Person, God the Father Himself. The Lord Himself is the living way to bring man into God the Father, the living place. Like us, the disciples thought that both the place and the way were places, not persons. Notwithstanding, the Lord said to them, "I am the way" ([v. 6](#)).

"THE REALITY" BECOMING THE WAY

In [verse 6](#) the Lord Jesus also said that He was the reality. The way needs the reality. Unless the Lord is your reality, He can never be your way. Reality becomes the way.

“THE LIFE” BRINGING THE REALITY

The reality needs the life. The Lord Himself is the life to us. This life brings us the reality, and the reality becomes the way for us to enter into the Father. Firstly, Christ is our life. Then this life brings us all the reality of the Godhead. Eventually, this reality of the Godhead is the way for us to get into the Father. When the Lord is life to us, then we have reality. When the Lord is our reality, then we have the way for us to get into the Father.

For many years I did not understand why the Lord put the way first, the truth or reality second, and the life last. Finally I understood the meaning of the order. If the Lord is going to be our way, He must be our reality, and if He is going to be our reality, He must be our life. By having Him as life, we have Him as our reality, and by having Him as our reality, we have Him as our way into the Father. The Lord Himself is the way, this way is the reality, and the reality is in the life.

In [verse 6](#) the Lord did not say, “No one comes to heaven but by Me.” No, He said, “No one comes to the Father except through Me.” The Lord’s intention is not to bring us into heaven but into God, into the Father. The Lord is not

the way to bring the believers into heaven but to bring them into the Father.

“TO THE FATHER”

The Father, the living Person, is the destination, and the Son, the living Person, is the way. Neither the way nor the destination is a place. The way is the Son and the destination is the Father. Through the Son we get into the Father. Both the way and the destination are living Persons. Through the Son’s death and resurrection we have all come into the Father. Now the Son is in the Father, and we also are in the Father because we are in the Son.

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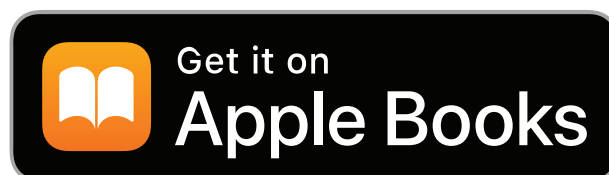
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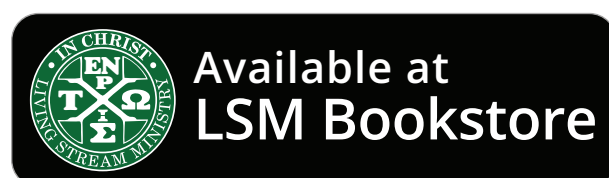
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