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John 14 - Part I
Many Abiding Places

John 14:1-3: *1. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

In chapter 13, Jesus said *Whither I go, ye cannot come* (John 13:33). In verse two above, he tells how he will help: *I go to prepare a place for you*. And the promise to the disciples is that he will come again. The Greek word for “mansions” is rendered *abode* in verse 23. It is an abiding place that he prepares by going to the cross. It is not “he is building houses in heaven for the righteous,” but the abiding place in the mind of Christ, and our hearts. There are the many abiding places where Christ will dwell as the spirit of the truth.

John 14:4-6: *4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither you go; and how can we know the way? 6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

How many know that Jesus is the way, and yet, they cannot go to where Jesus is now - spiritually? How many say that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and then, turn and say that the spirit of the truth is a third God? The disciples were sure enough that Jesus was the Messiah, so that after Jesus ascended, they continued to meet with a small number and study, until they received power from on high. We are also living in a time of preparation: **Revelation 8:1-2, 6:** *1. And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. ...6. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.* The seven angles depict a group of people in the last generation, preparing to give the gospel of God’s love. We are living in the seventh trumpet now, and we all have an opportunity to be ministers of Christ to the whole world. How are you preparing?

John 14:7-11: *7. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it suffices us. 9. Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how say you then, Show us the Father? 10. Believe you not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of [from] myself: but the Father [dwelling] in me, he does the works. 11. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

There are two doctrines that use these scriptures to say that Jesus is the Father. Yet, the scriptures say that no man has ever seen God (John 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:16), and that Jesus *is the image of the invisible God* (Colossians 1:15). Jesus in the Father, and the Father in Jesus - via understanding and principles by which all set themselves

apart from the world, when they walk in the light of the spirit of the Truth. The words Jesus spoke during his entire ministry, were not from himself. Just as the words we are learning to speak by having a seeing eye and a hearing ear, and we share what the Lord is teaching us.

John 14:12-14: *12. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on [into] me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 13. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

How do you understand this statement of Jesus?: *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.* What does “name” depict? Character. Why would God not honor anything we ask if we have the Character of Christ. James sums it up for us: **James 4:1-7:** *1. From whence come wars and fighting among [in] you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2. Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy? 6. But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resists the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7. Submit yourselves therefore to God....* By being submitted to God, then our requests are not amiss, but unselfish and in God’s will.

Have you ever wondered what *greater works* we could do than did Jesus? There is no doubt that God will use us to heal the spiritually blind, deaf and crippled. But what about physical ailments? Have you ever noticed that there is not any story of a person without legs who had them miraculously restored, or had any missing member restored. We will have to wait and see. Right now I am inclined to think that it is the inward spiritual healing that will take place.

Why then, would our works of God be greater works? The only thing that I can reasonable assume at this time, is that we, and the those to whom we minister, were all born sinners. We have all lived in error and sin. And the one advantage we have never experienced is knowing the Father face to face as did Jesus. We will overcome, having been deeply ingrained in sin and under control of a sin-nature. Whereas, Jesus born of a sinful woman, never yielded to the sin-nature he inherited.

Galatians 4:4-6: *4. But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons [children]. 6. And because ye are sons [children], God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Amen.*