

## Exegetical Notes, John 14:7-14 “Show Us The Father”

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### John 14:7-14

#### Verses 7-11

*If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

<sup>8</sup> *Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”*

<sup>9</sup> *Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.*

- In John 14:6, Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. **NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.**” In the following verses he explains what that meant to his disciples.
- He first explains that to “know” him is to “know” the Father. In John 1 we are told that in the person of Jesus, God the Father, “made his dwelling among us.” Literally, in Christ, the Father “tabernacles” among humans. In Jesus, “the glory of the Father” is revealed to us. Thus, to know Jesus is to know the Father.
- Second, Jesus explains that, because they have been with Jesus, they have seen the Father.
- Philip, perhaps encouraged by the bold remarks of Thomas (see verse 5) begs Jesus to show them the Father. Like Thomas, he has been blinded by emotion and so is not listening to the words Jesus is speaking.
- So Jesus repeats the message to Philip. “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.
- Jesus goes on to affirm to the disciples that he is not speaking to them on his own authority. He is telling them what the Father has told him to tell them. He urges them to hear what he is saying because the message is from the Father.

- Jesus claims that the authority of his message and his identity are confirmed by what he has done.

### **Verse 12**

***Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.***

- Jesus then affirms that our faith will be affirmed in the works that we do. (See James 2:14-26)
- When Jesus says that those who believe in him “will do greater works” than did he, it does not mean that we will do better or more wonderful things than did Jesus. It means that their impact will be greater because the ministry of the Church is worldwide.
- Jesus makes it clear that none of this is because of us. We are enabled to do the works we do, because he has gone to the Father.

### **Verses 13-14**

***<sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.***

- Herein lies the secret to doing works which prove our faith. We are not able to do anything in and of ourselves. We must ask God to enable us.
- The purpose for which we ask must be to “glorify the Father.” If our intention is self-gratification, or any other motive, the prayer will not be answered.
- Our prayer must be made “in Jesus’ name.” That means if you are asking for the wrong motive or asking for that which is forbidden by God’s word, the prayer will not be answered.
- But if we ask anything to the glory of God that is within the word of God, we can be sure that the request will be granted.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Show Us the Father*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)