

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How important is it to believe, and **what** you believe?
2. How does belief differ from knowledge?
3. What greater works than Jesus performed shall be done by believers? (vs. 12)
4. In what ways did Christ give encouragement to His disciples? In what ways does He give encouragement to us today?
5. How is the peace that Jesus gives different from peace that the world gives?

### SUMMARY:

At this time the future looked uncertain to the disciples, knowing that Christ, whom they had followed for the past three years, was going to be crucified. They could not understand at this time God's plan of salvation through Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Therefore, how important it was that they simply believe in Christ—believe His Words of going to His Father, of the coming of the Comforter, of the promise of His peace, of the promise of His returning from heaven for them. These things the disciples could not understand, but if only they would believe, they could be encouraged.

Many times we, also, are discouraged because we lack faith in God's plan for our lives. Sometimes we sacrifice His peace because of failure to put our trust in His guidance. Discouragement is not because of God's unfaithfulness, but because of our faithlessness. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusted in Thee." (Isaiah 26:3)

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #4

April 26, 2026

Second Quarter

## CHRIST ENCOURAGES HIS FOLLOWERS

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**LESSON TEXT:** *John 14:1-31*

**LESSON SETTING:** In the Passover chamber in Jerusalem.

**TIME:** Approximately 33 A.D.

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### I. COMING AGAIN. John 14:1-4

- A. Christ Prepares a Place (vs. 2) Matthew 25:34; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Hebrews 11:16
- B. Christ Will Receive Believers Unto Himself (vs. 3) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

### II. REVEALING THE FATHER. John 14:5-14

- A. Christ is the Way (vs. 6) John 13:36
- B. The Father is Seen in Christ (vs. 9) John 12:45
- C. The Father is Seen in Christ's Works (vs. 11) John 5:36; 10:25

### III. SENDING HIS SPIRIT. John 14:15-26

- A. The Spirit Dwells Only in Believers (vs. 17) Romans 8:9
- B. The Holy Spirit Comforts (vs. 16-17, 26)
- C. The Holy Spirit Teaches (vs. 26) 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 John 2:27

### IV. GIVING HIS PEACE. John 14:27-31

- A. Christ Gives Peace to Believers. Isaiah 53:5; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:14
- B. The Peace is Within the Heart. John 16:33; Philippians 4:7

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED; YE BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.* John 14:1

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** John 15:1-17

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Galatians 5:22-25;  
Psalm 92:13-14;  
Matthew 13:1-8

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Christ, the Son of God

**TOPIC:** CHRIST EMPHASIZES FRUITBEARING

**INTRODUCTION:**

When one desires to be a child of God, one of his first and primary concerns is to live a life that is pleasing to God. To his dismay, he usually finds that this does not happen automatically, and in fact becomes quite a struggle. Sooner or later, and the sooner the better, he must come to recognize that it is simply not in himself to accomplish a godly life, and that only as Christ lives through him, and the Holy Spirit directs and empowers him, can he know the real victorious life. Hence, Jesus said "Abide in me, and I in you..." He concludes (vs. 5) with "without me ye can do nothing." Without abiding in Christ, one is helpless to produce a Christ pleasing life, just as a branch that is separated from the vine cannot possibly produce fruit. The reason is simple. A branch gets its life from the vine, and starves to death when cut off. Without life there can be no producing of fruit, neither for a grapevine, nor a person.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Spiritual life and fruitfulness depend on our abiding in Christ.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *I AM THE VINE, YE ARE THE BRANCHES: HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME AND I IN HIM, THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT: FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.*

John 15:5

It is important to recognize the clear Bible doctrine that we cannot be saved or justified by our works; that the blood of Jesus is the price paid in full for our salvation, and His work of redemption is the only work that God will accept to accomplish anything for our justification.

Further, no good work, which we claim as our own, will win us any favor with God, but only those done through and in Christ.

When one comes to know Christ, and the Holy Spirit is abiding in him, and that person is abiding in Christ, the fruit of the Spirit will become manifest in that person's life. How important to do "Spirit led" good works after receiving salvation! We are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10) Peter tells us (1 Peter 4:17, 18) that judgment must begin at the house of God and that "if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Jesus and the Apostles make it very clear that all shall be judged by their works. See Matthew 16:27; 25:46; Romans 2:6-9; 2 Corinthians 5:10, 11; Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15. God's Word makes it very clear that the precious gift of salvation, if it is to result in eternal life, is dependent on how we live our lives as believers.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF April 27 – May 3**

Mon. Promise of Fruitfulness. Genesis 49:22-26  
Tue. Need of Fruitfulness. Ezekiel 15:1-8  
Wed. \*Source of Fruitfulness. John 15:1-10  
Thu. \*Nature of Fruitfulness. John 15:11-17  
Fri. \*Purpose of Fruitfulness. John 15:18-27  
Sat. Characteristics of Fruitfulness. Galatians 5:22-26  
Sun. Secret of Fruitfulness. James 3:11-18

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