



The Way

John 14

John 14:1 – How may our weaknesses benefit us?

We appropriate God's power when we recognize the limits of our own strength and turn to Him for help. At the end of John 13, Peter was troubled about Jesus saying He had to leave them so he boasted about how he was willing to die for Jesus in order to go with Him. But Jesus predicted how Peter would disown Him instead. In John 14:1 Jesus gave the antidote to being troubled about our weaknesses: *"trust in God; trust also in Me"* (NIV). Trust doesn't mean pretending we are strong; it means recognizing our weakness and need for God's help. God allows troubling developments in our life so that we can learn to trust Him. So, the next time you're challenged with something beyond your abilities, pray for the Lord's help!

14:1-2 – What is Jesus' cure for stress?

Problems in life cause stress. It helps to know that our stress may be relieved when we consider the wonderful destiny we have in Christ. In John 14:1-2, Jesus told His disciples not to be troubled by what was about to happen to them. He comforted them by promising to *"prepare a place"* in His Father's house for those who trust in Him. Our difficulties in this world are temporary, but the place in God's house Jesus promised His followers is eternal. Knowing that we have a destiny prepared for us by God should motivate us to react to life's troubles in a way that pleases our Lord. The more we can adopt the Lord's perspective before we respond to a situation, the more our actions will please Him.

14:3 – How should knowing that Jesus will return affect our lives?

Knowing Jesus will return some day will give us a sense of urgency to fulfill His purposes in our life. The day is coming when Jesus will return and along with that our opportunities to make an eternal impact will come to an end. In John 14:3, Jesus promised to return saying, *"I will come back and take you to be with me"* (NIV). We can not know when that day will be but Jesus told us in the parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 that we should live our lives in such a way that we are always ready for His return. The best way we may be ready for the Lord's return is to make sure our associates know we follow Jesus and apply His principles to do excellent work.

14:6 – How is fear of being considered intolerant a problem for Christians?

A major reason why many Christians do not reveal their faith in Christ to their associates is a fear of being

considered intolerant. It is common to reject Christians because we insist on Jesus being the only way to eternal life. But Christians did not invent this idea. Jesus said in John 14:6, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (NIV). It really isn't a matter of tolerance; it's a question of whether we want to accept what Jesus said. It is actually pretty unlikely that a person will accuse an associate of intolerance just because they follow Jesus. Deep down people know the truth even when they reject it. So don't let politically correct views of tolerance keep you from following Jesus.

14:6 – What is the problem with thinking that there are more than one way to get to heaven?

John 14:6 says that trusting in Jesus is the only way to eternal life. We all have associates who reject the idea that there is only one way to God. As the tower of Babel demonstrated in Genesis 11, we have a propensity to invent our own ways to reach God. This is like being in a smoke-filled building thinking you don't need help getting out. Or debating whether there really is a fire. Believing there must be several valid ways besides Jesus to see God is like thinking any way of escape from a smoke-filled building is as good as any other. Such lackadaisical attitudes keep people from even choosing a way out. We do our associates a great service by helping them see that the smoke of human depravity means there really is a fire.

14:6 – How can we refute the claims of unbelievers that having only one way to heaven puts limits on God?

In John 14:6, Jesus said that trusting in Him was the only way to have eternal life. We all have associates who reject Christ because they think His way is too narrow. They rationalize that surely God would allow a broad way to eternal life so more people could benefit. However, God's one way of salvation is wide enough for the whole world, if the world would accept it. People reject the narrow way of Christ so they can follow their own self-defined way to God. Proverbs 14:12 says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death"* (NIV). We need to help associates who think the one way of Christ is too limited see how God has blessed us by providing a sure way to spend eternity with Him.

14:6 – Why is truth the foundation of all relationships?

In a post modern culture where truth is relative to a person's perspective, tainting the truth is an accepted practice. So sharing truths people need to know will be noticed as it

enhances relationships. Jesus personifies the truth per John 14:6 and He made it possible for us to have a personal relationship with the Creator of all things. Thus truthfulness is a basic building block of all relationships. So the next time we're tempted to hide our "dirty laundry," we should regard it as an opportunity to build a relationship rather than using deception to boost our status. This may give us a long-term friend and boost our status with them as well.

14:7 – How can we avoid Philip's error?

We have a propensity to question Christ insisting on more proof for the truthfulness of His claims. In John 14:7, Jesus told His disciples that they had seen Father-God in Himself. But Philip did not accept this asking Jesus to "*show us the Father*" (NIV). One of our human failings is to expect God to satisfy our conditions before we will trust Him. We want more faith, or to feel closer to Him or more clarity of God's will before we trust Christ to help us. God allows our desires to go unfulfilled in this world for our benefit. The more we learn to trust Christ with the faith or insight into His will that we have, the greater capacity we'll have to participate in what God is doing both now and in eternity.

14:12 – How may we do great things as Jesus?

Faith in Jesus enables us to do even greater things than our Lord. In John 14:12, Jesus said, "*Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these*" (NIV). Jesus' ministry on earth only lasted about three years but many lives were changed when people came to know Him as their Savior. We have the potential to encourage even more people to trust in Jesus since most of us will have significantly more than three years for ministry. The challenge for us is to make good use of our time. We do that when we apply our faith in Jesus by making sure our associates know we follow Him. God is then glorified through our excellence.

14:13 – What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus?

As followers of Christ, we have the vast resources of God at our disposal. The Lord wants us to apply His power in all aspects of our lives, especially at work. Jesus promised in John 14:13, "*I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father*" (NIV). The privilege to approach God "in Jesus name" should not be taken lightly. We demonstrate spiritual maturity when we use Jesus' name in ways recognizing His will and unlimited resources. So our prayers should seek His help in our following Him and contributing to the growth of His kingdom. The more we experience God's power, the closer we'll grow to Him, the more faith we'll have, and the greater our rewards in heaven will be.

14:15-17 – How may we appropriate God's wisdom?

Followers of Christ have ready access to the wisdom of God. In John 14:15-17, Jesus said, "*If you love me, you will*

obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth" (NIV). When we begin to trust in Jesus, the Lord breathes life into our human spirit giving us the capacity to comprehend the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:16 says, "*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*" (NKJV). This is how God imparts His wisdom to us which, per James 1:5, He has promised to do every time we ask Him. Such access to the Almighty Creator of the universe is a blessing that we should apply at every opportunity.

14:15-17 – How can we score well on the test of life?

Life in this world is a test. During our mortal lives it is determined who will trust in Jesus to spend eternity with Him. And once this trust is established, we are further tested to determine to what extent we will yield ourselves to the Lord. In John 14:15-17, Jesus promised to give us the Holy Spirit as a counselor who will be with us forever. The more practice we get responding to the counsels of God, the Holy Spirit, the greater capacity we'll have to participate in what God will be doing in eternity. So it behooves us to apply the counsels of the Holy Spirit. Following Jesus yields blessings now and in eternity.

14:17 – What is the culture war really about and how can we benefit from it?

Do you have associates that are intrigued by the culture war? Make sure they know the reason for the conflict. The conflict in our culture is over the truth. In John 14:17, Jesus said the conflict over the truth was because, "*The world cannot accept [the Holy Spirit], because it neither sees Him nor knows Him*" (NIV). People without Christ in their life don't really know where to turn for the truth about the most fundamental issues of life. So instead they embrace deceptions that allow them to be their own arbiter of what is true. The culture war presents us with great opportunities to engage our associates in conversations about spiritual matters. So make sure you represent the truth. The more people are exposed to the truth, the more likely they'll benefit from it.

14:17 – Why shouldn't Christians be discontent?

It is common for people to become discontent with some aspect of their life, particularly their work since so much time is spent there. In John 14:17, Jesus told His followers that the Holy Spirit would give them a whole new perspective on life. This new perspective enables us to get more out of life because it helps us see how we may better serve the purposes God intended for us. The Holy Spirit changes our perspective. People naturally place themselves at the center of everything. The Holy Spirit places Christ and his purposes at the center. God arranged for us to be where we are to serve His purposes. We may overcome discontentment in our life by aligning our perspective with

God, the Holy Spirit. There can be no discontentment when we serve the purposes of God.

14:19 – Why shouldn't Christians be a workaholic?

One reason why people work harder than they need to is an attempt to experience more of what the world has to offer. If life in this world is all there is, there is every reason to pack in all you can into this life. But Jesus told His followers in John 14:19, *“because I live, you also will live”* (NIV). Knowing that we have eternal life takes the pressure off having to pursue the glories of this world and thus frees us up to really enjoy life. Following Christ brings the balance we need to experience life as God intended it. So make sure your associates know why you aren't compelled to join ranks with the workaholics.

14:21 – How may we see more of God?

We may see more of God by applying the truth that obedience comes before revelation. In John 14:21, Jesus said, *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him”* (NIV). Jesus effectively said, “Obey what you know and you will know more.” The Scriptures contain many clear instructions for obedience that are never out of season and apply to all aspects of our lives. If we truly love God, we will hang on His every word and apply what He has revealed to us. When we're not clear about something, we should pray how we can follow through on His directions and God will bless us.

14:23 – What does loving God look like on a daily basis?

The will of God should be the central pursuit of our vocation. If it isn't, we need to re-evaluate the state of our relationship with Him. In John 14:23, Jesus said, *“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching”* (NIV). Society conditions us to separate our work life from our spiritual life. But we do not love God if we neglect to obey Him in some aspect of our lives, including work. We spend too much time working to partition Him out of it. One good way to involve God in our work is to pray about our challenges throughout the day. This gives God an opportunity to show that He cares about our work. As we experience God working with us, we'll grow in faith and enjoy a closer relationship with Him.

14:26 – Why should we trust the Bible and how should that trust be apparent in our lives?

We should have confidence that the Bible accurately represents God's Word. Jesus promised His disciples who wrote the New Testament in John 14:26 that, *“the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you”* (NIV). The disciples were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and teachings; the Holy Spirit

helped them remember without taking away their individual perspectives. Thus our confidence in God's Word should cause us to apply biblical principles in all aspects of our lives. Our associates will be attracted to Jesus when they see biblical principles bearing fruit in our lives. So study the Bible to learn principles you can apply. Some of your associates will thank you in eternity.

14:26 – Why do we not need an intermediary to interpret the most important truths in the Bible?

Our greatest need is to have a personal relationship with the Lord. In John 14:26 Jesus said, *“the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you”* (NIV). The Holy Spirit helps believers understand God's Word without needing some specially trained scholar to interpret the Bible for us. God wants us to experience a personal relationship with Him, so believers can understand the main and plain things of the Bible directly without some intermediary having to tell us what God really said. The more we know and apply what God has revealed to us in His Word, the more satisfying our work experience will be. We will benefit from taking time for a Bible study devotional every day.

14:27 – What is the peace of God?

The turmoil in our world today will have many of our associates longing for peace between nations. But this will not be realized until the Prince of Peace comes. However, Jesus said in John 14:27, *“my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled”* (NIV). True peace is an inner calm that only comes with knowing Jesus Christ as Savior. God blesses those who have a relationship with Him and are acting in His will with peace as one of the fruits of the Spirit per Galatians 5:22. Christians can have peace despite their circumstances because they know that *“all things work together for good to those who love God”* per Romans 8:28 (NKJV). When we tell our associates about Jesus we may be an agent of peace.

14:27 – How may we appropriate the peace of God?

We will have peace when we draw closer to the Prince of Peace. Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace because He made it possible for people to end their striving with God and have peace with Him. In John 14:27 Jesus promised, *“my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled”* (NIV). The peace that God gives us is superior to the sort of peace that people pursue without Him. Per Philippians 4:6-7, we may appropriate *“the peace of God, which transcends all understanding”* through prayer. Thus having a personal relationship with Jesus is a prerequisite for true peace. So if you hunger for peace, pursue closer fellowship with the Lord.

14:27 – How may we be agents of peace?

If we find ourselves caught up in a conflict between people, God may have put us there to be His agent of peace. Jesus promised peace to all who follow Him in John 14:27. This peace resolves the inner turmoil we have with God over who has the authority in our life and enables us to help others who need peace. Having a right relationship with God is a prerequisite for having right relationships between people... 1 John 4:21 says, “*Whoever loves God must also love his brother*” (NIV). If we have the peace of God, we are compelled to help resolve strife between associates. Jesus promised us in Matthew 5:9, “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God*” (NIV). A kind word of encouragement rightly timed may be all that is needed.

14:28 – What leadership characteristic did Jesus model in this passage and how may we apply it?

We may be more effective leaders when we help others prepare for the future. Jesus modeled an important leadership characteristic when He foretold His death and resurrection to help His disciples prepare in John 14:28. Leaders should share their own experiences to warn associates of the conflicts, struggles, and feelings they will face during various stages of life. Those we teach may not learn from our mistakes, but withholding the lesson may contribute to their failure. Talking about our experiences overcoming problems doesn't eliminate the problems, but it does provide encouragement during a time of trial. We will be a source of blessing to the associates in our circle of influence when we move beyond our comfort zone to equip others for survival.

14:30 – Why is our government so disappointing and what can we do about it?

In John 14:30, Jesus referred to Satan as, “*the prince of this world*” (NIV). Evil spiritual forces seek to corrupt governments as part of their rebellion against God. Indeed, Genesis 9:6 says that God authorized governments to act on his behalf to maintain order in this world. No matter how good intentioned a government official may be, failures are inevitable because all people are subject to temptation. Fortunately, Satan and his fallen angel compatriots only have the power that God allows them. So we should pray for our government officials as 1 Timothy 2:2 commands.