The Promise of His Presence | John 14:15-31

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The disciples of Jesus were wrestling with despair. They feared that Jesus would abandon them. He said they would bear much fruit through mighty works that they would do, and He commanded them to show their love for Him through obedience, but, Jesus also said He was going away. In John 14:15-31, Jesus answered their concerns with the promise that He would be present with His followers forever, and with the implications of what that promise of His presence should mean for them.

Jesus promised to always be with His followers. Chronologically, there were two parts to that promise:

1. The imminent promise of Jesus appearing to His followers after His resurrection (4:18-21).

   The first implication of the promise of the presence of Jesus (immediately after His resurrection) is union with Christ.

   The second implication of the promise of the presence of Jesus (immediately after His resurrection) is judgment on all who are not trusting in Him as Savior.

2. The long-term promise to those disciples (and to us) of Jesus being present with all of His disciples forever through the Holy Spirit (14:15-17, 23-31).

   Jesus promised that after His ascension, the Father would send another Helper, Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate – the Holy Spirit, who is God and who has unique personhood.
The promise of the eternal presence of Jesus Christ through His Spirit means:

1. **Assurance**

2. **Enablement**

3. **Instruction**

Questions to Consider

1. What are some ways that you feel inadequate as a follower of Jesus Christ? What circumstances tend to bring about those feelings in your heart?

2. Why is it critical for us that the disciples see Jesus after His resurrection (14:18-19)?

3. What are some of the works that the Holy Spirit does in the lives of believers (see, for example, Acts 1:8; Romans 8:15, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:11; and 2 Timothy 1:14).

4. What did Jesus mean by calling the Spirit another Helper?

5. What do you need assurance of from the Holy Spirit, i.e. what might you be tempted to doubt or fear without His presence?

6. What are some practical ways for believers to experience the enablement of the Holy Spirit (see, for example, Romans 8:5-9; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 4:29-30)?

7. What part should you play in the Holy Spirit instructing you and reminding you of the teachings of Jesus?