



Overview

25th June 2020

1. Insights Corner

2. Review of

"INSIGHTS" CORNER





1. Why do some Christians betray their faith and Christ? What can you do to make sure you don't do the same?
2. How do you forgive the betrayer and put the situation behind you?

34-35 **A new commandment** I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

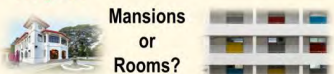
By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**God's Will
My Will
Who is in Control?**



When a crisis, tragedy or unexpected event threatens to break up the normal pattern of our lives, we often feel as though we have totally lost control.

2 "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"



3. Jesus the only Way to God, the promise of the Holy Spirit and Prayer (John 14:4-31)

“INSIGHTS” CORNER



- Eleanor Tan
- Elder Rocky



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By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

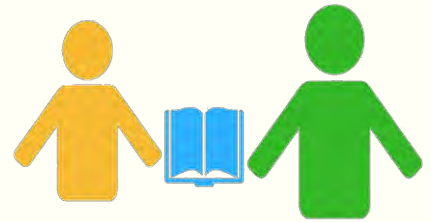
There should be a special presence of love among followers of Jesus Christ.

Love would be the identifying mark of His disciples.



Respect's essence is acceptance – to hold another as “**irreducibly valuable.**”

One of the joys of real friendship and true love is that we can both be our real selves in each **other's** company.



Neither of us has to put on a face in order to be loved.

Our love for each other is not about approval; **it's** about acceptance.

God's Will
My Will
Who is in
Control?



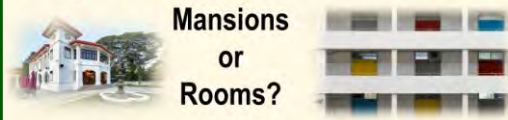
When a crisis, tragedy or unexpected event threatens to break up the normal pattern of our lives, we often feel as though we have totally lost control.

Whether we fully understand or accept it or not, God is sovereign over the events in our lives.

No matter how bad the crisis may seem, it is never **beyond God's ability and power to resolve it!**

God can establish His purposes in every crisis we encounter.

2 “In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”



The final outcome of a mind focused on heaven is a transformed sense of identity.

1. **We are citizens of God's kingdom.**

2. We are aliens and strangers in this world.



1 Timothy 6:18-19 (The Message)

Tell those rich in this **world's** wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow.

Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage — to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous.

If they do that, **they'll** build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

Continuation from where we last stopped...

Let Not Your
Heart Be Troubled

John 14:1

5-6 Thomas said to him, “**Lord**, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the **way?**” Jesus said to him, “**I** am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”



The troubled heart needs to remember that Jesus Christ is everything. He is “**the** way and the truth and the life.”

Apart from Him there is no solution of the problem of sin. He is the only way to God.

"THE BRIDGE OF LIFE"

I. GOD'S PLAN

Genesis 1:27 – You are made in God's image

John 10:10 – Jesus came to give us life

II. MAN'S PROBLEM

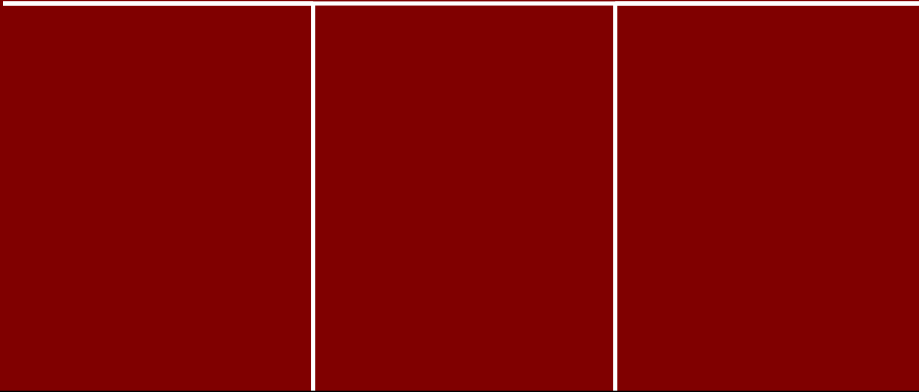
Isaiah 59:1-2 – separation

Holy
Love

MAN

SIN

GOD

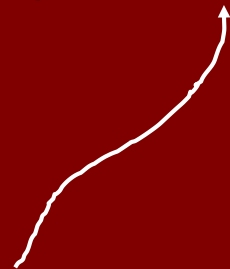
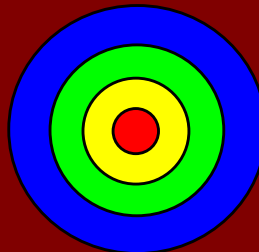


Isaiah 59:1-2 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your **iniquities** have separated you from your God; your **sins** have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

TRANSGRESSION –
breaking God's law

SIN – Missing
God's Mark

INIQUITY –
crookedness,
perversion



"THE BRIDGE OF LIFE"

I. GOD'S PLAN

Genesis 1:27 – You are made in God's image

John 10:10 – Jesus came to give us life

II. MAN'S PROBLEM

Isaiah 59:1-2 -- separation

III. GOD'S SOLUTION

Romans 5:8

IV. MAN'S RESPONSE

John 5:24

(Holy,
Love)

MAN

BELIEVE

SIN

RECEIVE

GOD

MAN WITHOUT CHRIST

Romans 3:23 –

Everyone has sinned

Romans 6:23 – Death

Hebrews 9:27 –

Judgment

Why did Christ die?

1 Peter

2:24

1 Peter

3:18

Moral life? Isaiah 64:6

Good Works? Eph 2:8-9

Religion? John 14:6

MAN WITH CHRIST

God promises 3 things:

I will have eternal life

I will not be condemned

I have crossed from
death to life

Literal Translation: I myself am the way, the truth, and the life. No one shows up before the Father except through me.

Vine's Expository Dictionary:

“Way” (ὁδός) denotes ... a natural path, road, way.

Metaphorically, of a course of conduct, or way of thinking...the way instructed and approved by God.

Personified, of Christ as the means of access to the Father.

Jesus did not come to give us a new religion or philosophy – but a life-giving relationship with the Father.

He is the way to the Father because only He Himself is God.

He voluntarily came to die on our behalf because He was impelled by a vision of what we could become.



ἀλήθεια = “the state of not being **hidden**,”
“**reality**” as opposed to appearances.

Beware of “**consensual**” or
“**societal**” truth.



The truth will set us free from the bondage of sin, those false ideas, negative mindsets and habits that enslave us.

“**Life**” (ζωή) = “**living,**” “**substance,**” “**property,**” and “**existence.**” (Use also to mean the opposite of death).

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12).

From the time of Adam and **Eve’s** creation, people were designed to live within the huge contours of the glory of God.

We were not designed to settle for personal survival, temporal happiness, or individual success.

We were created to find our meaning, identity, and purpose in the existence, character, and plan of God.



Our identity was meant to be rooted in His love.

Our hope was designed to be tied to His plan.

Our purpose was meant to be structured by His will.

What did Jesus do?

- He became sin – so you now have complete forgiveness (2 Cor 5:21)
- He disarmed the devil and all his works – so you now have victory over all the power and works of the enemy (Luke 10:1, Col 1:13-14; 2:15)
- He gave you His Word – so you can discover who you are and what you have already inherited (2 Peter 1:3-5)

What did Jesus do?

- He gave you His power and authority – so you can now exercise that same power and authority even over your own body and circumstances (Matt 28:18-20)
- He gave you His Spirit – so you now have His very life, power, nature, character and ability in you through the Holy Spirit who dwells within you (Romans 8:11).

7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Knowing Jesus is equivalent to knowing God. But that was mind-blowing to the disciples!



שְׁמָע
shema

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

Changing their mindset was difficult.

MINDSET faulty and biased thought patterns will result in faulty or biased experiences

Their mindset created the framework by which they experienced life

However, from that night on, they had the knowledge of God as revealed in Jesus Christ to enable them to find eternal life.

But they **didn't** see the vast implications till later e.g. **Peter's** prejudices.

8-9 Philip said to him, “**Lord**, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

Jesus said to him, “**Have** I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘**Show** us the **Father**?’”

Only Jesus could depict God. No other could.

If you want to know what God the Father is like, look at Jesus – His love, compassion, commitment, mercy, grace and goodness. **That’s** what His Father is like.

Jesus is the word God that reveals to us the true face of God.

- Exodus 33:20 “**(God)** said, you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”
- 1 Timothy 6:16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.

Jesus also reveals to us our true selves.

10-11 **“Do** you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”

The works of Jesus were empowered by God. The world had not seen such deeds.

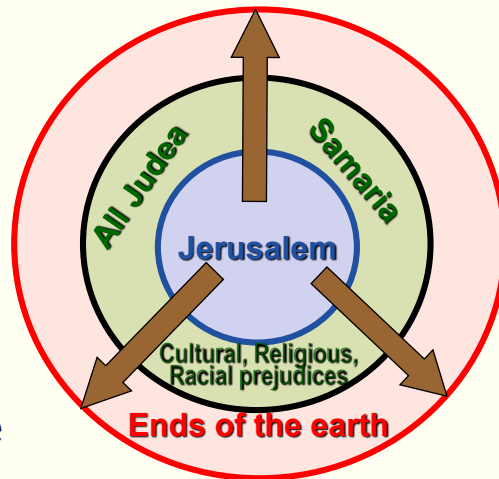
Examples?

12 **“Truly,** truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

Greater works refer to the wider opportunities which the disciples would have when Jesus returned to the Father.

It would then be possible for Jesus to work through His people. The book of Acts demonstrates this.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.



Acts 8:1 And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

13 “**Whatever** you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

“**whatever**” includes both **Christ’s** works and the greater works that He referred to in John 14:12.

Again the Book of Acts bears testimony to that!

Note: We must ask according to His will. There is no promise here that we can ask for any selfish thing we want and expect Him to answer.

14 **“If** you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

To pray in the name of Christ means that our prayers must be based on all that Christ is, has done, is doing, and will do.



It is not to be used as a magical charm.

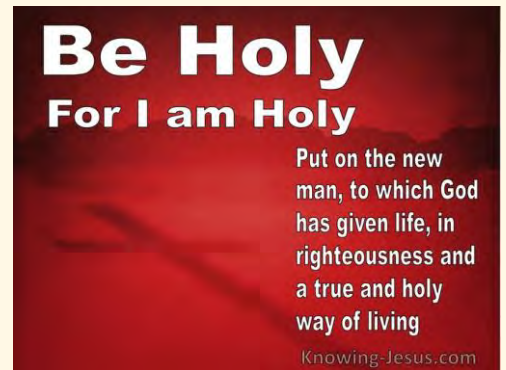
It is both a guarantee and a limitation on the petition.

In prayer we call on Him to work out His purpose, not simply to gratify our whims and fancies.



Ask God to put holy desires into our hearts and seek things that matter to Him.

Holiness sets us apart unto God in order that we may make an impact on the world.



Wrong desires disturb us as we are impatient about receiving them, but holy desires come with a willingness to wait on **God's** ways and timing.

Bring your requests before God and trust God to give them to you if and when they are right for you.

Don't confuse holiness with outward signs of perfection or impeccability because purity, properly understood, is a way of endlessly growing in love for God and neighbour.

How can we know how Christ Himself might pray if He were in the very same circumstances as ourselves?

By becoming more familiar with **God's** Word.



Christ's Promises (14:15-31)

15. **"If** you love me, you will keep my commandments.
16. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,
17. even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
- 18 **"I** will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

19. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.
20. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
21. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

22. Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “**Lord**, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the **world?**”
23. Jesus answered him, “**If** anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.
24. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

25. **“These** things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.
26. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
27. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

28. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.
29. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.
30. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,

31. but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

15 **“If** you love me, you will keep my commandments.

This is the measure of our love for Jesus.

Love is not just an emotion or feeling. It is a choice and a resolve in the heart and will.

It must show itself in how we act.



Loving Jesus is most difficult when it demands that we give up a preference, an interest, a freedom, a prized possession or something that is special to us.



What would it be like to yield to Christ in the details of our daily lives?

What would it be like to follow His direction and instruction in all the small decisions that add up to the life we find ourselves living?

The disciples' obedience to Him will be the test of their love.

Obedience asks us to be open

- to change and transformation, and
- to adopt new priorities and values; and sometimes
- even to radically re-orientate and reset our whole **life's** direction.

We frequently prefer to languish in familiar places and our comfort zone, even when the call to move is loud and clear!

Most people are in comfort zones of their own making.

Your attitude and personality, your habitual way of responding to people and to life is your comfort zone.



The amount you earn, your standard of living, and your level of performance in your work is your comfort zone.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

“another Helper” - Two different Greek words can be translated **“another”**

1. Allos (**ἄλλος**), used here, means another of the same kind
2. heteros (**ἕτερος**) means another of a different kind.

The coming Helper was **ἄλλος**, which means another Helper just like him! There would be no loss in the exchange.

So much are they the same that in Romans 8:9 Paul calls the Holy Spirit **“the Spirit of Christ.”**

The Holy Spirit would provide this comfort by giving knowledge and instruction (verse 26; 16:13ff).



This is why He is called here the **“Spirit of Truth”** – i.e., the Spirit characterized by truth, because He always speaks the truth.

This contrasts to the Devil, who is the spirit that speaks lies and error.

Helper or Counsellor (paraclete/**παράκλητος**)

= **“a person summoned to one's aid”**

= may refer to an advisor, a legal defender, a mediator, or an intercessor.

It always contains the idea of encouragement, exhortation, admonition, consolation, instruction, one who will shoulder the responsibility of another.

If you are going through hard times, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to come alongside and comfort and strengthen you.

Life devoid of the power of the Spirit can only in the end be sterile. Life in the Spirit can be significant, creative and fruitful.

When an individual is filled by the Spirit, a new power is given to the person.

17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

The Holy Spirit would be invisible to all and His work would not be understood by the world at large since the world would not recognize him.

He and the world do not operate on the same wavelength.

He indwells in us and will instruct us in the ways and word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

We are adopted as **God's** children.

He intensifies “**the** spirit of **sonship**” that makes us cry, “**Abba, Father**” — dearest Father (Romans 8:15).

He helps us live up to our royal position as children of God by developing a family likeness.



19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. **Because I live**, you also will live.

Because I live ... = a reference to the resurrection, because Jesus was clearly speaking of a time when the world should no longer see him.

It is necessary that He must leave.

20 **“In** that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.”

In that day: when you through the ministry of the indwelling Spirit see Jesus living in and through you.

The indwelling of the Spirit would bring the realization that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in purpose and operation and that there would be a new intimate relationship between them and believers.

21 **“Whoever** has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Jesus reiterated the statement of v. 15 because of its importance.

If God instructs us to do something, we must quickly and joyfully obey. If we have not been obedient to the most recent thing God asked us to do, we cannot expect to be entrusted with more.

1 John 4:9-10: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Do you treat the commandments of Christ in the same way as you might treat food in a buffet line?

Pick and Choose?



Examples of Pick and Choose

- They will not murder but they are unwilling to bear with one another.
- They will not steal but they are unwilling to forgive one another.
- They will not commit adultery but they are unwilling to turn from grumbling and complaining.

If we love Jesus, it will be shown in a genuine love for His word - and not a love that just admires His word, but obeys it - keeps His word.

The Choice Must Be Made Again And Again:

earthly

eternal



If we want to live a Christ-centred life, we need to accept that it **won't happen by accident.**

We must choose each day whether we will live as if this world is all there is,

or as if our earthly existence is a holy pilgrimage during which we learn discipline, **Christ's** way and grow as a preparation for eternity.

Don't forget how brief this life is and never deceive ourselves into thinking that we all the time in the world.



22-23 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “**Lord**, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the **world?**” Jesus answered him, “**If** anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

Judas: the son of James or Thaddeus (Matt 10:3, Luke 6:16)

He believed Jesus would be the overpowering earthly Messiah.

He did not understand that the death on the cross would be a manifestation before the whole world.

He asked how it could be that Jesus would manifest Himself to the apostles but not to the world.

This again contradicted Jewish expectations. They expected a Messiah who ruled on earth over the Jewish nation for the entire world to see.

So, **Jesus'** statement made no sense to these stubborn Jews.

MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS (586 BC – 100 AD)

1. Babylonian period (586-539 BC) – Exile; Captivity

- Temple destroyed; homeland in ruins; Jews in captivity
- Prophets promised glorious restoration; new Golden Age

**CRISIS
OF
FAITH**

2. Persian period (539-333 BC) – Return; Rebuilding

- Temple rebuilt (516 BC) – **“Second Temple.”**
- Still under foreign control.

**HOPE
REKINDLED**

3. Greek period (333-166 BC) – Hellenistic influence; Persecution

- Jews divided over Hellenistic influence
- Antiochus IV (167 BC) desecrated Temple; instigated persecution.

**HOPE
DISAPPOINTED**

MESSIANIC EXPECTATIONS (586 BC – 100 AD)

4. Maccabean/Hasmonean period (166-63 BC) – independence

- Maccabean Revolt achieved Jewish independence
- Hasmonean dynasty ruled Palestine as kings / high priests.
- Jewish factions appeared (Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes).

THE KINGDOM CAME BY FORCE