

“The Way, The Truth, The Life”
The Gospel of John Chapter 14:1-14

Jesus knows the remaining eleven apostles are deeply troubled (Isa. 8:12-14; 1Pet. 3:14). The Master has repeatedly told them He must go to Jerusalem and be put to death (Matt. 16:21, 20:18). He has informed them that one of them will betray Him and Peter will deny Him. All pledge their loyalty to Christ, but Jesus knows the future (Matt. 26:31-35).

The good shepherd knows His sheep (John 10:14). He commands them not to be troubled by commanding them to keep on believing (Greek present tense) in God and Him! That is how fear and the world is overcome (John 16:33; 1John 5:4-5). Jesus promises that He has a dwelling place (same Greek word *monē* is used in verse 23) for them and that He must go away and prepare and then return for them (His second coming; 1Thess. 4:13-18; 2Thess. 1:7-10). Thomas voices the thought that probably occurred to them all. Jesus replies with the sixth of the seven great “I Am’s” of the Gospel of John (John 6:35, 9:5, 10:7, 11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1). Jesus is not just **a** way to God, but **He** is **the** only way. He is **the** truth, for embodied in His person are all the wisdom, knowledge and riches of God (Col. 2:3-9). He is **the** life, for apart from Him there is no physical or spiritual life (John 11:25; Col. 3:4; Heb. 1:2-3). This great “I Am” is one more of the many statements of Jesus declaring His divinity. Truth is **not** relative for Christians.

Philip’s question about the Father further illustrates the apostles’ lack of understanding of the character and nature of God. They desired a physical manifestation when Jesus had already declared the Father to them (John 1:18) by His love, mercy, compassion, patience, forgiveness, grace, power, kindness, etc. All the attributes of the invisible Father are clearly seen in the Son (Col. 2:9). Jesus did nothing on His own!

The greater works of which Jesus speaks concern the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. He will finish His work here and go to the Father and then send the Holy Spirit. Empowered by the Spirit, the small band of 120 in the upper room (Acts 1:15) will explode in number. Three thousand believe on the day of Pentecost; five thousand shortly thereafter and many on a daily basis (Acts 2:41, 47, 4:4). The context of asking in Jesus’ name is tied to this furtherance of the Kingdom. Name in both Testaments signified the person’s character and nature. Jesus will do it so that the Father is glorified!