

Power partners

Part 1, John 14:15-27

1. Have you ever had the news that someone you loved was going away? What was that like?
2. How do you think the disciples felt about Jesus news that he was going to leave them?
3. Have you ever felt that God was absent? Did anything help you during that time?
4. Read John 14:15-27; Jesus is arguing that, although he is going away, he is sending the Spirit (counsellor/defender) and that it will be as if Jesus was actually with them. What is the implications of this for our Christian walk?
5. How does this square with your picture of the Holy Spirit?
6. Read John 14:19, how can the disciples see Jesus when he is not physically there? Have you ever seen Jesus in this way?
7. Consider the following verses – what picture is Jesus building about what lies behind the things that he does?
 - **I'm** going to ask the **Father** to send you the **counsellor** (John 14:16)
 - **I** will not leave you an orphan, **I** will come to you (John 14:18)
 - On that day – you will realise **I** am in my **father** and **you** are in **me** (John 14:20)
 - **We** will come to **him** and make **our** home with **him** (John 14:23)
 - These words are not **my** own but come from the **father** (John 14:24)
8. How does this help the disciples trust Jesus to look after them when he is gone? How does this help us trust Jesus when we feel he is absent?
9. Read John 14:15-16 and 23. What is Jesus saying is the condition for having the Spirit in our lives?
10. Read John 14:6 as a summation of Jesus commands and teachings, how does this help us understand the condition for having the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Do you understand that if you love and trust Jesus you have the Spirit of God within you and that is just the same as having Jesus himself with you? Will you meditate on that truth, will you please remember it when you deal with the world because no one deals with the world better than Jesus did. He is in you, he will not leave you an orphan because he is your defender.