

*John 14: 1-11*

*"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. "And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."*

**Paranoid with Pursuit**

A man, driven by a passion to confirm a suspicion, spends all his time and energy looking for the illusive "bigfoot", another man is consumed with chasing down every story of a UFO sighting, driven by the need to "be able to believe in something." We live in a world where the desire to know, to affirm, to believe, to search out, to "go where no man has gone before" drives people to such levels of dissatisfaction, that they have become paranoid with pursuit. It would seem that the real illusive factor in such people's lives is contentment.

The apostles expressed a similar passion. In their soul's thirst they made this request of Christ: "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." (John 14:8 NIV). These followers of Jesus knew that true contentment, ("αρκεω" - that which is "enough for us"), could only found in the Lord God, that only He could satisfy the searching heart, and fill the deep well of longing in each soul. Perhaps in their request, their thoughts were on David's words: "How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast in the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." (Psalms 36 NIV)

Whatever the motive for their request was, it was obviously prompted by Christ's announcement that He was returning to His Father (see John 14:1-4). Nevertheless, Christ's reply was uniquely revealing: "Jesus answered: "Don't you know me... even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (John 14 NIV).

In this short discourse, Jesus Christ gives answer to the soul's thirst in man: It is sufficient to see Christ. Christ's revelation of God is the most complete and comprehensive revelation conceivable to man. Therefore to know Christ is to find true contentment!

For this cause Paul kept a very focused pursuit: "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:8 NIV)

And how might men come to know Christ, now that He has returned to the Father? Here is the answer: "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (John 20:30-31)

Do you want to find the source of this illusive contentment? Pick up the Bible, read the Gospel of John, and come to know Christ!

*What is my response:*

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