

John 14:15–21: Living Proof of Love, Living Presence of Christ

Have you ever said goodbye to someone you deeply love—and even with a promise to return, the moment still felt heavy?

I remember visiting my mother when she was alive—only twice a year. Each time I left, she cried... and I cried too. I would reassure her, “I’ll be back in six months.” The promise was real—but the absence still hurt. Words comforted us, but what we longed for was presence.

That is where the disciples find themselves in John 14. Jesus has told them He is leaving. Everything feels uncertain. Their sense of security is shaken.

And behind their silence is this question: *“What happens to us when you are gone?”*

But Jesus does not just comfort them—He redefines presence.

He says: *“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever... I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”* (John 14:15–18)

Love Becomes Visible in Action

Faith moves from internal belief to external practice

Jesus shifts the focus from emotion to expression. Love for Him is not measured by what we say in worship—it is revealed in how we live on Monday.

Not perfection—but direction.

When patience replaces irritation, when honesty replaces convenience, when mercy interrupts judgment,

that is love taking shape.

When our lives begin to reflect grace, integrity, and compassion, Christ is being formed in us.

Scripture reminds us: *“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”* (1 John 3:18)

Following Jesus is not about saying the right things—it is about becoming the right kind of people.

God Moves From Around Us to Within Us

The presence of Christ becomes personal and constant

Jesus says: *“The Spirit of truth... lives with you and will be in you.”* (John 14:17)

The disciples had walked with Jesus physically. Now something deeper is promised.

The Spirit is not just beside them—but within them.

A simple example: A mother once shared deep anxiety over her very sick child. She had been told that God would answer only at a specific hour of prayer—as if God were limited to a schedule. But the truth is this: God is not confined to moments. His presence is constant.

Jesus already assured us: *“Ask in my name, and I will do it.”* (John 14:14)

We don’t have to chase God—He is already near. We don’t have to manufacture strength—the Spirit provides it.

Even when faith feels quiet or weak, God has not stepped away.

In fact, in our lowest moments, His presence often moves closer—we just need open hearts to recognize it.

You Are Not Forgotten—You Are Claimed

Belonging replaces fear

Jesus says: *“I will not leave you as orphans.”* (John 14:18)

That is not just comfort—it is identity.

An orphan lives without covering, without certainty, without belonging. Jesus says: *That is not who you are.*

We are known. We are held. We belong to God.

Scripture affirms this truth: *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”* (1 John 3:1)

And here is the deeper truth: The more we walk in His way, the more clearly we begin to recognize Him in our lives.

Weekly Challenge

This week, don't try to change everything—focus on **one intentional act of love each day**.

When you are about to respond—pause and ask: **“What would it look like to love Jesus right here?”**

In a conversation. In a decision. In a reaction.

Then act on it—deliberately.

And as you do, say quietly: **“Jesus, I am doing this because I love you.”**

At the end of each day, take 30 seconds: Where did I live this out? Where did I miss it?

No guilt—just awareness.

Because transformation happens not in big moments—but in daily faithfulness.

Jesus is not preparing His disciples for absence. He is preparing them for a deeper presence.

A presence that lives in you. Guides you. Shapes you.

So this week—don't just believe in Him. **Practice His presence.**

And you will discover: He was never far away. **Amen.**