

The Gifts He Gives – John 14:18-31

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John 14:18-31. We're in the midst of a long monologue by Jesus, at the last supper, where he endeavors to comfort them in light of his departure. That's the *overall* purpose of this chapter. *Let not your hearts be troubled*. V1. And repeated in v27. He's trying to settle their souls.

And to do that, he promises a series of gifts. Or blessings. Like a new husband who takes an international business trip and promises his bride that he'll return bearing gifts. Which must be fairly common because of all the merchandise those duty-free shops sell in airports. From fine chocolates to fine diamonds. Who buys those things in an airport? It's unbelievable.

But they pale in comparison to the gifts Jesus promises. And not just a few, but showers of blessing. Like King David said a thousand years earlier. *You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and thoughts toward us*. (Psalm 40:5a) So follow along and see if *your* soul isn't settled and *your* heart pleasantly overwhelmed just like theirs.

John 14:18. Jesus is still speaking, and says – [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.* (ESV) Let's stop there.

After telling them that the Father will send the Spirit, in v16-17, Jesus takes it a step further and says he will return himself. *"I will not leave you as orphans [v18]; I will come to you."* Just like he said back in v3 – *If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again.*

It's the first of no less than 14 gifts he promises.

1. His return (v18)

"I won't leave you helpless," he says. "I won't leave you hopeless; or fatherless like an orphan. *I will come to you,*" v18. "I'll return for you. I'll gather you." It's a promise.

And as such, a gift. Because all the promises of God are "yes and amen" in Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:20) Fulfilled and certain in Christ. What a gift!

And while we wait for it, he gives us a whole bunch more. Like the businessman who got on Amazon and had a bunch of gifts sent *ahead*.

But nothing like the gift of . . .

2. Spiritual eyesight (v19a)

That's the second gift we find here. [19] *Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me.*

I don't think he's referring to his resurrection, his physical appearance, but his spiritual. His spiritual *presence*. So that we see him with the eyes of our heart; the eyes of faith. We behold him as he's described. A gift of *spiritual* eyesight.

Nor do I think it refers to his *coming* when we'll see him. Because at that point *everyone* will see him the Bible says. All the tribes of the earth. (Matthew 24:30) *Contrary* to his statement here.

No, this is spiritual eyesight. Which is why he says, "*the world* [unbelievers] *will see me no more, but you will*; my followers. After just a few short days. And especially after Pentecost; when the Spirit is given. *You will see me*. (19a)

And we do. We see him high and lifted up. We see him with the eyes of our heart; in our mind's eye. Because as new creations in Christ, we've been given the *gift* of spiritual eyesight.

Third, he gives us the gift of . . .

3. Life (v19b)

How many times have we seen *that* in John's gospel? [19b] *Because I live, you also will live*. Now *and* forever. While he's away and when he returns. Both.

It's not like we have to *wait* for life; he gives it now. Awakening our souls and raising us up in himself. And when he returns, he's going to add our glorified bodies. Amazing life.

And it's all because of him. Because *he* lives, we live. Present tense. It was future tense for the Apostles at that point – you *will* live; because he hadn't yet died and rose again – but for us it's present. Present life.

And don't miss the certainty. *Because I live* [God's very Son; God in the flesh], *you also will live*. It doesn't get any more certain. If Jesus lives, we live. Life to the full and life forever. What a gift!

Fourth, is the gift of . . .

4. Divine fellowship (v20)

[20] *In that day* [the day you see me and live; the day you put your faith and trust in me] *you will know* [you'll be certain; a gift in and of itself] *that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you*. That's fellowship. Divine fellowship. Belonging together as one.

Like John says in **1 John 1:7** – *If we walk in the light* [the light of righteousness and holiness], *as he is in the light* [God himself], *we have fellowship with one another* [fellowship with God], *and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin*.

If we walk in the light, by grace through faith, *we have* [divine] *fellowship*, communion, with God himself.

And here in John, he describes it in three-part detail. V20b. *I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you*. (A) Working backwards, we have divine fellowship because Jesus is in us. *I in you*, he says. Inextricably united via the Holy Spirit.

And (B) We have divine fellowship because we are in *him*; united with him.

And therefore, (C) We have divine fellowship because both of us are in the *Father*; because *Jesus* is in the Father.

No wonder Paul says nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We've been given the gift of divine fellowship!

Fifth, Jesus promises us the gift of . . .

5. **Love (v21)**

The connecting thread of this entire passage. [21] *Whoever has my commandments and keeps them [obeys them], he it is who loves me.* [We talked about that last week. Our obedience proves our love.] *And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.*” Reveal myself to him. Show myself strong in his life. Display my faithfulness to him. All part of the gift; the gift of love.

But it’s not just *his* love, it’s the Father’s. *He who loves me will be loved by my Father.* (21b) It’s a gift from both. Which makes it all the more precious, and all the more abundant.

Then John writes in v22 – *Judas (not Iscariot) said to him* [because Judas Iscariot had already left; which means this was Judas the son of James; also called Thaddeus], *“Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”* Referring back to his comment in v19 that in a little while *they* would see Jesus, but not the world. How is that?

[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.* That’s how.

And that’s the next gift. The gift of . . .

6. **God’s presence (v23)**

We will come to him and make our home with him. (23b) As in take up residence with him. Live with him. Make our heart his home.

Robert Boyd Munger was a pastor who preached a sermon in the early ‘50’s titled, “**My Heart—Christ’s Home.**” Later published in a little booklet.

And in it he describes our heart as a large home with many rooms. The study, or library, analogous to our mind. The dining room, our desires and appetites. The living room, our place of fellowship and friendship. And closets, the places we tend to sin and hide.

The point being: Jesus doesn’t just come to us as a guest, a visitor with *limited* access to our lives, but as a permanent resident and Lord of our home. Lord of our heart.

Which means we have a choice to make. A daily choice. To throw open the doors, lift the shades, and welcome him; or isolate ourselves and hide. A choice to welcome his presence as a gift, or reject it as an intrusion.

7th, from v24, is the gift of . . .

7. **God’s voice (v24)**

[24] *Whoever does not love me does not keep my words* [doesn’t obey me]. *And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.*

Jesus has said it before and he’ll say it again. He speaks for God; God the Father. His voice was God’s voice.

And still is. He still speaks. In the written word. The Bible. Living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. Piercing our soul and discerning our thoughts. Making us wise and standing forever. It’s a gift.

Then, Jesus returns to the first gift he promised. V25 – *“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. [26] But the Helper, the Holy Spirit [first promised in v16], 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.*

There are three gifts in that statement alone. The first, #8, is the gift of . . .

8. **The Holy Spirit (v26a)**

God the Father will send us the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, in his name; on his behalf. A gift of all gifts, because of all he does. Like give us life. The Holy Spirit is the catalyst for gift #3.

In fact, here’s a quick list of 10 things the Holy Spirit does:

First, **he gives us life**, life to our souls; (2 Corinthians 3:6) and second, **he seals us**. Seals us unto salvation. (Ephesians 1:13)

Third, **he guarantees our inheritance**; our legacy in heaven. (Ephesians 1:14)

Fourth, **he empowers us**. Giving life to our *bodies*. (Romans 8:11)

Fifth, **he sanctifies us**. Conforms us into the image of Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:11)

Sixth, **he testifies for us**. That we are children of God. Part of his family. (Romans 8:16)

Seventh, **he gives us more gifts**. Spiritual gifts. Heightened abilities for the work of ministry. (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Eighth, **he guides us**. In what to do, where to go, and how to walk. (Galatians 5:16-18)

Ninth, **he convicts us**. Of sin. Bringing us to a place of repentance. (John 16:8)

And tenth, **he assures us**. Assures us of God’s presence and our salvation. (1 John 4:13)

10 actions of the Holy Spirit that make him a gift of all gifts. A gift that keeps on giving.

What’s more, from v26b, he teaches us. A gift of . . .

9. **Edification (v26b)**

The Holy Spirit [v26], whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things. All things necessary for life and godliness. That’s edification.

And what you need to know is that it’s part of the New Covenant God promised; his new way of relating to us and saving us. Like he said in **Jeremiah 31:33b** – *I will put my law within them [within my people], and I will write it on their hearts.* In other words, God *himself* would teach his people. *I will do it, he said. I will teach them.*

Then, in **Ezekiel 36** he tells us how. [26] *I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh [a soft heart]. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.* (Ezekiel 36:26–27)

600 years before Christ, God promised a gift. A New Covenant, in which he would teach us his commands, his desires, from the inside out.

And Jesus affirms it here in John 14 at the last supper. The gift of edification, by the Holy Spirit, to teach us all things. What a connection. What a gift.

And third from v26, 10th overall, is the gift of . . .

10. **Recall (v26b)**

The Holy Spirit . . . will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (26b) All. Total recall. The original script.

It's just like Jesus said in **Matthew 10:19** – *When they deliver you over [to people with malice], do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.* And here in John, he tells us how. The Holy Spirit will bring it to our remembrance.

And sure enough, he does. Like John wrote back in chapter 2, saying the disciples remembered the reference Jesus made to dying and rising again after it happened. (22) And Peter and Paul in the book of Acts. Who went on to preach and proclaim even more of what Jesus said. (Acts 1:8; 1:15-16; 2:14-36; 4:8-13; 7:2-53; 11:16; 20:35)

It's a gift of recall. And if you've ever had a verse or biblical truth come to mind in the middle of a conversation, you've experienced it. And know how good it is. Three gifts in one statement.

Then, in v27, he promises the gift of . . .

11. Peace (v27)

Still trying to settle their soul. [27] *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. My peace. Supernatural peace. Divine peace. Undoubtedly referring to the biblical peace of "shalom." Found in the *Old Testament.**

Not just the lack of strife, but the presence of blessing. The peace of wellness and wholeness. Settled-ness and flourishing. It's all yours, Jesus said. *My peace I give to you.*

And then he adds, for emphasis – [27b] *Not as the world gives do I give to you.* "I'm not giving my peace to you grudgingly. Or partially. And I'm certainly not going to take it back." That's how the *world* gives.

"I'm giving it for good. Forever. Never to be rescinded and never to wane." Which is why he could legitimately say in v27c – *Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.* It's all good. The gift of peace is ours. For keeps.

Then he gives us gift #12, but not before a gentle reproof. V28 – *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.* Greater in authority and leadership. Not essence and perfection, but position and role.

All of which was lost on them, because they didn't fully love him. Not yet. They were too busy thinking of themselves. "*If you loved me, you would have rejoiced.*" (28)

[29] *And now [returning to all the gifts he gives] I have told you before it takes place [that I'm leaving and going back to heaven], so that when it does take place you may believe.*

I've told you before. A gift of . . .

12. Prophecy (v29)

And what an amazing gift it is. Especially for us; with the benefit of hindsight. Seeing him *die* just like he said, and *rise* like he said, and *ascend* like he said. It's a gift.

Because it compels us to believe. And instills trust. And gives us hope. Hope for the prophecies that *haven't* been fulfilled. Like his return; and our resurrection. His victory, and our joy. His future reign; and our home. What a blessing. What a gift.

Next, is the gift of . . .

13. A warning (v30)

[30] *I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming.* More prophecy. Only this time in the form of a warning. Referring to Satan.

"He's coming," Jesus said. "Coming for *me*. The one who rules those who don't know me. The world." Not *outside* of God's control and sovereignty, but flailing about within it. Allowed to exert his evil influence for a time, in order that God would be glorified all the more by working all things together for good.

But the warning remains. To prepare ourselves. For trials and tribulation. Testing and trouble. It's a gift.

And last, is the gift of . . .

14. Assurance (v31)

He has no claim on me [Satan doesn't], [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.

It's a gift of assurance. That despite how things might seem in this world, despite how they might have seemed when Jesus suffered and Satan rejoiced, it's all according to God's will; God's command.

Jesus was simply obeying the Father. *I do as the Father has commanded me*, he said. So that everyone can see that he *loves* the Father. And know that all is well.

It's a gift of assurance. That what Jesus did, and does, and *will* do; is all according to plan.

Summary

14 gifts that he gives. Gifts bought and paid for in the duty-free shop of heaven. Except these were given *before* he left, to settle our souls until he returns.

Prayer – Father, we know that every good gift and perfect gift is from above, and today we're overwhelmed by how many. *You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.* (Psalm 40:5a) So we praise you – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – from whom *all* blessings flow. To you be the glory, and you be the praise.

You Are Loved