AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAY July 29th, 2026

Study Series: That You Might Believe — Part 25: Promise of the Holy Spirit

Text: John 14:15–31 | Teacher: Nike Akoh

Introduction: You are not alone, even when troubled

John 14:15–31 is part of Jesus' farewell teaching before the cross. The disciples were troubled because He had spoken of His departure, but Jesus did not leave them in fear. He promised the Holy Spirit, who would dwell with them and in them. This passage brings together three truths for every believer: **obedience** as the evidence of love, **presence** through the indwelling Holy Spirit, and **peace** that only Christ gives. Love leads to obedience, obedience deepens fellowship, fellowship awakens us to God's presence, and His presence produces peace even in troubled times.

Love Expressed Through Obedience (vv. 15, 21–24)

Jesus said, "*If ye love me, obey my commandments*" (**John 14:15**). Obedience is the proof and fruit of our love for God; it is not a way to earn salvation or buy His favour. A heart that loves Christ desires to honour His word. In verses 21 and 23, Jesus connects love with keeping His commandments and promises deeper fellowship with the Father and the Son. In verse 24, refusal to obey is linked to a lack of love.

1 John 5:3 — "*Loving God means keeping his commandments*." **John 15:10** — "*When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love.*" Obedience is not legalism. Legalism obeys to be accepted; love obeys because it has been accepted. Loving obedience flows from gratitude, trust, and surrender.

James 1:22 — **"***Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says.*" **Luke 6:46** — **"***Why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?"*

Jesus promises those who love Him: "I will love them and **reveal myself to each of them**" (**John 14:21, NLT**). This does not mean Christ withholds love from others; it means obedience brings the believer into deeper awareness and encounter with Him. Throughout the Bible, God reveals Himself according to His purpose in each season. He revealed himself to Abraham as the covenant-keeper who calls and establishes promises (**Genesis 12:1–3; 17:1–7**). Moses encountered His holiness, name, and delivering power (**Exodus 3:1–15**). David knew Him as Shepherd, refuge, and strength (**Psalm 23; Psalm 18:1–3**). Elijah learned that God's voice may come in quiet assurance, not only dramatic signs (**1 Kings 19:11–13**). Mary Magdalene met the risen Christ personally when He called her name (**John 20:16**). Revelation is therefore not only information about God; it is an encounter that deepens our trust, obedience, worship, and surrender. When we obey the light we have, we become more sensitive to more light.

Question: *What is the difference between obeying God out of love and obeying out of fear?*

The Promise of Another Comforter (vv. 16–17)

Jesus promises to pray to the Father, and the Father will give "another Comforter" who will abide with us forever. "Another" means One of the same kind. As Jesus walked with, taught, corrected, strengthened, and comforted His disciples, the Holy Spirit would continue His ministry within them.

He is "the Spirit of truth." The world cannot receive Him because it neither sees nor knows Him, but believers know Him because He dwells with us and in us. Jesus moves the disciples from external companionship to internal indwelling.

The Holy Spirit is a Person, not a force, atmosphere, or emotion. He speaks, teaches, guides, reveals, convicts, comforts, helps, intercedes, empowers, and can be grieved or resisted. We are therefore called to know Him, walk with Him, and yield to Him. We know Him because He dwells in us and bears witness that we belong to God (**Romans 8:16**). This relationship grows as we surrender to Christ, obey the Word, pray, worship, and follow His leading. His presence is seen in conviction (**John 16:8**), illumination of Scripture (**1 Corinthians 2:10–14**), fruit in our character (**Galatians 5:22–23**), help in prayer (**Romans 8:26–27**), and power for service (**Acts 1:8**).

Knowing the Holy Spirit requires attention and surrender. We must not grieve Him (**Ephesians 4:30**), quench Him (**1 Thessalonians 5:19**), or resist Him (**Acts 7:51**). Sensitivity to His voice grows through obedience, holiness, worship, prayer, humility, and dependence on God's Word.

Question: *What practical habits help us become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's presence, voice, correction, and guidance?*

"I Will Not Leave You Comfortless": The Promise of His Presence (vv. 18–24)

Jesus says, "*No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you"* (**John 14:18, NLT**). The disciples would lose His visible presence, but not His spiritual presence. By the Holy Spirit, Christ's presence becomes real in believers. Verse 23 adds: "*We will come and make our home with each of them*" (**John 14:23, NLT**). This is not a brief visitation but an abiding relationship. God does not merely visit the believer in moments of prayer or worship; He makes the believer His dwelling place. His presence brings comfort in loneliness, correction in disobedience, strength in weakness, guidance in uncertainty, and confidence in trouble. **1 Corinthians 3:16** — "*You are the temple of God*." **Hebrews 13:5** — "*I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.*" We are not abandoned, forgotten, or spiritually homeless; we carry the presence of God and must live with awareness, reverence, obedience, and confidence.

Question: *How should the truth that God dwells in believers shape our daily conduct?* **Exodus 25:8; Ephesians 2:21–22**

Continuous Ministry of the Holy Spirit (vv. 25–26)

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will teach the disciples all things and bring His words to their remembrance. This had special meaning for the apostles, who would bear witness to Christ and preserve His teaching. It also shows the Spirit's continuing ministry through the Word. He opens Scripture, reminds us of Christ's words, illuminates truth, guards us from error, and keeps our faith centred on Jesus. The Spirit does not replace the Word; He makes the Word living and active in us. A Spirit-filled life must therefore be a Word-shaped life. **John 16:13–14** — "*He will guide you into all truth" and "He will bring me glory."* **2 Timothy 3:16–17** — "*All Scripture is inspired by God" and* equips God's *people*. **1 Corinthians 2:10–14; Psalm 119:11.**

Question: *How does the Holy Spirit help believers understand the Word beyond intellectual knowledge?*

My Peace, I Give You (v. 27)

Jesus says, *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart" and "the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give"* (**John 14:27, NLT**). This peace does not depend on favourable circumstances; it is Christ's own peace, rooted in His presence, victory, promises, and relationship with the Father. The world gives peace by changing the outside; **Christ gives peace by ruling the inside**. He calms the troubled heart, strengthens trust, and gives confidence in God even when circumstances remain difficult. **Isaiah 26:3** — "*You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you.*" **Philippians 4:6–7** — His *peace will guard* our *hearts and minds*. Jesus commands, "*Don't be troubled or afraid*." Trouble may come to the door, but it must not rule the heart. Christ's peace is received and protected through trust, prayer, obedience, and remembrance of His promises.

Question: *What is the difference between peace from changed circumstances and peace from Christ?*

Jesus: Our Example of Obedience to the Father (vv. 28–31)

Jesus closes by showing His own obedience. Although the ruler of this world is coming, Jesus declares that the enemy has no power over Him. The cross will not be Satan's victory; it will reveal Christ's love for the Father and obedience to His command. "*I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father"* (**John 14:31, NLT**). Jesus does not only teach obedience; He embodies it. His obedience leads to the cross, and the cross leads to our redemption and His exaltation. **Philippians 2:8–11** — *He humbled* Himself *in obedience*, *and* God highly exalted Him. **Hebrews 5:8–9** — He *learned obedience* through suffering and *became the source of eternal salvation*. Love produces obedience; obedience may involve sacrifice, but sacrifice in the will of God produces glory.

Question: *What does Jesus' obedience teach us about surrender when God's will is costly?* **John 10:17–18; 1 John 2:6**