

## **Thru the Bible Commentary**

### **John 14:9-14**

**Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? [John 14:9].**

Philip knew from the Old Testament that Moses had seen the glory of God and that Isaiah had a vision of the glory of God. I don't think that we should interpret Jesus' answer as a rebuke. He tells Philip that He has performed many miracles. Although Philip had not seen the glory of God as Moses or Isaiah did, he had seen Jesus and had witnessed His words and His works. Everything that Philip wished to see, he had seen in Jesus Christ. He had seen God. In Christ there is a much greater revelation of God than anything in the Old Testament. Philip had the greatest revelation of God because he had seen Him incarnate in flesh and been with Him—in His presence—for three years! Remember that the writer to the Hebrews says that Jesus is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person (see Heb. 1:3). "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" does not mean you are seeing the identical Person, but you are seeing the same Person in power, in character, in love, and in everything else. You have seen all you would see in God the Father because "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18). It is Jesus Christ whom we see. We are going to spend all eternity with Him. For those of us who love Him, the goal of our lives is to come to know Him.

**Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works [John 14:10].**

Jesus here points to the testimony of His words and of His works. They are the same. One equals the other. He was perfectly consistent. You see, our problem is to get our words and our works synchronized. We make tremendous statements and give glorious testimonies, but none of us lives a perfect life. This is the reason every Christian should have a time of confession. As we saw in chapter 13, Jesus says that He must wash us so that we may have fellowship with Him. Too many Christians lose their fellowship with God because they think

they are all right, but their words and their works are not consistent. This needs to be confessed.

**H**ave you ever noticed that the Lord Jesus never appealed to His own mind and His own will to make a decision? “The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” When He spoke, it was the will of the Father. All His works were the will of the Father. So He tells Philip that when he heard the words of Jesus, he was hearing the words of the Father and, when he saw the works of Jesus, he was seeing the Father working through Jesus.

You will notice that Jesus has interruptions during His discourse. First it was Peter, then Thomas, and now Philip. But Jesus continues on in His discourse until verse 22 when He is again interrupted.

**Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake [John 14:11].**

Jesus says that if you can’t believe Him because of His words, then believe Him because of His works. They should convince you.

**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father [John 14:12].**

To understand this verse, I should call attention to the fact that the second word *works* is in italics which means that it is not in the better manuscripts but is put in by the translators to fill out the thought. To be accurate, it should read: “the works that I do shall he do also; and greater than these shall he do.” When our Lord was down here on this earth, He performed tremendous works and miracles. These apostles to whom He spoke did the same things. They healed the sick and raised the dead. Yet Jesus says that those who believe on Him will do greater. What is the greater thing which they shall do?

Simon Peter, who had denied Him on the night He was arrested, preached a sermon on the Day of Pentecost and 3000 people became believers! I think of the men over the years who have invested their lives in winning men to Christ. I think of missionaries, such as George L.

Mackey who went to Uganda. What a missionary he was! Preaching a crucified, risen, glorified, returning Savior so that a hearer may accept Christ and be born again is a greater miracle than healing the sick. Am I right? Which is better: to heal the soul or to heal the body? When Jesus Christ was on earth, He performed the miracle of raising the physical bodies of men, but we have the privilege of preaching Jesus Christ so that men, body and soul, may live eternally. The supreme accomplishment is to bring men and women into a right relationship with God.

How are these greater works done? “Because I go unto my Father.” You see, it is *Christ* who is still working, but today He is working through human instrumentality. He works through frail human clay, human flesh. I am amazed that I can give a Bible message over the radio and there are people who turn to Christ. Friend, that is greater. If Jesus Christ were here speaking to people, it would be a great work. When Jesus Christ takes you and me and works through us to reach people, that is greater.

Have you noticed how often Jesus speaks of His Father? The Father is mentioned twenty times in this passage, and it is always the Lord Jesus who mentions Him.

**And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

**If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it [John 14:13–14].**

He continues right on to say that these greater things are the result of prayer. Prayer evangelism is so neglected today. “Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do.” These verses have been so misunderstood. A great many people have picked this up like a dog picks up a bone and runs with it. They say they prayed and God just didn’t answer their prayer. I’ve had Christian people tell me that they took that verse at face value. They prayed and God didn’t answer their prayer. They ask me what is wrong. I tell them that they are reading something into the verse that is not there at all. They need to keep on reading. This is all tied into one package.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> J. Vernon McGee, [\*Thru the Bible Commentary: The Gospels \(John 11-21\)\*](#), electronic ed., vol. 39 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 80–83.