

# The Promises of God: Home

John 14:1-7

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I am probably one of the biggest do it my own way person you will ever meet. You can give me suggestions for doing things a better way, and I will choose to do it my way. I am my own worst enemy. I'm good at making excuses for procrastinating. I can goof around doing something that looks important, but may not be the intended goal. I've said in the past that I don't have any regrets about my life and convinced myself that's true.

I don't say things to brag, but to be honest about my sin. Every time I do my own thing I'm sinning against Jesus. With each excuse I'm pushing Jesus away. Every lie I tell myself I'm rejecting the truth of Jesus.

My life is blessed because of the love of Jesus. It is by His grace that I have been saved. How about you?

***John 14:1–7 (NLT) “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.” “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”***

**Jesus is obviously talking about the Father's home in heaven.** Jesus is with his disciples. It's just Him and eleven men, no crowds, no distractions. They have been together for three years. He has been departing wisdom and knowledge to them. He has opened their eyes to He is and what is doing. He has made scripture come alive.

They have seen one miracle after another. People born blind have been healed. Demons have been cast out. Leprosy has been removed. The deaf have been made to hear. The wind, rain, and sea obey His commands. The dead are brought back to life.

He has spoken of God as his Father on many occasions. Jesus has revealed His Father's plans. He has revealed the character and the nature of God to them. He has made it clear that He and the Father are one. He has taught them how to pray. What Jesus is saying to them is not cryptic or secretive. He is talking in plain and simple language. We know what Jesus is revealing since we have read about His life.

Palm Sunday with all of it's excitement has passed. The crowds shouting adulations and praises are not around. The songs and words of thanksgiving have been shared. He has confronted the rulers, told stories of His coming, and made clear what lies ahead. Jesus has eaten His last meal with them and He told them so. He has washed their feet and shared what they must do. Now He speaks with them about the future. He provides them with an expectation of the future in His Father's home.

The Father's home in heaven is for them. It is a home with many rooms. There are rooms for each person. Jesus is making these rooms for every disciple. One day, at the right time, Jesus will return and take each person home.

My sister shared a dream she had about year after her husband died. Sometimes dreams mean nothing, and sometimes they are filled with meaning. In her dream she was with her husband touring a grand home. He was walking her from one room to the next. As they would enter a room he would say to her all this was prepared just for me. He would marvel that all this was given to him. She marveled where he was.

It is amazing to me hearing her story of heaven and realize there people who don't want to be in heaven. It's not merely because of the grand home where we will live, but because we are with Jesus once again. The home of our Father in heaven is magnificent. The experience of seeing Him face to face and knowing Him fully is beyond words. The wonder of hearing His voice brings peace and joy. The sound of the angels singing and the saints joining in is captivating. This is heaven. This is the home being prepared for you by Jesus.

***John 14:5 (NLT) "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"***

**To want your way, truth, and life is to reject Jesus as your Savior and Lord.** We accuse Thomas of being thick-skulled, easily deceived, and doubting. He either just woke up and didn't hear Jesus or he is still stuck with His own way, truth, and life. He's like everyone else since the beginning. Throughout all of history this is how people think and act. There has not been a generation that looks at their daily existence in a different way. We want our own way, we speak our own truth, so we can live life as we want. It is the reason Jesus came to save us.

With the first two people God had provided everything, showed them the way, spoke the truth, and gave them life. But they wanted it their own way, their own truth and their own life. Let's examine this a little deeper. Adam and Eve wanted what they saw with their eyes. It was the fruit on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Their way of living was not good enough, they needed to live their way by taking what their eyes could see.

So, we want what we can see. How many times have you seen the newest gadget and thought I want that? The new things we see seem so much better than the old things and the old way. We are like kids in the candy store with big eyes and small bellies and smaller budgets. This is our way as people, what we see is what we want.

Adam and Eve believed the lie. God said they would die, but they heard that wasn't true and so they created their own truth. The truth is they would have lived forever, creating a family, and remaining in the garden.

Therefore, we believe the lie and we create our own truth. I've done this my whole life, day after day. My truth, if one cookie tastes great than a dozen cookies will taste twelve times better. My truth, if I stay in the recliner I can clean the bathroom tomorrow. My truth, there is always going to be a tomorrow. Think about all the lies we tell ourselves, to get what we want.

Adam and Eve wanted to live a different life knowing good from evil. All they had ever known was good. All they had ever know was the goodness of God. But now their eyes saw something they wanted, they made up their own truth about dying, and they chose a different life.

As a result we all want a different life. We know evil and we seek it, some people crave it's worst forms. Some of us look for it in the most subtle forms. We may not be axe murderers or pension stealers, but we fall someplace in between. We seek the life where Jesus isn't at the center. We choose the life where we are free of Jesus. We make our life about us and push Jesus away. Ultimately, no matter what life we choose we're rejecting Jesus. Life is either lived His way, according to His truth or we are rejecting Him.

Life on earth may look like multiply choices, there is so much grey area. Anything that is in the grey area is not the life of Jesus. You can think you are a good person or you can see yourself in some other light. If your life isn't in the light of Jesus than you have rejected Jesus. When the time comes, and it will come, it's either your way or Jesus.

***John 14:2-4 (NLT) There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going."***

**Whatever your expectations of heaven, Jesus will show you something greater.** Living your life according to the truth that Jesus loves you, died and rose from the dead to take away your sin leads to heaven. This is the way into the Father's home in heaven.

It leads to this question, why do I want to be in the Father's home in heaven? Just like we have wrong ideas about life on earth we also have wrong ideas about heaven. Heaven won't just be beautiful sunsets and sunrises. God is the light of heaven and He doesn't set.

Heaven won't be sitting around listening to a boring person talk. We will know God fully and completely without lectures or instructions. Heaven won't be playing games all the time that you've enjoyed in this life. We will find pleasure and rest in activities like we have never experienced before.

Heaven won't be standing around singing as our only activity. There will be times like Palm Sunday, we will be enthusiastically praising Jesus. The home of the Father in heaven will be new. Jesus has promised us a new heaven and a new earth. You've probably heard that it will be perfect. Don't think about perfectly designed to meet our selfish wants. The Father's home will be perfectly designed to meet our needs.

His home will be without conflict. There will be no conflicts between you and the Father. Right now we get into conflicts with the Father. We see the conflicts through our questions: Why God are bad things happening to good people? Why God do children need to suffer? Why God are you punishing me? Why God do you let evil people prosper?

So, in the Father's home the conflict of bad things won't happen because bad things don't exist in heaven. In the Father's heavenly home there is no suffering for children and adults. Pain does not exist. Heaven has no place for punishment. God's will is always done in heaven. We will enjoy doing God's will. We will look forward for an eternity to doing God's will. We have no doubts or confusion about God's will.

In our Father's home in heaven there are no evil people. Whatever we might call prosperity on earth that evil people enjoyed ended when those who are evil went to hell. They will be in hell for as long as you are in heaven: forever. In heaven where we will live in our Father's home we will be busy, fulfilled, satisfied. There is no crying, complaining, whining in heaven. What you have been created to do the best, you will enjoy doing just as you enjoy living and breathing. Just like it was in the Garden of Eden, I believe it will be in heaven, that we will all engage in caring for all that God has made.

No matter what you may think from your earthly perspective that is clouded by the power of sin, you will want to be in heaven. You will want to be in the Father's home. You will need to be in the presence of God for all of eternity.

***John 14:6 (NLT) Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.***

**Surrender your way, truth, life and choose Jesus' home in heaven.** So far your way, truth and life have at best brought only partial happiness, and at worst despair and desperation. Even your happiest moments are fleeting. Your wedding day and honeymoon don't last. The wonder of a new born child doesn't last. The thrill of winning the national championship doesn't last. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches don't last. Everything on this earth is temporary, including happiness. All the effort and resources you put into being happy, doesn't last. So, you go seeking happiness in something else until you realize it's futile and then you lower your expectations of being happy.

Maybe your way, truth, and life has been beyond your control. Maybe you're a victim of your circumstances. Nothing good ever happens to you or for you. Every step in life has been hard and you don't know anything other than bitterness. Your bitterness has made you grumpy, discouraged, defeated. No matter what way you go life is a disaster. No matter what truth you create it falls apart. No matter how you try to live your life you are empty. If happiness and pleasure were your goals, life turned into a living hell of chasing one empty promise after another. If your life was already a living hell, it now seems like all that happens is another step on the downward staircase deeper into hell. You've blamed God, ignored God, and rejected God. You don't care about God, you only care about yourself.

There is hope for you still. There is a direction that isn't going further and further down. There is an opportunity for you. Jesus is your opportunity. He is life no matter your circumstances. He is the truth regardless of the lies and deceptions you have believed. He is the way to an abundant life now and forever in heaven.

More than escaping hell, choose to be with Jesus. He chose to be with you. He is choosing now to be with you. He is calling your name. He is waiting for you to call His name. The Jesus who gave up His throne in heaven became a baby like you and me. He lived a life of hardship, pain, and suffering. He was welcomed in triumph and glory as king. He was rejected, betrayed, denied, beaten, spit upon, falsely accused. He was nailed to a cross, died as your act of rejection. He rose from dead and is seated in heaven again where he calls out your name.

Now, today you can reject him or you can choose Jesus. You can choose Jesus to avoid hell. You can choose Jesus to be in heaven. You can choose Jesus to give you an abundant life right now.