

Be Courageous

Courage is not the absence of fear, it is the presence of faith

John 14:11-15

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A. Trust Alone (Vs. 11):

1. Believe Me – Christ commands us to have complete confidence in all He has taught and all the works He has done.
2. Believe Me – Christ commands us to have an unreserved commitment to His promises. This is because we are absolutely committed to have a deep commitment to trusting His Words and His works.
3. I am in the Father – Christ has always existed; nothing about His nature is temporary or dependent. He is self-existent and independent, while all things depend on Him (see Col. 1:15-18). This reflects the very nature of the Father – the Author and Originator of everything – in whose presence Christ lives.
 - a) The first of seven self-descriptions of Jesus introduced by “I am” are found in John (8:12; 9:5; 10:7,9; 10:11,14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5).
4. The Father in Me – God is our Father because He is the author of our faith, the originator of everything. Christ’s very nature is in unity with the Father’s presence, affirming their deep connection.
5. Believe on account of the works – Jesus commands us to be deeply convinced that what He accomplished was entirely done by the power within Him, which is the same power that is in the Father. If we struggle to believe in Christ, we should remember that His works vividly portrayed the same power demonstrated by the Father. This evidence should lead us to trust Him fully.
 - a) Here “works” (KJV, NASB, NRSV) could refer to righteous deeds, as often in Judaism (e.g., 8:39), or to miraculous works such as Jesus wrought (5:17; 10:32), or to both.¹
6. Believe on account of the works – Everything Christ did was good. Everything Christ did benefitted the lives of all those whom He served and powerfully magnified God’s purposes. His works were always supernatural and were done in His own power, according to His own decisions. This alone should cause everyone to develop a deep conviction that ‘He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.’

¹ Keener, C. S. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament* (Jn 14:12–14). InterVarsity Press.

- a) The major part of this Gospel is taken up with the narration of the signs performed by him and expositions of their meaning. They who penetrate the significance of Jesus turning water into wine, of his healing miracles, of the feeding of the multitude in the wilderness and the walking on the water, and of the raising of Lazarus, will perceive in Jesus the saving sovereignty of *God* in action and his utterances as “words of eternal life” (6:68). In the words and works of Jesus the eschatological purpose of God is both declared and fulfilled.²
7. Truly, truly – “So be it” or “it shall be so” – Christ is persistently communicating, fervently seeking to convey that what He verbalizes is the truth.
- a) The double “*verily*” assures us that this is a solemn announcement. The fact that Jesus did return to the Father is an encouragement, for there He is interceding for us. He will have more to say about this intercessory work later in His discourse.³
8. Believe in Me – No matter what we experience in this life, especially when we do not feel the presence of Christ (Thomas wanting to know where Christ is going; verse 5 – He was seeking to comfort the disciples’ hearts; verse 1-5), we must remain deeply convinced that Jesus is the Christ. This continuous commitment can inspire us to remain in His Word so that the transformation of the Holy Spirit empowers us to experience the love of God (John 15:7-10). This ensures we make great decisions that lead to a productive life.
9. The works that I do (practice) – The works of Christ are acts of faith because what God told Christ to do was completely obeyed.
- a) Jesus’ earthly ministry was limited in time and space. He served the Father for three and one-half years and never outside the boundaries of Palestine. The disciples, on the other hand, as Acts clearly attests, carried out ministry that was greater geographically, in terms of numbers of people reached and long-lasting effect.⁴
- b) The “greater works [things]” would apply initially to the Apostles who were given the power to perform special miracles as the credentials of their office (Rom. 15:18–19; Heb. 2:3–4). These miracles were not greater in *quality*, for “the servant is not greater than his lord” (John 13:16), but rather in scope and quantity. Peter preached one sermon and 3,000 sinners were converted in one day! The fact that ordinary people performed these signs made them even more wonderful and brought great glory to God (Acts 5:13–16).⁵
- c) Of course, it is not the believer *himself* who does these “greater things”; it is God working in and through the believer: “The Lord working with them” (Mark 16:20).

² Beasley-Murray, G. R. (1999). *John* (Vol. 36, p. 254). Word, Incorporated.

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 351). Victor Books.

⁴ Gangel, K. O. (2000). *John* (Vol. 4, pp. 266–267). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

⁵ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 351). Victor Books.

“For it is God which worketh in you” (Phil. 2:13). Faith and works must always go together, for it is faith that releases the power of God in our lives.⁶

10. He will do – Christ’s physical absence from us does not mean that God would not provide the same powerful actions we see Christ repeatedly practice.
11. He will do – Because God’s works continue repeatedly, the disciples and all believers will go into all the world, not just in the places Christ served, but our commitment to serve the Lord by faith will go beyond what Christ accomplished.
12. Because I go to the Father - Christ is confident that no matter how horrible the crucifixion is going to be, His burial, in as thick a tome as man may construct, He is going to be with the One who gave birth to the entire salvation process; His Father. Christ was preparing His disciples for His death. His crucifixion and subsequent burial left them despondent, disillusioned, and fearful. His presence made them strong. Christ needed His physical absence to prevent them from doing greater things.
13. Because I go to the Father - We are not going to always have a sense that the Lord is in us or around us (Psalm 13:1-2; 22:1-2; 28:1). When that takes place, it must not lead us to stop working while it is day.
14. Father – Christ repeatedly says Father. He intends to communicate that we are never Fatherless. Our Father is the One who began the entire salvation process and will continue to serve us as lovingly as Christ did (John 15:9). There is no loss when Christ physically departs the earth. Because the Father began the good work and will finish it (Phil. 1:6; Hebrews 12:1-3).

B. Remain Anchored (vs. 13-14):

1. Whatever you ask – Because we are in Christ and Christ is in God (Col. 3:1-4) and God is as much His Father as He is our Father we can come before God not as baggers but with boldness (Luke 11:5-13; Eph. 3:12; Hebr. 4:16). We are no longer inferior in His presence; Christ now raises us to His status as our mediator (Eph. 2:6; Hebr. 8:1-2).
 - a) The ground of prayer. This involves at least two things: praying in the authority Christ gives (cf. Mt 28:19; Acts 3:6) and praying in union with him, so that one does not pray outside His will. That will I do. The certainty of prayer. That the Father may be glorified in the Son. The purpose of prayer. If ye shall ask. The if is on the side of the one who prays, not on the side of Christ.⁷

⁶ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 351). Victor Books.

⁷ Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F., eds. (1962). *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament* (Jn 14:13). Moody Press.

2. In My name – When we pray, we must respect God’s power, His reputation, and His authority.
 - a) At the sound of His name demons’ shudder (James 2:19).
 - b) *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”* (Phil. 2:10)
 - c) *“Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”* (Luke 10:17)
 - d) To know God’s name means to know His nature, what He is, and what He wants to do. God answers prayer in order to honor His name; therefore, prayer must be in His will (1 John 5:14–15). The first request in “The Lord’s Prayer” is, “Hallowed be Thy name” (Matt. 6:9). Any request that does not glorify God’s name should not be asked in His name.⁸
 - e) Not simply prayer that mentions Jesus’ name but, prayer in accordance with all that the person who bears the name is (2:23). It is prayer aimed at carrying forward the work Jesus did; prayer that He Himself will answer (vs. 14).

3. He will do – God will independently, with no need for power to come from any source, produce results for us as our Father.
4. Father may be glorified – When we pray in His name, and Gods acts in His majestic power, all that He is becomes manifest, displaying His perfect and excellent nature. Though Christ may not be physically present among us, the Father’s response to our prayers magnifies that Christ still lives, the Father still loves, and we are continually provided for.
5. If you ask anything in My Name – If, despite the way we feel, because of Christ’s physical absence, we still persist in asking our loving Father for anything we need and respect His Word by acting on it (1 John 3:19-24), He listens.
 - a) To ask anything of the Father, in the name of Jesus, means that we ask what Jesus would ask, what would please Him, and what would bring Him glory by furthering His work. When a friend says to you, “You may use my name!” he is handing you a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility.⁹
 - b) We have the promise of answered prayer described in these verses if we properly understand the context of Jesus’ last discourse. Jesus promised the disciples that their requests concerning fruit bearing would be answered because it would bring glory to God (see 4:41; 7:18; 8:50, 54). The next chapters clarify this (15:7–8, 16; 16:23–24).¹⁰

6. He will do – We can be completely assured that when we pray, based on God’s nature and His Word, our prayers will be answered.

⁸ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 352). Victor Books.

⁹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 1, pp. 351–352). Victor Books.

¹⁰ Barton, B., Comfort, P., Osborne, G., Taylor, L. K., & Veerman, D. (2001). [*Life Application New Testament Commentary*](#) (p. 436). Tyndale.

- a) *“In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete”* (John 16:23–24). Gangel, K. O. (2000). John (Vol. 4, p. 267). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
7. He will do – Victory over all our obstacles or circumstances is knowing the Lord not only listens but is totally committed to answering our prayers.