



BAPTIST CHURCH

The Gospel of John

"Divine Words For Dark Days 7"

John 14:1-7

In times of despair: when we are grieving, confused, hurting, mistreated, scared and in despair— be encouraged by the words of Jesus in **John 14:1-7.**

In times of despair:

Don't let your heart be troubled
Believe in Jesus— He is God
Rejoice In Hope— Remember The Promises Of Jesus

In times of despair:

Know the Truth

Four observations about the truth in **John 14:4-7:**

Knowing the truth gives us Hope

Forgetting the truth brings Despair

Believing the truth gives us Clarity

Accepting the truth that Jesus is God gives us Confidence

Scripture

"Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

4 You know the way to where I am going."

5 “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” CSB

Quote of the day

“I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I wish to be. I am not what I one day will be. But, by the grace of God, I am not what I once was.” — John Newton

Four observations about the truth in **John 14:4-7**:

3. Believing the truth gives us Clarity v.4

You know the way to where I am going.”

A better and more clear interpretation of **John 14:4** could read— “You know where I am going and you know the way.”

John 14:4 refers to the fact that Jesus had taught His disciples where He was going and He also taught them the way to where He was going.

In **John 3:1-20** Jesus in His communication with Nicodemus— revealed where Jesus was going and gave clear insight on how to know the way to where Jesus was going.

In times of despair remember:

Jesus is going to prepare a place for us in heaven

In his despair Thomas did not remember— Jesus had taught the disciples where He was going and how they could know the way.

John 3:3 “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, **he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” CSB

The phrase translated “**the kingdom of God**” in this passage of Scripture refers to God’s kingdom that is present here and now among believers on the earth.

“**The kingdom of God**” also refers to the future where God will fulfill His promise to create a new heaven and a new earth where God dwells.

In times of despair remember:

Jesus taught us the way to where He is going

John 3:3 “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” CSB

John 3:4 “How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?” CSB

John 3:9-10 “How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.
10 “Are you a teacher of Israel and don’t know these things?”
Jesus replied. CSB

Matthew 5:17-18 “Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished.” CSB

Nicodemus was confused, he knew it was impossible to re-enter his mother’s womb—

Nicodemus understood that keeping the law and obeying the traditions made a person right with God— He did not understand “**you must be born again.**”

Jesus told Nicodemus you must be born again, you must be born from above.

Nicodemus Israel's teacher should have been familiar with **Isaiah 64:5-6**.

Isaiah 64:5-6 “. . . How then can we be saved? ⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.” CSB

Unless something is done to cleanse and forgive us of our sin we are lost and without hope!

The way to where Jesus is going is explained in **John 3:5-8**

“Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” CSB

If we are going to be where Jesus is “**We must be born again.**”

To be born again:

We must be Cleansed v.5

“. . . Unless someone is born of water—

This is not a reference to physical birth— regarding the mother's water breaking.

This is not a reference to water baptism— baptism follows salvation, baptism is not salvation.

This is a reference to the cleansing of sin by God in Ezekiel 36.

The people of God were sinful—

Ezekiel 36:17 “While the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman’s monthly uncleanness in my sight. ¹⁸ So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols.” CSB

Only God has the authority and the power to cleanse us of our sins!

Jesus told Nicodemus flesh gives birth to flesh or in other words sin can only give birth to sin— we cannot save ourselves!

We are born again, we are born from above, when God cleanses us from our sin.

Ezekiel 36:25 “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.” CSB

To be born again:

We must be drawn by the Holy Spirit vv.6-8

Unless someone is born of the Spirit— ⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

John 6:44 “No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.” CSB

Unless the Holy Spirit speaks to us, reveals our sin, convicts us of our sin, draws us to Him and we commit our life to Him— we cannot be born again.

Do not ignore or reject the call of the Holy Spirit—

Hebrews 3:15 “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts . . .” CSB

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 “Working together with him, we also appeal to you, “Don’t receive the grace of God in vain.” ² For he says: At an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!” CSB

To be born again:

We must be transformed

Those who have been cleansed by the Holy Spirit of God will be transformed—“**born again.**”

Ezekiel 36:25-27 “I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. **26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.**” CSB

Every person who is born again receives the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit in us leads to live a transformed life.

We are not “born again” because of our works. Our works are the proof we have been “born again.”

In other words— We don’t do good works to be “born again.” We do good works because we are “born again.”

James 2:15-20 “If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,” but you don’t give them what the body needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself. 18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder. 20 Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?” CSB

1 John 2:3-6 “This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commands. 4 The one who says, “I have come to know him,” and yet doesn’t keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: 6 The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.” CSB

What does a transformed life look like?

It looks like an old worn out bass guitar

Sting, the frontman, song writer and bass player for the rock band “The Police” in his autobiography *Broken Music*, tells how he bought his first bass guitar. In a local music shop, in the middle of all the shiny new guitars, he saw an old Fender bass.

I have had my eye on a second-hand Fender in the back of Barratt’s music store. ... It is a careworn relic of the sixties, the paintwork ruined and the varnish flaked and piebald. Among all the shiny others on the wall there is something orphaned, something life-scarred about this instrument that appeals to me. I have absolutely no desire for a new bass. I want something with a history, where every scratch and dent in the varnish has a tale to tell. What were their dreams and aspirations (of those who owned it)? Why was it sold, and what were the circumstances? ... I am convinced that I can pick up the trail where it was left. ... I will dream up a new and glorious future that the past has only hinted at. Sting bought that Fender bass guitar, transformed the worn out relic, put his touch on it and gave it a new and different future.

Citation: Sting, *Broken Music: A Memoir*, (Dial Press, 2005), pp. 121

In much the same way God wants to redeem our failures and imperfections. Only God, by His grace, His love for us and His power to redeem us— can transform us. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus— **God redeems and transforms us so we can play the music of God’s Kingdom to a broken and lost world that is watching and listening.**

The Apostle Paul communicated it this way:

Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” CSB