

I GO TO THE FATHER

By: Phillip Hayes

A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. [John 16:16]

At the very beginning of our Lord's ministry, John the Baptist told the people, *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."* [Mathew3:11]

Much has been preached about the Holy Ghost since the beginning of the Church on the day of Pentecost. Many opinionated people have tried to explain just What or Who the Holy Ghost is. Many teach that the Holy Ghost is the Second Person of the Godhead; second in command to God Himself. Many have taught that you receive the Holy Ghost when you accept Jesus as Lord. Some declare that you receive the Holy Ghost when you are baptized, and some say the Holy Ghost is not given any more. I know all of you have heard the various teachings concerning the Holy Ghost.

With the help of the Holy Ghost I would like for you to consider a great

mystery. I will not try to explain that which cannot be explained. However, I would like for you to consider some very important and enlightening scriptures where our Lord expounded a great truth. Please remember, you cannot, and I repeat cannot comprehend spiritual matters with the natural mind. The Word of God is spiritually inspired and must be spiritually understood. First of all, we understand that John the Baptist was very plain about just Who would be the One that would give the Holy Ghost; and that was our Lord Himself, (*he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire*). Jesus is the Baptizer of the Holy Ghost. There should be no doubt about this!

But, what of the Holy Ghost? What is it? Is it a person, and if so, Who is it? I do not believe the Lord has left us in the dark about this. As a matter of fact Jesus is very plain concerning this Spirit that would come after Him. But again I must warn you, you will not understand unless you have a spiritual mind. I believe that every one that has received the Holy Ghost has the ability within to comprehend spiritual things. But, we must allow the Spirit to teach us, not our carnal reasoning.

Your natural mind is equipped with the ability to reason, or sort out whatever you are told. Your mind is a wonderful organ in which modern scientists still know very little about. However, your natural mind cannot reason love! It cannot reason faith! Nor, can it reason spiritual matters. All these are foreign to the natural mind. Look around you. How can that beautiful woman be in love with such an ugly man? How can that handsome man be in love with that ugly woman? How can that very short person love that tall person? It goes on and on! Can you figure it out? Of course not! How about faith? No way you can explain it! How about sowing and reaping? Does it make any sense to your mind that if you give, and give, and give; that someday you will be rewarded? The natural mind says, “you don’t give to get, you buy and sell for a profit”! Can you explain how God created the heavens, the stars, moon and the earth? Personally, my natural mind is so small I still can’t figure out how a telephone works, let alone a television or computer! But some men do know! We all have different natural abilities. But I believe we all have the same spiritual ability to understand spiritual matters if we are God’s child!

I said all that to bring us to this. Our Lord took three whole chapters in the

gospel of John to explain the Holy Ghost! No doubt Jesus felt that this one burning question in the minds of His disciples deserved special attention and explanation.

In St. John chapter fourteen the Lord began His discourse by saying that He was going to be leaving His disciples. He was going to prepare a place for them, and He told them that He would come again and receive them unto him, that where He was, they would be there also. Let's read it together: *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."* [John 14:1-3] Now, please remember what I said about spiritual understanding! God is a Spirit! Jesus said it in John 4:24, *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* I realize some folks have a picture of God in their mind that is not at all accurate. Many think that God looks like a man. Some picture Him as an elderly man with a big long white beard. But, that is not what the Bible teaches God is. On the contrary. The Bible teaches that God is not a man! He is Spirit!

God is a Big God! He actually fills all things. *Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?* [Isaiah 66:1] All of heaven is God's Throne, and all of the earth is His footstool. The scripture is telling us that God is Bigger than our feeble minds can comprehend. You see, thousands of years ago and sadly even today, some men think they can build a house for God! God says, "I'M TOO BIG!"

Yes, God is Spirit, not flesh! He is omnipotent, and omnipresent. He is Eternal! That which is eternal has no beginning nor end! God is, and has always been. Can you comprehend this? He is forever and ever the Eternal One. God has declared the end from the beginning. How can He do it? Because He forever exists. God is not limited by time or space. He is in the beginning of time and at the end of time all at the same time! Remember, God has no beginning or end.

If God had a beginning, where did He come from? Was He born, or created? Can you see the problem with that kind of thinking? There is no other explanation

rather than God is and has always been, and will always be. Now God is Spirit!

If I go to Australia, will God be there? Of course He will. David said though I make my bed in hell, God will be there! If I ascend to the stars, God will be there! You cannot escape God, He fills all things both matter, time and space.

Now, Jesus said, *“In my Father’s house are many mansions.”* Now, where is God’s house? If heaven is His throne and the earth His footstool, where is His house?

And, can you imagine a mansion being inside a house, let alone many mansions being inside a house? Of course you can’t! But Jesus said, *“If it were not so, I would have told you.”* Now, let’s get into the Spirit. Jesus is saying, in the Spirit, there are many dwelling places. He was going to prepare the way for you and I to live in God.

He said, *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”* Wherever Jesus was going to go, He said we would be there also. Jesus told the disciples, *“And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”* (John 14:4) Thomas replied that they didn’t know where He was going or the way! Now, I know most of you believe that He was talking about going to heaven in the sweet by and by. However, you must realize that after He began this discourse, He began to talk about the coming of the Holy Ghost.

The disciples wanted to see God! Jesus had talked about the Father and they wanted to see Him. Jesus said, *“If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.”* [John 14:7] Oh how this must have confused the disciples. They didn’t know where Jesus was going, they didn’t know the way, and although Jesus said they had seen the Father; yet in their minds, they certainly had not seen the Father!

Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. [John 14:8] Philip said, “Show us!” From this point, our Lord began to reveal a great mystery to His disciples and also to us. From St. John chapter fourteen, verse nine all the way through chapters fourteen, fifteen, sixteen and seventeen our Lord revealed what had never been revealed to mankind. The revelation of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost!

Space will not allow me to take you through every verse in these chapters. I will point out but a few which I believe will be sufficient to show what Christ was

revealing to His disciples. When you have some quality quiet time, please read all of these chapters prayerfully asking God for the Truth that only the Spirit of God can reveal.

Philip said, “*Show us the Father!*”! “*That will satisfy us!*” Jesus was faithful in answering Philip. It took almost all of four chapters, but Jesus *did show* His disciples the Father! Jesus said, “*he that has seen me, has seen the Father!*” He said, “*I am in the Father, and the Father is in me!*” Jesus told them that He did not speak of himself, but the Father that dwelled IN HIM did the works.” Jesus wanted them to fully understand that He was the revelation of God to man! God the Father dwelt fully in His Son. Later the Apostles wrote that “*In Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*” *Colossians 2:9*

In verse sixteen we hear for the first time about a Comforter that was going to come. In verse seventeen, Jesus called this Comforter the Spirit of Truth, and then He said a strange thing . . . Let’s read it, along with verses eighteen, nineteen and twenty: *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;* [Verse 16] Now, this Comforter would be with them forever. *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.* [Verse 17] The Comforter is a Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. Jesus said they knew this Comforter because He dwelt with them and would be IN them! Remember back in verse seven, Jesus told the disciples that they knew the Father, and had already seen the Father, but they didn’t understand it. Who was Jesus talking about? Was He speaking of the Father or of Himself? Jesus certainly dwelt with them and they certainly knew Him. *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.* [Verse 18] I will not leave you comfortless!? I will come to you!? How plain can speech be? Jesus uses the personal pronoun “I”. *I will come to you!* Jesus is being so very plain here. He told them that He would be the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth that was going to come! Remember when Jesus first began His ministry, John the Baptist cried that there was one coming that would baptize them with the Holy Ghost and with fire! He was talking about Jesus! *Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.* [Verse 19] Again He is very bold and uses

great plainness of speech! Remember in verse seventeen, Jesus said the world could not receive the Spirit of Truth, because it seeth him not! *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.* [Verse 20] At that day? What day was Jesus talking about? The disciples asked, “How wilt thou manifest unto us and not unto the world? This was a fair question because the disciples could not yet understand that Jesus, was going to the Father!

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. [John 14:26] The Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, is the Holy Ghost! They are all one in the same. Different titles, or descriptions, but the same Spirit! The Bible tells us that we are all baptized into one body by One Spirit. Glory to God! One Lord, one faith, one baptism! When you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost you are being baptized by Jesus Christ with His Spirit into His body: the church of the Living God! Remember, Jesus said He was the Comforter! But a flesh, bone and blood human being cannot come and be in you, but a Spirit can!

Look at verse twenty eight, *“Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.”* “I go to the Father because my Father is greater than I!” The Spirit is greater than the flesh. Jesus said “I GO TO THE SPIRIT!” This is how He was going to come again to comfort, teach, and guide them. In the Spirit!

In chapter fifteen the Lord continues to talk about the Spirit. He begins by revealing that He was like a vine, and we would be the branches of this vine, and we would become the bearers of fruit. In other words, we would become a part of Him. The Apostles later wrote *“He that is joined unto the Lord has become one spirit with the Lord.”* Chapter fifteen ends with our Lord saying, *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.”* [John 15:26] Jesus will send the Comforter from the Father. This Spirit of Truth will testify (witness) Jesus! When preachers begin glorifying the Holy Ghost and not Christ you can rest assured that

they are not speaking by the Spirit of Truth! The Holy Ghost which brings forth the anointing will preach Jesus!

As we look into chapter sixteen, we find our Lord continuing to speak about the coming of the Holy Ghost. *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”* [John 16:7] The Holy Ghost could not come until Jesus went to the Father! Why? Because Jesus would have to go to the Spirit in order to return as the Comforter.

Jesus continues to explain this great mystery . . . *A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith.* [John 16:16-18] Jesus was going away! But He was coming again! Let me say here that Jesus was not talking about His death, resurrection and second coming. Yes, He was going to die, and yes, He was going to be resurrected. This had to happen, but Jesus was talking about the Holy Ghost that would come *after* He ascended to the Father! He was going away, but He was coming again as the Comforter, the Holy Ghost. Oh my friends, Christ IN YOU is the hope of Glory! Thank God! Can you sing with me? “He lives, He lives, He lives in me, Jesus Christ, He lives in me!”

Jesus told the disciples that there was coming a day when He would plainly show them the Father. *“At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.”* [John 16:26-30] He came from the Spirit! The Holy Ghost overshadowed Mary! The Spirit of God was His Father! He came from the Spirit and He was going back to the Spirit! I hope you

can see this! Jesus was the Son of God, not of man! Yes, He was a flesh, blood and bone man. But He came from the Spirit and to the Spirit He would return that He might fill all things!

“I go to the Father!” “I go to Spirit!” As a physical man He was limited! But as the Spirit, there would be no limitations. Jesus knew that when He went to the Father, He would be able to make the disciples and us one with Him and the Father. For years I have taught that perfect oneness was God in Christ and Christ in you! One Lord one faith, one baptism, one church, one body of Christ.

Our Lord ends His great message with a prayer. It is a wonderful prayer! It begins in verse one of chapter seventeen. I want you to pay special attention to the last part of His prayer: *“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”* [John 17:20-23]

Perfect Oneness! One with Christ; Who is One with God! Oh friends, if we could only receive this glorious truth! No Godhead mumbo jumbo! The Truth Christ wants us to receive is this. He has made us one with God! We have become part of the living God. Flesh of His flesh! Bone of His bone! One Spirit with Him! We are one with God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ! Can you see what our Lord has done for us? He not only saved us, He has made us kings and priests to God! *“Now are we the sons of God!”* And none of this could have happened until He went to the Father!

In closing let's look at what the Apostles wrote about what Christ did when He went to the Father . . . Look at Peter's great message on the day of Pentecost . . . *Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing*

*this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, **he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.** For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. [ACT 2:36-38]* Notice how Peter was very plain, saying what they had received; came *from* Jesus Christ (**bold type**)!

One more scripture and we will close. The Apostle Paul said in one place that the mystery that had been hidden for ages was, Christ in you, the hope of glory! Paul is also very bold as he conveys his understanding of the mystery of Christ in his letter to the Ephesians. *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)”* [Ephesians 4:4-10] Who has descended that also ascended? None other than Jesus, our Lord! And look how the Apostle Paul says it, *“That He (Jesus) might fill all things.”*

Yes, Jesus went to the Father (Spirit) that He might return as Spirit in order to fill all things. Where is Jesus? In the bosom of the Father! Where is the Father? Everywhere, but manifested in the church in the way He was manifested in the flesh of Jesus. Where is heaven? All around you, although in another dimension! We have been made to sit down in heavenly (spiritual) places in Christ Jesus!

Friends, I hope you can get a glimpse of this great mystery of Christ in you. The blending together of Christ, the Father, and the Holy Spirit is indeed a great mystery, but it should be obvious to the spiritual mind that there is only One Spirit in

which we all have our habitation being joined together by that selfsame Spirit. One day, we shall all “*Go to the Father*”. Until that day, we should strive to emulate our Lord Jesus in every way that we might bring forth much fruit.

**We Are
Flesh of His Flesh
Bone of His Bone
Spirit of His Spirit**