

The Promises of God

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

(John 14:6)

<https://tinyurl.com/GodOfPromises>

<https://tinyurl.com/promiseknowledge>

Introduction

The Setting of John 14

He is giving comfort and clarity.

“Do not let your hearts be distressed. You believe in God; believe also in me.” (John 14:1)

Thomas asks a real question.

“Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?” (John 14:5)

Jesus answers with a claim no prophet ever made.

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

This is covenant language.

This is relational language.

This is fulfillment language.

Introduction: The Setting of John 14

- John 14 happens the night before the cross.
- Jesus is speaking to troubled disciples.
- He is not giving a slogan. He is fulfilling covenant prophecy.

The New Covenant Background

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:1-13

Jesus is not speaking in a vacuum. He is fulfilling a promise.

“Indeed, a time is coming... when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.” (Jeremiah 31:31)

This covenant is different.

“I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts.”
(31:33)

And the goal is clear.

“They will all know me, from the least to the greatest.”
(31:34)

Knowing God is the center of the New Covenant.

Not ritual. Not location. Not lineage.

Knowing as in Relationship.

Jesus claims to be the means of this knowing. “***I am...***”

The New Covenant Background (Jeremiah 31)

He is fulfilling a promise.

Hebrews 8

Romans 8

“I Am the Way”

The Way to God, not a Method, nor Process, nor Philosophy

Jesus does not say, “I show the way.”

He says, “**I am the way.**”

In Scripture, “the way” means access.

“A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it...” (Isaiah 35:8)

Under the old covenant, access to God was limited.

Only priests. Only sacrifices. Only once a year.

Jesus changes this...

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the fresh and living way he opened for us through the curtain.”

(Hebrews 10:19-20)

Jesus is the opened way.

Not steps. Not laws. A person.

“The one who says he resides in God ought himself to walk just as Jesus walked.” (1 John 2:6)

“I Am the Way”

In Scripture, “the way” means access.

- “Teach me your way, O LORD.” (Psalm 27:11)
- A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it *shall be* for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.
(Isa 35:8)
- Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. (5) Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. (Psa 25:4-5)
- Other Metaphors:
 - The Door, The Gate, The Light

The Way of Relationship

- Early Christians called the faith “*the Way*.”
 - “*I persecuted this Way to the death.*” (Acts 22:4)
- Why?
- Because following Jesus meant walking with Him.
 - “*The one who says he resides in God ought himself to walk just as Jesus walked.*” (1 John 2:6)
 - This is covenant walking.
 - Life shared with God.

“I Am the Truth”

Truth as Revelation; Truth that Sets Mankind Free

Truth as Revelation, Not Simply Information

- In Scripture, truth is not just facts.
 - Truth reveals God's character.
 - **“You are my God, my faithful God.” (Psalm 31:14)**
- Jesus does not simply teach truth.
 - He embodies it. Truth has a face; and a voice.
 - **“The Word became flesh and took up residence among us... full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)**

Truth That Sets Free

- Jesus connects truth with freedom. Covenant freedom.
 - **“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (8:32)**
 - Freedom from sin. Freedom from false images of God.
 - **“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17)**
- Early Christian teaching was clear.
 - Truth is not an idea system. Truth is loyalty to Jesus as Lord.
 - **“Jesus is Lord.” (Romans 10:9)** That confession defines truth.

“I Am the Truth”

- **John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world,that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."**

“I Am the Life”

The Life that Overcomes

Life as from God’s Own Life

- In Scripture, life comes from God alone.
 - “**For with you is the fountain of life.” (Psalm 36:9)**
- Jesus claims that life is found *in Him*.
 - “**Just as the Father has life in Himself, thus He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.” (John 5:26)**
 - This is shared life... as those “born of the Spirit”.

Life That Overcomes Death

- Jesus is not only alive. He gives life.
 - “**I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25)**
- This life starts now.
 - “**The one who has the Son has life.” (1 John 5:12)**
- Early Christian writers emphasized this.
 - Salvation was a covenant relationship. Not just forgiveness.
 - “**Just as Christ was raised from the dead... so we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)**

“I Am the Life”

Hab 2:4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith.**

Romans – who are the Just?

Galatians – how do the Just live?

Hebrews – what is the Faith of the Just?

The Way, Truth, Life

Together and Fulfilled

How the Three Belong Together

- The way leads to truth.
- Truth results in life.
- Remove one and the others collapse.
 - A way without truth becomes confusion.
 - Truth without life becomes dead doctrine.
 - Life without the way becomes self-made spirituality.
- Jesus is all three. At the same time. In one person.

New Covenant Fulfillment in Christ

- Jesus fulfills Jeremiah 31 fully.
 - The **Way**: access to God.
 - The **Truth**: God revealed.
 - The **Life**: God shared.
- ***"This is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent."*** (John 17:3)
- This is *Relational Knowledge. Covenant Knowledge. Shared Life.*

How the Three Belong Together

Application

Through Him, We Know God

Application for the Church

- Christianity is not a path we master.
 - It is a person we follow.
- Truth is not winning arguments.
 - It is staying loyal to Jesus.
- Life is not without purpose.
 - The **Just** shall **Live** by **Faith**.
- “**I have come so that they may have life and may have it abundantly.**” (John 10:10)

Closing Call

- Jesus invites us to **know** Him.
 - “**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**” (Matthew 11:28)
- He is the **Way**. He is the **Truth**. He is the **Life**.
- “**For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes...**” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Application for the Church

Every covenant — Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, and New — finds its “Yes” in Christ.

- “**For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.**” (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- God’s invitation is simple: **believe, follow, and know Him through His Son.**