

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a gold medal. The medal is circular with a laurel wreath border and a central emblem. A red ribbon is attached to the top. The background is a bright, clear sky.

I Still Have Hope!
1Thessalonians 4:13

“Brothers and Sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

**We Have
These
Encouraging
Words From
the Apostle
Paul!**

“Let not your heart be troubled; you 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 to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

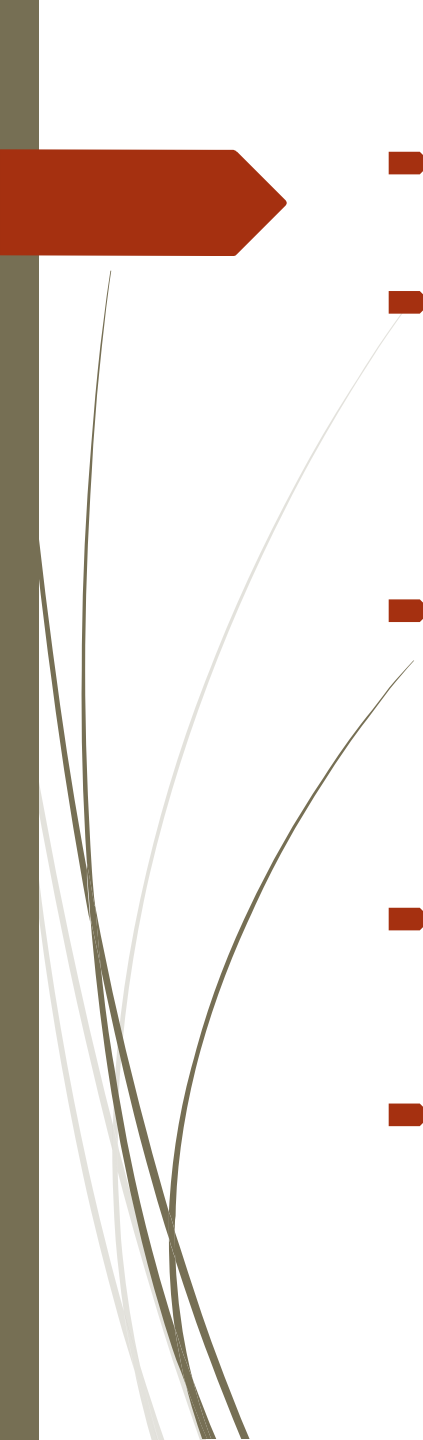
John 14:1-4

**We Have
These
Encouraging
Words From
Jesus!**



Observations

- ▶ Jesus' words in John 14 have been words that believers have had to wrestle with over the past several months.
- ▶ Approximately 500,000 deaths have accumulated due to COVID 19 thus far; and many more who have been infected still live, but struggle every day with some of the medical consequences of the virus
- ▶ We ALL have a healthy concern about acquiring COVID 19, and its mutations
- ▶ The encouragement that we usually enjoy from visually seeing and embracing our brothers and sisters has been curtailed, as we try to diligently practice sanitary habits (Wash our hands, Wear our masks, Practice Social Distancing, Get Vaccinated)

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- **Social unrest continues to plague our country**
 - **Businesses that thrived in our neighborhoods have had to close due to an “economical collapse” secondary to the pandemic (U.S. is down 10 million jobs since before the Pandemic began)**
 - **Paychecks that have been counted on, are temporarily nonexistent, “until the store opens back up;” but the longer the pandemic continues, the less likely that is to occur**
 - **And in the middle of a Pandemic, Christians read scriptures like, “*Let not your heart be troubled*” (REALLY?)**
 - **Is Christianity a kind of “*Pollyanna Religion,*” where we just “paste on a smile,” and pretend that we are really alright inside, when we are not?**

Jesus
Came to
Grips
With
Trouble
In His
Own Life
While
Here On
Earth
and is
our
Example!

Jesus had hinted of His betrayal to His disciples in John 13:18-19

John 13:21; *After He had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."*

Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him John 13:26

- So, when you look at what Jesus says at the beginning of John 14 in light of his experiences in John 13, Jesus identifies with a troubled Heart Hebrews 4:15-16



#1 We Are Not Permanently Discouraged, Believing In a God Who Is In Control Of All Things!

“He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.”

Daniel 2:21

“Pestilence marches before Him; plague follows close behind! When He stops, the earth shakes. When He looks the Nations tremble.”

Habakkuk 3:5


Our God Is Still In Complete Control!

Help Your Children Prepare for a Different World Than Your Own!

- Remember what Mordecai told his niece Esther once she became queen of Persia, Esther 4:14

“Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.”

- Is it possible that, like Esther, God is using us to prepare our children and grandchildren to be ready to operate in a world not like our own? (working and learning from home is the rule in many places and not the temporary exception)
- Our children will not grow up in a world like ours used to be
- Teach your children in faith, to be “Religiously Ready” for the moment for which God has called them; 2 Timothy 3:15,16



#2 We are Not Permanently Discouraged Because We Believe in Jesus

- Notice Jesus' response to their troubled hearts
"Ye believe in God, believe also in me!"
- These disciples had been around Jesus for almost three years, and by this time, had seen Him do some amazing things (They had watched His Power, Timing, and Compassion)

They had seen Him heal a Hemophiliac with a touch of the Hem of His Clothes; Mark 5:27-30

They marveled at His timing, raising Lazarus from the grave after 4 days; John 11:39-44

They saw how He dealt with the woman at the well, who had been married 4 times and was now living with a man who was not her husband; John 4:16-18



***That Same Power,
Compassion, and Timing, is
a Part of a Child Of God's
Life With Jesus!***

***Just Think of the Times That You
Have Been Blessed with Those
Three Gifts!***

***And Now We are on This Side of
the Resurrection! Matthew
28:18-20***



#3 We Are Not Permanently Discouraged Because He Is Coming Back For His People

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

John 14:3

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it, with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Ephesians 5:25-27

How Then Will He Recognize His People?

As True Worshippers; John 4:23-24

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him

God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

- A true worshipper worships God with a passionate manifestation of their adoration for Him (man's spirit)
- A true worshipper worships God according to God's word; John 17:17 (God's word is truth)
- We must avoid “vain worship.” Matthew 15:7-8



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Matthew 10:32

Be Baptized

Acts 2:38

