

John 16:23-33 ESV

JESUS – THE WAY to the Father!

Sunday, May 1 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, May 2 at 7 PM

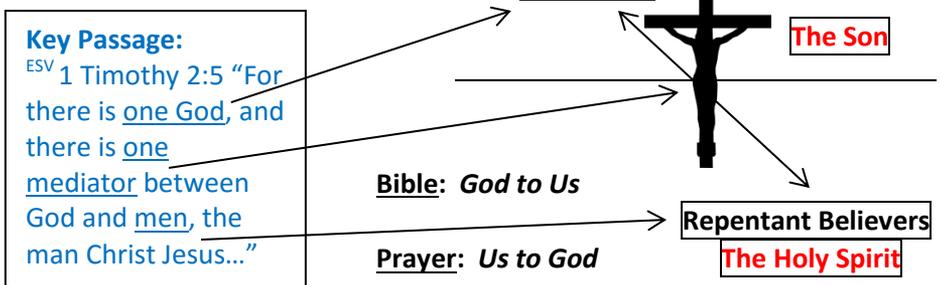
Sixth Sunday of Easter – 2016

THIS THURSDAY: Ascension Meal at 6; Ascension Service at 7

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: God has brought us into a wonderful relationship with Him; we are saved **by** grace **through** faith in Jesus **for** eternal life! So now, *in relationship with God, we daily communicate*; **He** speaks to us through His Word, while **we** respond to Him through prayer. These Biblical truths will help you understand the diagram below:

- + **The Father:** Everything He made was very good ([Genesis 1:31](#)).
- + **The People:** They sinned, which brought separation between them and God ([Isaiah 59:2](#)) (*indicated below with the horizontal line*).
- + **The Son:** He was sent by the Father to take away the sin of the world ([John 1:29](#)), thus to open the way to the Father ([John 14:6](#)).
- + **The Holy Spirit:** He is working through the Word of God to call everyone to ✦be sorry for his / her sins, ✦receive Jesus as Savior, ✦be restored with the Father, and ✦honor Jesus as Lord ([Luke 6:46](#)).
- + **Repentant Believers:** God invites us grow in our relationship with Him by *listening to Him* every day through the Bible ([Matthew 4:4](#)) and *talking to Him* every day through prayer; we do so *through the Son* ([1 Timothy 2:5](#)) *with the help of the Spirit* ([Romans 8:26](#)).

A Trinitarian Diagram of Prayer: **The Father**



1. **The Way Is Open to the Father:** Jesus spoke these words to His disciples very early on Good Friday; He said: ²³ **“In that day [the day I rise from the dead] you will ask nothing of me [as you have been doing]. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father [he will give it to you] in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing [of the Father] in my name. Ask [from Him], and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”**
- Jesus’ disciples had been asking various things of Him; however, *later that day—once Jesus took away the sin of the world*, they could then go directly to the Father.
 - We have those same blessings today; Jesus has removed the barrier of sin and opened the way to the Father for all repentant believers.¹
 - So **✦Jesus is our Savior, ✦God is our Father, and ✦the Holy Spirit is our Helper!** So when we pray, we pray **to** the Father, **through** the Son, **with the help of** the Holy Spirit!
 - Jesus said that the Father will give us whatever we ask in His name. What does that mean? For those who **✦know Jesus as Savior and ✦ask in agreement with the Father’s will**, God will certainly grant that request!
2. **The Father Loves Us Too:** ²⁵ **“I have said these things to you in figures of speech [thus, in a non-literal sense]. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day [when I tell you] you will ask in my**

¹ But the way is **not** open for those who continue without repentance: Psalm 34:15-17; 66:18; Proverbs 15:29; 28:9; John 9:31.

name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf [*because you will be able to go directly to the Father through me*];²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God."

- a. Can you see that Jesus is the key? Think about this sequence:
 - i. All have sinned.
 - ii. God removed all sins through Jesus.
 - iii. God the Holy Spirit, through the Bible:
 1. Made us aware of our need.
 2. Made us sorry for our sins.
 3. Showed us that Jesus is from God.
 4. Gave us faith to trust in Jesus.
- b. Did you notice the connections? *Through the Son we know God as our Father and, through the Son the Father knows us as His holy children!*²
We are very blessed!

3. **Jesus Ascended to the Father:**²⁸ "I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving [leave] the world and going [go] to the Father."²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech!" // The Son of God was with the Father *before creation*; then, *in time*, He put on flesh to win the victory over sin, death, and the devil. After Jesus was raised, and people saw Him alive, He went back to the Father. Finally, He will come again to take us home!

² From God's perspective, He is the Father of all; from our perspective, God is our Father only through Jesus!

4. **Do We Really Believe in Jesus?**

- a. ³⁰ **“Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; ~~this~~ [that] is why we believe that you came from God** *[Jesus had demonstrated that He knew everything, just as God knows everything].*” ³¹ **Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³² Behold, ~~the~~ [an] hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.”** // Jesus’ disciples believed and yet they fled for their lives when Jesus was arrested 😊. We also fall short, *so God keeps calling us to be sorry and receive His forgiveness!*
- b. ³³ **“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you ~~will~~ have tribulation *[oppression, affliction]. But take heart *[be of good courage, do not be afraid]; I have overcome the world.”**** // We, as God’s children, are IN this world but not OF it, so we should expect to be oppressed and afflicted by others. But, *it’s okay*, we can live with courage because Jesus – *our Savior and Lord* – is the winner, and *we also win through Him!*

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dearest Jesus, Your great sacrifice took away our sins; now, *through knowing You*, we are forgiven and at peace! Help us, dear Father, to hear Your Word each day and help us, dear Holy Spirit, to understand, believe, pray, and live courageously! In Jesus’ name; Amen!