

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 29, 2022

“I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

–John 17:23–

Eternal life in God’s kingdom, we sometimes long for it like a homesick child longs for home. We dream of living in the beauty and perfection of his kingdom where love saturates our souls and everything around us, and where we enjoy God’s continual manifest presence. How well we know that we’re not there yet. However, Jesus’ prayer in John 17 reveals God’s ardent desire for us before we pass into eternity: He desires eternal life for us now!

How do we experience it now? It starts with Jesus revealing the glory of the Father to all people (see Jn. 1:14) thus enabling continuous, direct, personal knowledge and oneness with the Father for us who believe. And this knowledge of the Father through Jesus and the ordering of our life according to that knowledge is eternal life (see Jn. 17:3).

And, as we live/abide in unity with God (see Jn. 15:1–17) and in unity with one another through Christ, we become the vehicles of God’s presence in the world. In this way the world comes to know him.

So, we can partially partake in the beauty of God’s kingdom even now by experiencing continual personal, loving relationship with God and each other (oneness) as we abide in God and express our love for him in obedience (see 14:21).

What does this obedience look like? Jesus tells us in John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” And we know Jesus’ love for us took him to the cross. We are to love such that we are willing to lay our lives down for one another.

The Gospel of Matthew says it this way, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (16:24). Jesus then promises us, “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (16:25).

Feeling homesick for eternity? Remember God’s gift for you through Jesus Christ, and let that inspire you to love others. It is a glimpse of the eternity that is to come.

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