

# WEEK 8: TRUSTING JESUS (part 1)

## INTRODUCTION

How would you explain what perspective is? Is it important? Why or why not?

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What do you think “Biblical perspective” means? Have you ever heard it mentioned in the Bible?

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Do you think there is a difference between concern and worry? If so please share your thoughts on the subject.

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## FORTHUGHT

### Hebrews 12:2

*Let us **fix** our eyes on Jesus, the **author** and **perfecter** of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

## BACKGROUND

John chapters 13-17 consist mostly of a good bye discourse (teaching/lecture) from Jesus to His apostles.

Just prior to Chapter 14, Jesus had revealed to His apostles that:

- He will be leaving them (7:34, 8:21, 12:8, 13:3)
- He will die (12:32-33)
- One of them is a traitor and will betray Him (13:21)
- Peter (their leader) will disown Jesus 3 times (13:38)
- They will all fall away and abandon Him (Matt 26:31)

- And evil is at work against all of them (Luke 22:31-32)

The apostles are facing catastrophe and they are freaking out. Just think; these are young men that have left their families, their homes, their careers and reputations to follow Jesus. They are upset about their beloved (Jesus) leaving them, disappointed with the way things are turning out and probably frightened for their lives.

(NOTE: It is interesting to note who is supporting who. Jesus is the one who will be crucified on a cross in one day and He is supporting His friends (the apostles), not the other way around. Jesus is the ultimate, selfless- servant).

## **OVERVIEW OF JESUS' FAREWELL DISCOURSE (TEACHING/LECTURE)**

### **Read John 13:33 – 15:10**

(We will briefly overview chapters 13-15 to better understand the context of chapter 14)

## **DISCOVER**

### **John 14**

Beginning in **Chapter 14** Jesus begins to *comfort* His apostles with a variety of promises and teachings.

#### **Begins with the Need for Faith and Trust**

In **verse 1**, Jesus states a requirement in order to maintain peace? What is that requirement?

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#### **The Content of our Faith and Trust**

Comfort #1; How does He comfort them in **verses 2-3**? (What are some things that He promises them?)

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Why should this comfort them (us)?

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Comfort #2; How does He comfort them in **verse 12**? (What are some things that He promises them?)

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Why should this comfort them (us)?

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Comfort #3; How does He comfort them in **verse 13**? (What does He promise them?)

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Why should this comfort them (us)?

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Comfort #4; How does He comfort them in **verse 16**? (What does He promise them?)

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Why should this comfort them (us)?

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Comfort #5; How does He comfort them in **verse 27**? (What does He promise them?)

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What do you think He meant by "*My peace I give you, I do not give to you as the world gives*"?

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Why should this comfort them (us)?

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**Ends with the Need for Faith and Trust**

In **verses 28-29** He tells them again that He will be leaving them now and He is going back to the Father in Heaven (He will be- crucified, buried, resurrected and will ascend back to Heaven). What is His reason for telling them this?

(Refer to **John 14:29**)

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Notice Jesus never told the apostles He would remove the hardship or change their circumstances. What then is the apostles' faith and trust in? What is actually bringing them comfort if the circumstances are not going to change?

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**APPLICATION**

Have you ever been through hardship in which you made the choice *not* to focus on the hardship or circumstance rather you made the choice to focus on God and His promises and spiritual comforts? Will you share that experience with us?

(Did this experience draw you closer to Him or distance you from Him?)

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How can we excel at maintaining a "Biblical perspective" in times of hardship and unfavorable circumstance?

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**THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION, RECONCILIATION AND PRAYER**

Do God's promises of - Heaven, supernatural peace that transcends worldly circumstance and oneness with Him have any impact on my state of mind and perspective?