

**Video:**

[Way, Truth, and Life \(video\)](#)

**Focus Scripture:**

**I am the way, the truth, and the life (text: John 14:6; context: John 14:1-11).**

**Theme: Christians believe the special claims of Jesus are not an invitation to debate; they are an invitation to faith and empowerment.**

**“Invited to Empowerment”**

As Jesus approached the end of His ministry there was much for both He and His disciples to be troubled about. Jesus had made predictions of betrayal and strange remarks about going somewhere where His disciples could not come. There was a foreboding sense of something about to happen. Threat and danger seemed close, but the disciples did not know what was going to happen. Jesus urged His disciples to have faith in God and in Him, and to keep the end in sight. In a real sense, Jesus would even have His disciple to look beyond the end. It was their ultimate destination that ultimately mattered.

Jesus spoke metaphorically about life beyond the material world, but life beyond the material world is not a metaphor. It is real enough. Jesus identified it as His Father's house where there are many “dwelling places” (Greek: monai). Jesus would be going before His disciples to prepare places for them there. He would then come again and receive them to Himself. Just as Jesus had made reference to His crucifixion (10:11), resurrection (10:17-18), and ascension (8:21; 13:33), he now makes reference to His parousia or second coming (14:3). Only later will the disciples of Jesus Christ understand these ambiguous references. Their ambiguity only shows that the church is not putting words into the mouth of Jesus. This is Jesus himself speaking.

Jesus further assures them that they know the way to the place where He is going. By that Jesus meant that the disciples knew Him, and that through Him they knew the Father. However, Thomas, for one, was thinking of a place rather than the person of Jesus; so he questioned how they could know where Jesus was going or the way there. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (14:6).

This is a rare threefold disclosure of who Jesus is. He is the Way to the Father, but at a level of relationship to God that opens us to His indwelling presence and makes us perceptive of His will. He is the Truth, the one who is not only the clearest revelation of God's character, word, and will, but the only revelation of God in the form of a person. He is the Life, the sole source and giver of eternal life for anyone who believes in Him.

Is there anyone who can match these claims, and then demonstrate his or her veracity through resurrection power and transforming presence in past and present? Is there anyone once alive who is still so alive that this one yet raises others to life? If so, let that one come forth with the same spirit and power as Jesus. Until then, His claim stands. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him.

Philip still had difficulty understanding that to see Jesus was to see the Father. This is because Philip had trouble believing that the Father was in Jesus and Jesus in the Father. Graciously, Jesus holds up His works and urges Philip to believe because of the works that He did. Jesus declares that those who believe will do the works that He did and greater works they shall do because He goes to the Father. Somehow Jesus' return to the Father will initiate a new age of spiritual empowerment for the disciples of Jesus. Whatever they ask in the name of Jesus will be granted so that the Father may be glorified or revealed in Jesus.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, the limits of our power are the limits of our faith.

And the limits of our faith are not imposed by any outside force, but only by we ourselves. This is not a reason for discouragement; not even if our faith is weak. Rather it is a reason to keep growing in faith. The most exciting aspect of this is that we can grow in faith, and God desires to assist us. The next exciting aspect of this is that there are no limits on the growth of our faith, that is to say, once we cease placing limits upon it. Realizing this readies us for a fascinating paradox. Our faith will be tested, and will even come under attack; but the more our faith is tested, and the more it comes under attack the more our faith grows.

Our faith will grow anyway, the more we exercise it whether it is in the context of trial or not. Therefore, we need not court adversity or trial. Nevertheless, if adversity or trial should occur it becomes transformed into a blessing for faith by faith

itself. And then, finally, the more our faith grows, the more we realize the promise of Jesus, the promise of greater works. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life because only He can do what he does; only He can make the promises that He makes; and only He can keep the promises that He makes. Nothing is proved through religious debates and philosophical disputes. It is the power of Jesus manifested in the lives of His disciples that proves all that needs to be proven.

### **FOCUS QUESTIONS - John 14:6**

1. What occurs to you as you read this? What questions arise for you?
2. What practices in your life can help you to better communicate with others that Jesus is the sole negotiator for salvation and eternity in heaven?
3. How have you been challenged in interactions with others who believe there is an alternative to Jesus as the gatekeeper-and the only one that can provide access to the Father, salvation and eternity in heaven?
4. What challenges or adversaries do you face right now? What practices (e.g. reading Scriptures, praying, small group) can you use to increase your faith and trust in Christ even when you don't understand what is happening? How can the Spirit guide you to follow Jesus through this time?
5. Do you believe that whatsoever you ask in the name of Jesus will be granted?
6. How do you personally get your faith to grow?

### **Life/Discipline Application:**

What does this passage mean in your school or department - consider the implications of the passage to your day-to-day lives.

### **Personal Reflection:**

What does this mean to you - examine the implications of the passage to your own day to day life.

### **Additional Print Resources:**

- Fuquay, Rob. *The God We Can Know: Exploring the "I AM" Sayings of Jesus*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2014.
- Harris, W. Hall III. *Commentary on the Gospel of John*. <https://bible.org>. 2009.
- Marrow, Tim. *Before Abraham "I AM!" The Claims of Christ from the Gospel of John*. Bloomington, IN., CrossBooks/Lifeway, 2010.
- Okorie, A.M. "The Self-Revelation of Jesus in the "I AM" Sayings of John's Gospels." *Currents in Theology and Mission* 28/5 (2001): 486-490.
- Simmons, Billy. "A Christology of the "I Am" Sayings in the Gospel of John." *The Theological Educator* 38/1 (1988): 94-103.
- Whitacre, Rodney A. *Commentaries for the Book of John (IVP New Testament Commentaries)*. [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). 2010.
- Wiersbe, Warren W. *Jesus in the Present Tense: The I AM Statements of Christ*. Colorado Springs, Co., David C. Cook, Publisher, 2011.