



May 26, 2019 Custom Homes By God

Given by Rev. Mattei

[John14:23-29](#)

During his farewell speech to his disciples (John 13-17), Jesus washes their feet and instructs them to do the same to one another ([Jn 13:12-15](#)). This reciprocity is a disciple's signature (vv. [34-35](#)) and fulfills Jesus' intention to reveal the divine unity in Love ([Jn 14:18-21](#)). Love is not a condition for such unity but an acknowledgment of the eternal reality that manifests itself when one keeps Jesus' word ([Jn 12:49-50](#); [Jn 14:10.15-17.22-24](#)). Love is the divine reality to which all creation is connected ([Jn 1:2-5](#); [Eph 4:1-6](#); [Col 1:15-17](#); [Romans 8:36](#); [1 Jn 4:16](#)). Jesus' mission is to make people aware of the Trinitarian indwelling: trusting and embracing Jesus' word manifests Love in them.

The divine Architect wants to make a home in the disciple ([Jn 14:23](#); see also [Jer 22:13-14](#); [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) and [Isaiah 11:2](#)) where he also delights as the interior designer ([Jn 14:2](#)). But this can only happen when he is not limited by his physical presence ([Jn 14:3.12.18-21.28](#) and [Jn 20:17](#)) and is revealed by the Spirit in us ([Jn 14:25-26](#); see also [Jn 16:12-15](#)). The Spirit will help the disciples to remember and make sense of the words of Jesus and will teach them new things, in fact, all things as they pertain to the future of the believers. It will guide the believers into *all* the truth (16:12). But in 14:6 Jesus told the disciples that he was *the* truth. It sounds like Jesus needs the mediation of the Holy Spirit in order to become that truth. This is an important point, for it places the responsibility of contextualizing the truth to new situations on an inspired, Spirit-filled community. Jesus cannot be the truth unless this truth is incarnated in people who make an effort to interpret what such affirmation means for their context.

In all creation, the invisible God becomes visible, the infinite finite, the all-powerful vulnerable. The community of believers manifests this truth when empowered by the Spirit of God. The Spirit is like a homing device put inside of us, and all creation, too. For all of our ignorance and mistakes, *there is in everything this deep, internal dignity convinced of its own value*. When we get a glimpse of this deep reality then we become convinced of its universality and eternity: we discover and become aware of the commonality of the Ground of Being in all of creation. Then we know it's God in us that loves God in the Other; it's God through us that recognizes God in creation; it's God for us that assures us that we are finally and forever okay. This is the work of the Father for us, the Son with us and the Spirit in us. This is Trinitarian spirituality, which strengthens us on every side. This is what it means to live inside the Trinitarian flow. And it is all now, and not just later. We already have a home and are home free!¹

The love in you—which is the Spirit in you—always somehow says yes. (See [2 Cor 1:20](#)). Love is not something you do; love is something you are. It is your True Self. Love is where you came from and love is where you're going. It's not something you can buy. It's not something you can attain. It's the presence of God within you. You cannot do anything to make God love you any more than God already loves you. You can go to church every week for the rest of your life, you can pray harder, you can be very generous, you may give your life in sacrifice for others. God isn't going to love you any more than God loves you already right now. God's love for you is perfect as is. God waits patiently and gently for us to learn how to trust that love, allow it, celebrate it, and consequently learn how to love ourselves, be good to ourselves and to all of creation.

You'll realize in the process that the image you have of God changes from a demanding Judge to a compassionate Advocate, from an imperial Ruler to a Good Shepherd, from a distant Creator to a Companion on the road. All God wants is for you to live your life to the fullest. But this cannot happen in isolation. It happens in community. Salvation is never individual but always connected to the community. Divine covenants are with the people collectively. Individuals like Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, David, and Esther

¹ <http://www.frimmin.com/faith/godinall.php>

are only the instruments and the mediators. Each individual is caught up in the salvific sweep of history, almost in spite of herself or himself, as YHWH shows mercy to Israel and their descendants forever (see, for example, [Genesis 13:15](#); [Exodus 32:13](#)).

The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to reveal to us the *truth* of our being so that the way of our being can match it. Once we see God we will not remain the same: old ways yield to new things ([Ex 33:18-20](#)). The Holy Spirit never gives up on us. God is on your side, more than you are on your own. You are already saved, you need to start enjoying that salvation. Becoming aware of God's presence in your life through prayer will get you closer to God and your truest Self. Your interest in God and compassion for the whole creation will blossom. You'll see the transformation occurring in you from a fearful person (hurting self and others in the process) to a wounded healer embracing suffering in self and others. Your own desire to offer shelter and protection, to share your time, energy and resources will become an opportunity for your own enrichment and growth. You'll get closer to God by being totally yourself, not limiting yourself to self-centered expressions and egotistical desires. "The deepest part of the self is the spiritual dimension. From the center flows all our freedom and love; at this level, we remain free to choose to move or not to move with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is indeed active in us at all times drawing us toward greater love and service of God and others, but the Spirit does not control our response. That flows from our freedom."²

We have been graced with the inner encounter with Love and made free to love. May we choose freedom.

² Richard J. Hauser, *In His Spirit* (Beacon Publishing: 2011), 37, 38.