

## Gamma – Gospel of John

Book	Gospel of John
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**BACKGROUND:** Impending crucifixion. Jesus is in the final phase. He is in the upper room. There will be capture and execution, disciples will face death and prison. So therefore, the background is fear, anxiety and uncertainty. This is where it all comes down to this crunch.

### ***How do we face death?***

If we look at the noble people, for example Picasso just before he died he use to paint stuff. He painted himself very awkwardly, it was a year before he died. It is terrifying, he does not know where he is going and I guess this is what we face when we talk about death, unless we have a future and in that light, Jesus says

John 14:1-4 (ESV) 1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going."

So therefore the nature of Christian hope is basically there is a place. There is a mistranslation of the word 'mone' in Latin. So many people think that they have a mansion in heaven which they will get when they reach heaven. Prosperity Gospel will say that you can have that mansion here in this world, but it is actually not about mansions.

### **LAND:**

Donald Trump announced a few weeks ago that Jerusalem will be the capital of Israel, which is the right thing to do actually. ***However, why is land so important?***

Everybody fights over Jerusalem and Jesus is saying in my father's house there are many rooms or places. There is an affinity between human beings and a place. Jerusalem has been there as a capital of Israel for many-many years. The Muslims also want to have a piece of it. Jerusalem is a place where it represents hope. If you look at the West Bank, Palestinians are living on some small parts and Israel is occupying the majority of it. Human

beings are always tied to land. They will be fighting over these pieces of land. There is always connection between people and their land. Irish Americans say,

*"After visiting Ireland in 2011, I would have to agree with you on it being an anchor, Vince. It's an anchor that has a constant pull on me and I really want to return. It also haunts everything I do and enjoy!" Chris*

*"My Grandad- whose Dad was Irish- was my absolute favorite person in the world. Since he passed away, everything Irish has taken his place in my heart as #1. So basically a love of our relatives, of our families, and a desire to know more about who we are and where we come from is what I think attracts us most." – Response By Aimee*

So there is always connection between people and land. Assyrians realized this very much when they actually captured the Northern Kingdom. What they did was they actually imported Assyrians from all over the place and took the people of Israel out and made them intermarry, so that their affinity to the land is less strong. The Babylonians when they took over the Judah, what they did was they transported the entire population out from the land of Palestine, so that they won't revolt, because if you are in the land your affinity to land causes you to revolt all the time. So therefore we put you far-far away, somewhere in Babylon, so they won't revolt. So there is an affinity to people to land. The land means somewhere where you belong, it gives you meaning, it gives you self-esteem or pride as people, it gives you identity, it gives you a direction. Wherever you go, there are all cultural symbols associated with your land which you automatically identify with.

In heaven there are many rooms, which means there are a lots of room. That means there is no limited quota system when you migrate. There is adequate place for any of God's people.

### ***What does prepare a place means?***

In the old days this is actually taken of the cultural background to this, is a father's house. So when you want to get married what you do is that you tell your fiancé, we are going to get married and then you spend the whole year banging out your walls in your room, make it bigger so that it can fit your wife. So once all renovated then you will go in the procession to the wife's house, blow trumpet and then she will follow you and you take her to your father's house where you have got your room. That's the Jewish tradition, so the house become bigger and bigger and bigger. So this is the picture that in my father's house is heaven and Jesus is the bridegroom who is coming. Jesus has gone to prepare a room and bring you there with him that is the picture that it has got.

### ***How does he prepare the room?***

It means that he is going to die, otherwise you cannot go to heaven. So therefore he is going to prepare room, so impending death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and

then important thing is that, I go there, prepare a place for you, I will come again and I will take you to myself that's where I am you may also be.

The important thing is not the place, the important thing is where Jesus is we will also be. So when the people keep singing about having a mansion in heaven and looking forward to all the gold pavement there and all that, they got it wrong. Their whole emphasis is the passage is the affinity to where I am you also may be. It is a relationship. The house is not a home unless you have got loved ones there and the picture is the same. It will be a home wherever Jesus Christ is. So we are focused on, one day I am going to heaven and Jesus is our means to going to heaven and the mansion in heaven is all I am interested in then there is something wrong with your faith. We are going to be at home wherever Jesus Christ is.

So therefore our affinity to our family, our home, our land, all is basically a prelude to being with Jesus Christ and this idea of a home where Jesus Christ is going to be very-very important to the Jews. The Jews have always been talking about Promised Land, one day they will troll the Romans. In this upper room he is not talking about Israel. Israel and Jerusalem are basically stepping stone for the real place.

### ***Why is the Promised Land important?***

It is important because there you will dwell with God. When you were Egypt then you brought through the trial of the Mount Sinai and all the wondering in the desert. When you go to Canaan, it is a place as Promised Land because that is where God will dwell. Now Israel's connection and loyalty and focus is towards the promised land, because that is where God is going to be. Now with his new disciples around him, there is a new place. He is not talking about Israel, he doesn't care whether Jerusalem is taken over by the Palestinians or Jews, he is saying there is another place. Jerusalem, West bank, all that basically is a sign of what is to come. The place to come is where you will spend the rest of your life with Jesus Christ. So that's the important thing.

[1 John 3:2-3 \(ESV\) Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.](#)

So the power of the hope is that, one day we will see because Jesus Christ is preparing the room. One day he will take us to be with him and if you have this hope that we shall be like him we will purify ourselves as he is pure. It is this hope being with God that actually purifies our self.

### ***How do we actually purify ourselves?***

It brings sharply to focus all your actions in life. If you live for this hope that your final resting place, your final place of glory, a place where you will call home, where you will never be discriminated again that place is where Jesus is, that purifies your life. That allows you to make all the decisions that you make in life now, what you do with your money, what

you do with your spouse, what you do with your life focuses on that and that is the one that purifies your life.

## 2. THE FATHER IS NOW WITH YOU

John 14:5-6 (ESV) Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

A lot of people find this very offense. They think Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, everybody will find some way to the truth and the apex of the truth is where God is. So you find your way, I find my, all truth leads to one God, but when Jesus says this it is completely absolutely different, it offends people. People get very-very offended and you need to know why Jesus says this and if you quote this verse to your friends, the first thing they will do is that they will cut off relationship with you because it is offensive.

### **Buddhism**

Now if you are looking a religion like for example Buddhism, Buddha basically shows you the way. There are two ways in which you can live, you live in sensual indulgence, which means you enjoy yourself, you have your sex, you have your party, you do whatever you want with life or you suppress all your sexual desires and Buddha says, that's no good, that's no good we have the middle path. The middle path is a path, right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action and if you follow this path it will bring you to where God is. So buddhism is like this, it shows you a way of living.

### **Hinduism**

Hinduism is also a way of life, because a way of life is a way in which you can have moral duties determined by your status depending on which cast you are, duty to ancestors, duty to feed the gods, to nourish them.

All other religions, basically it is man looking for God and man looking for a way, follow a set path and Jesus says in the Christian faith it is completely different, it is God looking for man and Jesus says, I am the way, which means it is not showing you a method of going to God, it is actually talking to you that it is a relationship.

Christian faith is based on the relationship; it is not based on a set of doctrine. If you think it is a set of doctrine, then you are in a wrong position. Jesus said he is the truth,

John 1:18 (ESV) No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

He is the truth because only he reveals God.

John 5:26 (ESV) For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 1:4 (ESV) In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

This is why Jesus Christ is the way. The way is personal knowledge of God.

John 14:7-11 (ESV) If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” **8** Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” **9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

The way is actually a personal knowledge of God. In order to get to God, the only way is a personal knowledge and relationship with God. There are two levels, if you are talking about relationship with someone, the first level is the informational.

**9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip?”

So basically Jesus Christ is challenging him. When you first meet someone, where are you from, where did you work, all that kind of data you can get from facebook that doesn't mean you know God. It is a second level where the personal, what are issues that affect the way you live, what are the things that matter to you, your feelings, what hurts, what makes your day, personal risk and commitment. This is a personal knowledge. When Jesus Christ talks about personal relationship he is talking about this. They have interacted with Jesus Christ, they eaten with Jesus, they have hunted with Jesus, they had fed 5000 people with Jesus. They have been through the good times and been through the bad times, it is that relationship at this kind of level that is the way to salvation.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV) Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, **24** but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

The greatest satisfaction in life is actually knowledge of God and the knowledge of God can only come through a personal relationship. You can be the brightest man in the world and the people think that if I know everything then I can know God, that's not true. Steven Hawkins said,

*"If we discover a complete theory, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason – for then we should know the mind of God."* 1988 A brief history of time

Later on being so clever he becomes,

*"Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing,"*  
2010 The Grand Design

Which means by 2010 he doesn't believe in a God anymore. The whole idea is that Steven Hawkins is thinking with my intellect I can know everything about God and then I can discover God, but Christianity is not like that.

[Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,](#)

We cannot know God. A lot of people says, I need to have all the questions answered like

- What about all the babies who died without Jesus Christ
- What about the virgin birth, is that possible.
- What did that happened to my life. I got needs and problems, I need fixing.
- What about the good people in other religion,
- What about all the people who have not heard about the gospel.

They ask all these sorts of questions and they are thinking that with all of these questions are answered then I can know God. Nicodemus talked to Jesus to discuss theology. Jesus told him, you must be born again, completely opposite. So the issue here is, if it is philosophy we can discuss the theories but the issue is you must have a relationship. It is a relationship with Jesus, until you decide who Jesus is and decide that he is the way, the truth and life, none of these things will make sense.

Jesus challenges his disciples that if you want to know God, you have to get to know me that is the way. So basically in a personal relationship it is not just information there is commitment, there is vulnerability, loss of independence and loss of control. So if you want to have the way, the truth and life there are certain things that you have to give up.

A personal relationship requires all these things. So if you want to have relationship with Jesus Christ, you have to give up certain things. You must be in a position. Jesus died on the cross to be in relationship with us. So therefore every personal relationship involves all these parameters, commitment, vulnerability, loss of independence and then you will know the truth, "I am the way, the truth and life". Now this is a very dangerous statement.

He is not saying I am the help for your life or your career or your marriage. He says, I am the reason for your career, I am the reason for your marriage and I am the reason for your life. He has to be the central truth of your life.

A lot of people go to churches; we tell them if I am Christian your life will be better. That is not what he is saying. He says, I am not going to give you some truth to help your life. He says, I must be the main reason why you live, the main reason why you marry, the main reason why you go to work. I am the way, only then can I be the truth and the life. You cannot have it any other way.

### ***Why do we have to go through Jesus?***

As evidenced;

- What He taught -insight in to needs of men of how things ought to be done
- Predicted his death on the cross
- He predicted that the Jerusalem temple would be destroyed in AD 70 and it was destroyed.
- He was consistent. He taught people to love. He touched lepers. When he died on the cross he told John to look after his mother. He lived a totally consistent life consistent with what he taught.
- He taught non retaliation. He was flogged, beaten, crucified and he was silent.

The testimonials from the disciples

- **Peter:** *1 Peter 2:22-23 (ESV) He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*
- **John:** *1 John 2:29 (ESV) If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.*
- **Enemies:** *which one of you convicts me of sin? No one could can answer*
- **Family:** *James 1:1, James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,*

Every one of disciples testified as to who he is.

- *1 John 5:11-12 (ESV) And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*
- *John 14:18-19 (ESV) "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*

So we live because of the resurrection. Then later on he goes on and says,

John 14:12-14 (ESV) Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. **13** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

This is some of the verses that are the most abused in history of Christianity. We think that this is like whatever you ask I will do. There is always an important caveat, every time Jesus says whatever you ask you can do greater works than me but there is a caveat there.

When you ask in somebody's name, it means you represent the person. So when are asking something in the name of Jesus, it must represent all the things that he wants. Whatever you ask it must be glory of God. If it doesn't bring glory to God but gives you a nice mansion do you think God will help you, it won't. So therefore this is very clear, whatever you ask in my name I will do it, so that the father may be glorified in the son. So therefore brothers and sisters this is a fantastic promise. If it is a promise, if it is something that will bring glory to God, may be pain to yourself, it will be done, whatever you ask in his name.

## **THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

John 14:15-26 (ESV) **15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

The word in Greek is 'parakletos', Para is coming alongside or beside you, kletos is called, so basically it is advocate.

1 John 2:1 (ESV) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

We have got lawyers, one is the Holy spirit and the other one is Jesus and he is the righteous. We all suffer from guilt and we need somebody who is basically our advocate, even Sigmund Freud, the father of modern psychiatry actually believes there is universal guilt, but the only thing is that his theory of guilt doesn't come of sin. He believes many-many-many years ago, the male children in the family got very upset with the father and they killed the father and then they cut him to pieces and then they ate him up, so that they can possess the mother and all the sisters and because of that the guilt passed out from generation to generation. He he gives this explanation of universal guilt. So there is guilt. Shakespeare

*"My conscience hath a thousand several tongues, And every tongue brings in a several tale, And every tale condemns me for being a villain. "*



We all live with a universal guilt and you need an advocate. When you hire a lawyer, make sure you hire the best one. The best one when stands before the judge, they are not looking at you, they are looking at your lawyer. Sometimes you don't even have to go to court, your lawyer does. So if your lawyer is smart, you are smart, if your lawyer is eloquent you are eloquent. If your lawyer is polished, you are polished.

So Jesus Christ goes before God and he goes down on his knees and beg God to give more chance to a person. When Jesus Christ goes up to heaven and ask for justice. So he goes to the father and says 'paid in full,' I demand justice, I am not begging for mercy. Jesus Christ who died on the cross, when the father looks at Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ demands justice and justice demands that you are quitted of all your sin.

So Jesus Christ can either be your model or your advocate. If he is your model it means Jesus Christ is your own advocate, you try to look up to his standards and his standards are very high, you cannot take criticism, you are destroyed be failure, you try to be good and moral but you actually have low self-esteem because you are trying to be good with God all the time. If Jesus Christ is your model, you are done, because he is so perfect. So what we need to do is remember Jesus not your model, Jesus is your advocate, Jesus is your lawyer, all the things he did, he did for you.

[John 14:17 \(ESV\) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.](#)

Jesus is on the outside as an advocate, the spirit is on the inside. The Holy Spirit is like a flood light, it actually flood lights Jesus. It focuses on Jesus, never himself. The Holy Spirit shows sin in our lives

[Revelation 12:10-11 \(ESV\) Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. \*\*11\*\* And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.](#)

Satan is the one that accuses us every single day in front of God. The devil makes us see through a telescope and we always see only sin, nothing else, accuses us day and night. If we have binoculars, the Holy Spirit does two things, one is we see sin and the second we see Jesus. If you got this vision, your life will change. The Holy Spirit let us see sin in our lives and know how horrible we are and how beautiful it is and that binocular vision is the function of the two advocates we have, one is the Holy Spirit and one is our Lord Jesus Christ.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH LOVE AND OBEDIENCE

John 14:21-24 (ESV) Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" **23** Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

The person who loves Jesus Christ, so it is in a relationship with Jesus Christ, that person is a person who will be obedient and this is the same paradigm as the father loves the son, the son is obedient to father, the son loves us and we are obedient to him basically in the access.

John 14:27-31 (ESV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. **28** You heard me say to you, I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. **29** And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. **30** I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, **31** but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

So Jesus is saying I leave my peace. The peace that Jesus gives us is not like the peace of the world, the peace of the world is fragile, fickle and dependent on circumstances. The peace that Jesus leaves you is a peace won on the cross that wipes away eternal guilt. There is a passage that can be easily misunderstood.

**28b. If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.**

Some people take this verse and say that Jesus is not God. It means that the father is in heaven, He is in glory, Jesus was in a form of a human being, he was temporarily humbled because I am a human being. So it is in that respect that the Father is greater than the son, so the misinterpretation is that people say that father is god and Jesus is creature.

John 10:30 (ESV) I and the Father are one."

Arius was a Catholic priest from the city of Alexandria in Egypt, who lived in the early 300s, believed Jesus was created by God based on verses like these. He was reading out of context. In the Nicæan Council in 328 AD they confirmed that Jesus is not inferior to God. Mormons actually believe that Jesus is a created being, he is not really God.