

## GOSPEL OF JOHN 14 B (14:4-15 )

**<sup>4</sup>“And where I go you know, and the way you know.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we know not where You go; and how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, except by Me.**

Bp. Gerasimos: “It is the way of the Cross, of faith, of obedience, of love and sacrifice, through which Christ is the first to go to the Father, as teacher for all people. . . In the person of Jesus Christ, the truth and the life are not abstract ideas, but concrete realities...Only through Christ, through the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ are we united to God the Father.”

Leo the Great: “The cross of Christ, which is set up for the salvation of mortals, is both a sacrament and an example: a sacrament whereby the divine power takes effect, an example whereby one’s devotion is excited.”

Basil the Great: ‘We understand the ‘way’ to be the road to perfection, advancing in order step by step through the words of righteousness and the illumination of knowledge, always yearning for that which lies ahead and straining towards the last mile, until we reach that blessed end, the knowledge of God, with which the Lord blesses those who believe in Him.’”

### **The soul is not immortal – God alone is the source of immortality – He is LIFE**

Gregory of Nyssa: “...even when we are told that God ‘alone has immortality’ (I enjoin thee before God Who makes alive all things, and Christ Jesus ... the *One* Who alone has immortality 1 Tim. 6:13-16) understand by ‘immortality’ the Son. For Life is immortality, and the Lord is that Life who said, ‘I am the Life.’”

**<sup>7</sup>“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. And from now you know Him, and have seen Him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it suffices us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Am I so long a time with you, and you have not known Me, Philip? The *one* who has seen Me has seen the Father; and how say you, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>“Believe you not that I *am* in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words which I speak to you I speak not from Myself; but the Father Who abides in Me, He does the works. <sup>11</sup>“Keep on believing Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me; otherwise keep on believing Me on account of the works themselves.**

Bp. Gerasimos: “Philip had known and confessed Jesus as the Messiah from the beginning. And yet, he had not yet understood well who is Jesus and what is his real relationship to the Father.”

### **The Son is always the visible person of the Father**

Basil the Great: “Everything of the Father is seen in the Son, and everything of the Son belongs to the Father, for all of the Son is in the Father and he again has all of the Father in himself. Therefore, the *form and person* of the Son becomes the means of knowing the Father, while the hypostasis (form and person) of the Father is made known in the form (person) of the Son...”

### **How did the disciples come to know that Jesus is the Lord, the Son of God?**

Fr. Behr: “They did not come to this knowledge through hearing reports about his birth nor by accompanying him for a period of time...the usual methods of human knowledge – scientific analysis, historical inquiry, or philosophical reflection – are inadequate when the desired object of knowledge is God, for God is not subject to human perception, whether physical or mental, but shows himself as and when he wills, just as the risen Christ comes and goes at his own pleasure...the disciples came to recognize

the Lord as the one whose Passion is spoken of by the *scriptures* and encountered in the *breaking* of the bread.”

“THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ILLUMINES ALL” – at the liturgy of the presanctified gifts between the two old testament readings – the priest blesses the people with a lit candle and pronounces – *The light of Christ illumines all*. In the liturgy - the resurrected Christ appears and reveals himself, shares His life with us and illumines us with the knowledge of God.

<sup>12</sup>“Verily, verily, I say to you, the *one* who believes in Me, the works which I do shall that one do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do, because I go to My Father. <sup>13</sup>“And whatsoever you shall ask in My name, this will I do, that the Father might be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>“If you should ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.

**Fr, John Behr:** “Then to be an icon of Christ means to, very simply, act as Christ acts. It’s not simply asking, “What would Jesus do?” and then do something similar, or to act in imitation as if that’s all that’s involved in it, but rather we are the ones by whom God acts in this world. We are his eyes, we are his hands, we are his feet, we are his mouth. We’re the *instruments of how he works in this world ...* we are the *energeia* of God or the *works* of God, so when we do those *works*, we are in fact doing the very works of God himself... (It) is the mark of God, to be able to forgive sins, and yet it is exactly what we are commanded to do. We are commanded to forgive each other. We’re going to be celebrating—we’re in Holy Week now, and in a few days’ time will be celebrating Pascha, and at that feast we’ll talk about forgiving *all* in the Resurrection. When we do that, we are in fact doing the very acts of God. You could take it even further. In the Lord’s Prayer, we ask God to imitate *us* in doing that. “Forgive us our trespasses *as we do* those who trespass against us.” We’re asking him to imitate us in doing this. Just think about that. That’s really quite mind-blowing...When we do the *works of God*, it is in fact God who’s working within and through us as the body of Christ, period.”

### **We must die (The Way of the Cross) to ourselves in order for Christ to work in us**

Bp. Gerasimos: “The success of the work of the apostles will depend on the power of their prayer in the name of Jesus Christ....But prayer will be done according to the teaching and the life and the will of Christ: it will be prayer for the salvation of the world.”

<sup>15</sup>“If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Saint Chrysostom: “At all times it is works and actions that we need, not a mere show of words. It is easy for someone to say or promise something, but it is not so easy to act on that word or promise...I have commanded you to love one another and to do to one another as I have done to you. To love me is to obey these commands and to submit to me, your beloved.”

St. Symeon the New Theologian: “Faith, the fear of God, and the observance of his commandments, bring us a reward in proportion to our purity. For as we are purified, so we rise from fearing God to loving him....It is then that we hear: He who accepts my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me. So then let us redouble our efforts to prove our love by our works. For when we have done this, he himself loves us just as he promised and his father loves us in the same way, and the Holy Spirit, of course, comes before him to prepare a dwelling place. So it is by this indwelling unity...we become the home of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.”