

**Title:** Coming Home  
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**Coming Home?** A place where we want to be and a place where God wants to be. **Home?** Home is where the presence of God is. Home is where God is.

## Coming home - A Home within

John 14:23 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> *Jesus answered and said to 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**.*

- **"If anyone loves Me":** Our greatest treasure. Our greatest desire is God Himself. It is our Coming Home. It is our finding rest. **We were designed to be inhabited by God.** The world leaves us empty. The world leaves us unsatisfied. God doesn't.
- **"My Father will love him":** The more we love God, the more we will experience God the Father's love. **Wholeness leads to more of God in our midst.**
- **Keep my word?** When we love God (desire Him), then we will do everything in our ability to obey Him. We will hate any form of sin! For sin would bring a separation between us and God. **\*Proof that we love God** is that we will keep His word.
- **\*\*We create an environment for God to dwell in** when we keep His word. We prepare the house for His habitation. Word in our hearts and in our actions.

John 14:26–27 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things** and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.* <sup>27</sup> **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.**

- **Getting the house in order: The Helper, the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is like the super Butler that moves in to get everything ready for the Almighty. Yes, the Holy Spirit is God. We honour the Holy Spirit.

## A place where God wants to be - a church called home

Acts 2:40–43 (NKJV) <sup>40</sup> *And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "**Be saved** from this perverse generation."* <sup>41</sup> *Then those who gladly received his word **were baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.* <sup>42</sup> *And they **continued steadfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.* <sup>43</sup> *Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.*

- **\*\*fellowship - koinonia:** sharing, unity, partnership, participation, a communion, a fellowship, the brotherhood. **\*\*Koinonia is a unity brought about by the Holy Spirit.** In koinonia the individual shares in common an intimate bond of fellowship with the rest of the Christian body. Koinonia **cements the believers to the Lord Jesus and to each other.** **\*A new family, a supernatural community.**

Acts 4:32–33 (NKJV) <sup>32</sup> *Now the multitude (full number) of those who believed were of **one heart and one soul**; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had **all things in common**.* <sup>33</sup> *And **with great power the apostles gave witness** to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.*

- **A place where God wanted to be!** God moved powerfully, for the believers were of one heart and one soul!

## Bringing them home - loving somebody into God's presence

John 15:12–14 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> *This is My commandment, that **you love one another** as I have loved you.* <sup>13</sup> *Greater love has no one than this, than to **lay down one's life** for his friends.* <sup>14</sup> ***You are My friends** if you do whatever I command you.*

- **You and I have the power to make this church "home"**, if we love one another.
- **You and I have the power to bring somebody "home"**: How? by loving somebody. loving one another. No greater tool for bringing healing to somebody as loving them.
- **As I have loved you**: You need to taste God's love for you. Then do the same for others. Be transformed by His love, and love others.

## What does love look like?

- **"All things in common"**: This wasn't socialism, this was love in action. A manifestation of love.
- **"Made in the image of God"**: Everyone, even the worst sinner is made in the image of God.
- **\*Familiarity kills relationship**. Familiarity says: "I know you". Yet when we know that God lives inside my brother or sister in Christ, then we know that they will surprise us. There is more in them than what we realised. We don't know them. God lives in them and there is so much more to discover.
- **Our highest call is to love**. Our greatest success, and greatest achievement in this life is to love God (come home), and to love somebody (bring them home).
- **Greater love? lay down one's life**. Sacrifice something. Cost something. Uncomfortable. **Ask yourself**: Have I loved a brother or sister in Christ this week? Have I sacrificed something for them?