



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 16:23-33  
From Sermon 2.23. 25

Read *John 16:23-33*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: These are Jesus' final, formal words to the Apostles. In the next chapter, Jesus shifts His focus to the Father and His own preparation for Calvary's cross. In somewhat of a review, Jesus outlines three essential ingredients for a joyful, effective Christian life and ministry. He reminds all believers in all times that He is the supreme model of obedience, endurance, and godly love.

1. After more than a chapter of "Holy Spirit" teaching, on whom does Jesus focus next? God the Father.  
(John chapter 17 is Jesus' high priestly prayer, where He is only speaking to the Father).
2. What is mirepoix and how was it used as a teaching illustration on Sunday? Mirepoix is a French cooking term referring to the basic, foundational mixture of carrots, onions, and celery sautéed in a fat. This simple dish must be mastered before moving on to more complex, advanced recipes.
- 2a. What, then, are the three foundational ingredients of the faithful, effective Christian life presented by Jesus and the whole of Scripture? Love, Hope, & Faith  
See also *1 Corinthians 13:13, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 & 5:8*
3. Of these three essential disciplines (love, faith, & hope), which one do you struggle with the most?  
Various Personal Answers
- 3a. What is the biblical prescription for increasing and strengthening that quality?
  - Love—*John 13:34 & Hebrews 12:2-3*
  - Faith—*Romans 10:17 & Luke 17:5*
  - Hope—*Romans 15:4 & Romans 5:3-5* [any common answers?]
4. How does Godly love differ from the world's definition of love? While God does have feelings for His own, His love is defined as Agape love—action love—sacrificial love that may or may not be reciprocated. Worldly love is infatuation and lust for the most part. Worldly love is often conditional and used as power.
5. Jesus asked the Apostles if they "now believe". How does mere belief differ from saving faith? Although occasionally used as synonyms, belief is the knowledge of something, where faith is the trust in something. You can believe and not have faith; you cannot have faith and not believe. Only genuine faith saves. Example: Even the devil/demons believe but they are not saved. See also *James 2:19*
6. How does the fact that Jesus overcame the world (verse 33) impact your love, faith, and hope going forward? Various answers. But none of us will face what Jesus faced. He had perfect hope based on the Father's love and His perfect knowledge of the future and the promises of glory. The conflict with the world (sin) is very temporary and the promise of deliverance is eternal.