

G R O W

Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

Second Coming – John 14:3

What is something you look forward to, that you can't wait for it to happen? When you're a student, it may be summer break, getting driver's license, or graduation. When you're a young adult, it may be marriage, vacation, starting career, or having kids. Many look forward to certain holidays, like Christmas. When I was a kid, I always got very excited for Christmas, and I woke up early every Christmas morning, excited and ready for presents. One thing that God's word tells us to look forward to is Jesus's return. We should get excited about it and live in anticipation of His return.

GET FOCUSED

If we want to grow, we must get focused. What are the things that distract you, both within you and around you? Take a few moments to silence those distractions so that you can focus and get everything that God has for you during this time in His word.

READ

If we're going to grow our faith and grow our relationship with God, we must read His Word. Sometimes we settle for substitutes. Christian books and devotions are good and helpful, but sometimes when they reference the Bible, we don't take time to read God's Word. Power and life are in God's Word, so take advantage of this devotion and insights, but also read His Word.

OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In this step, we want to investigate the passage, to understand its message and meaning. In addition to reading our main passage, read the verses around it to understand the **context**. In John 14, we are near the end of Jesus' life. Jesus had told His disciples that He was going to leave them (Jn 13:36), and this caused them distress, as they still didn't fully understand what Jesus was going to do in His death and resurrection. So, Jesus gives these words to bring peace to their troubled hearts (Jn 14:1).

Next, we want to **observe** the key words and phrases in John 14:3. What stands out to you? You should see these key words and phrases: a place for you, come again, and take you to myself.

To help understand the **meaning** of these words and phrases, invest in a good study Bible or utilize online tools like netbible.org. What is this place that Jesus prepares for His followers? In verse 2,

Jesus states that it's His Father's house, which has many rooms. These phrases were common to early Jewish people. It was their custom that when 2 people were engaged to be married, the man would go and prepare a place for the couple to live. It was their custom that the man would build onto or prepare a place within his father's house. Families would live and dwell together, but each family unit would have their own place within the larger estate. By stating that His Father's house has many rooms, Jesus is letting us know that He has enough room for us all, for all that His followers. Jesus' uses to marriage language to help us understand that He loves us like a husband loves his wife, and that although He is departing for a time, He will return for His followers.

Jesus will come again to take us to His Father's house to dwell with Him forever. The groom to be would go and prepare a place for his bride, and then he would return for his bride. It's interesting to note that the brides would not know when her groom would return. They would communicate through trusted messengers, but there was no way to know exactly how long the preparation would take, so the bride had to always be ready for his return. In the same way, while we wait, Jesus communicates with us through His word and through the Holy Spirit, and we are to always be ready for His return (Mk 13:32-33, Matt 25:1-12).

So, what's the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? Jesus promises to return again so that we can be with Him forever.

WORSHIP

In this last part of G.R.O.W., we focus on worship. If you want, you can sing a song, such as Glorious Day by Casting Crowns, but remember that worship is more than songs. We are to worship God with our lives, not just in select moments. Worship means to show God's worthiness and value. So, let's consider how we can live this out and worship God.

2 Peter 3:8-9 states that Jesus' return hasn't happened yet because God is being patient, wanting more and more to come to salvation. One of the ways that we live for the return of Jesus is by helping others come to salvation in Jesus. We must remember that His return also brings judgment of sin (Matt. 16:27), so we should help others avoid the judgment of their sin and help them join the wedding party. 2 Peter 3:11 also states that since God's judgment is coming, we ought to live in holiness, so that it's clear that we belong to Jesus. And Hebrews 10:24-25 exhorts us to encourage others to live for Jesus as we consider the coming of Jesus.

So, let us be excited about Jesus' return as it will be a glorious day. It is to be more anticipated than anything else. Consider how excited you are for other things: driving, graduation, presents, children, etc. Are you more excited to dwell with Jesus forever, more excited for His return? If not, repent and pray for God's perspective that will help you treasure His return more than anything else. When that happens, you will eagerly share that excitement with others.