

### Introduction

1. The disciples needed comfort
2. Our Lord here gives new comforts
3. As His people we always need such comforts

### 1. THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST MAY DO "GREATER WORKS" THAN CHRIST HIMSELF DID: v.12

- 1) NOT a reference to miracles. Explain.
- 2) BUT to numbers of persons converted
- 3) Proof:
  - (i) Our Lord chose to be only modestly successful in His preaching
  - (ii) But see Peter + other Apostles
- 4) We see in this the kindness of Christ:
  - (i) He had it in His power to convert all
  - (ii) But gave greater success to His weak servants

**APPLICATION:** How we should marvel at Christ's love + goodness + copy His lowliness

### 2. CHRIST PROMISES TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS: v.13-14

- 1) See here:
  - (i) promise
  - (ii) wide permission
  - (iii) goal in view: the glory of God
- 2) "Whatsoever" must always be qualified:
  - (i) not for material things
  - (ii) but spiritual things for our good

- 3) **APPLICATION:** Let me press this – "ASK":
  - for conversions among our people
  - for new persons to come
  - for a work of grace on a wide scale

### 3. THE PROOF OF LOVE TO CHRIST IS OBEDIENCE: V.15

- 1) This needs to be said:
  - (i) not gloom + tears
  - (ii) not talk + flowery words
- 2) But obedience to Christ's will:
  - (i) the Ten Commandments
  - (ii) the law of love – "new commandment"
  - (iii) the duty to be regular in God's house
  - (iv) the sacraments
  - (v) to be His witnesses to others

**APPLICATION:** Holiness is absolutely essential in the life of believers

### 4. ALL BELIEVERS ARE INDWELT BY GOD'S SPIRIT: v.16-17

- 1) The Spirit has been in all believers – OT as well as NT times
- 2) But now in greater measure He is given to NT believers:
  - (i) Christ's work is now better understood
  - (ii) the NT scriptures add to our knowledge
  - (iii) Christ is at God's right hand
- 3) So, revivals and spiritual blessings may be looked for now in NT times
 

**APPLICATION:** Do you cry out to God for more assurance / holiness / enlightenment?

### CONCLUSION

1. Are we exercising faith?
2. Do we pray believing?
3. Do we know the experience of God's Spirit?

**PSALM**

**125: 1 – 5**

**119: 105 – 110**

**143: 7 - 12**