

# To See Is to Love

[John 14:15-21](#)

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## Meet John's Community

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## The Advocate

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## Today's Bible Reading

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## Additional Bible Readings

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[Acts 17:22-31](#)

[Psalm 66:8-20](#)

[1 Peter 3:13-22](#)

**Holy God, lift our gaze and open our hearts, that we might see your love all around. May your abiding presence encourage us to love more. Amen.**

John 14:15-21 continues Jesus' farewell speech to his disciples from the upper room at the Last Supper. There is a tenderness, as we can imagine he meets each disciple's gaze and offers a summary of his ministry and instructions for theirs and ours. He explains the indwelling of God by introducing the concept of God's Spirit. It is the first of four teachings in the gospel of John. The Spirit is described as "advocate" from the Greek *parakletos*. "Paraclete" has a range of meanings that communicate who the Spirit is by what the Spirit does. Among other things, Paraclete can mean to encourage, help, or comfort. The use of "advocate" here comes from the way the word is used in other settings to convey the equivalent of a defence attorney. The Spirit comes as a gift from God, just as John earlier portrayed Jesus as God's gift (3:16).

The emphasis in this passage is not so much belief in Jesus as it is love for Jesus. The importance of the Paraclete as "advocate" is one who supports and helps us as we seek to love. Such love is revealed in this passage through action. All five occurrences of love in this passage are verbs. Each exercise of love is connected with keeping Jesus' commandments. Jesus had announced a new commandment in John 13:34: "love one another."

As much as our faith may lead us to feel abandoned when our insistence on love and justice puts us at odds with the world – even with those closest to us – we have the assurance that we will be accompanied. Without faith, Jesus is not seen or heard.