



# Living Joyfully Today

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# 1

## **Learning To Enjoy God Today**

Our heavenly Father and His Son and the Holy Spirit all want us to enjoy knowing God. No matter what is going on in our lives today, God wants us to enjoy Him. To enjoy God means that we must first know God. In order to know God, we must learn the truth about God. The first truth we learn concerns salvation. We learn that we are sinners and that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Individually, we accept that free gift of salvation by receiving Jesus as Savior. We pray, repenting of our sins, and, by faith alone, we receive that free gift.

John wrote so that we could know the truth. We know the truth by listening to John's testimony about Jesus. Because John testified to what he heard, what he saw, and what he touched with his hands, he provided special, eyewitness testimony. He was not relying upon what others said about the Word of Life (Jesus), but upon his direct experience with Jesus.

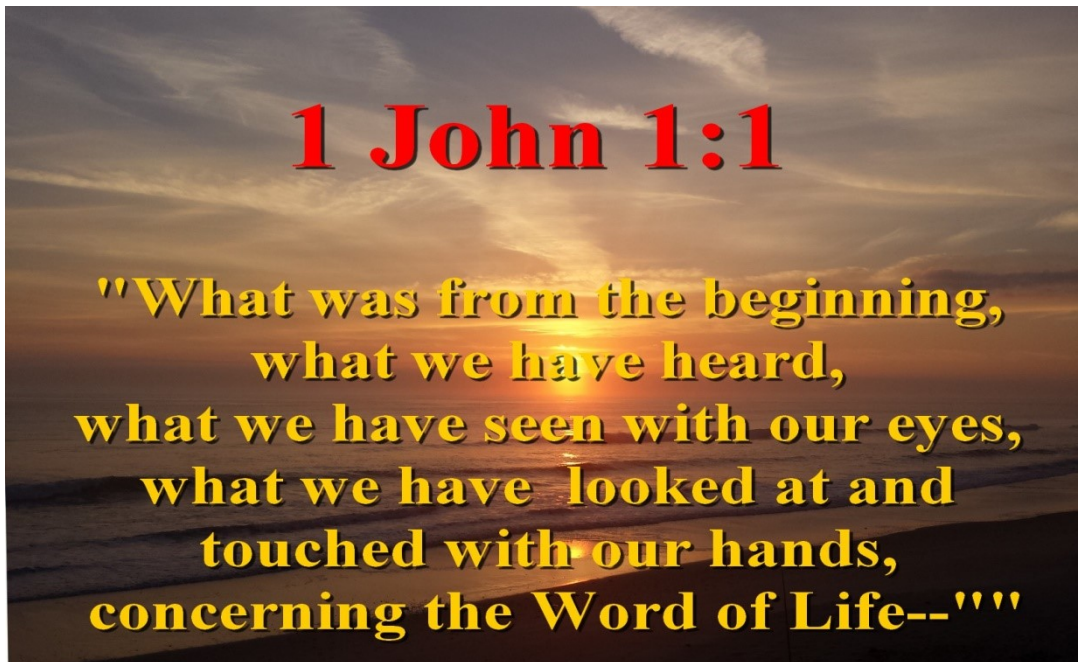
Notice that John described the Word of Life as "what was from the beginning." Jesus did not come into existence when the Holy Spirit came upon Mary the virgin. He merely took flesh, having existed as God from eternity past, never made or created. John wrote about God living among people, and he saw it all first hand.

John emphasized that he wanted people to have fellowship with the other apostles, who in turn have fellowship with God the Father and God the Son, Jesus Christ. He also wrote so that our joy may be made complete. So, as we travel through the First Epistle of John, we will see what it means to have fellowship with God, and how our fellowship with God produces joy in our lives.



# **Day One**

## **The Word of Life Today**



Did God inspire John to write the book of 1 John? John wrote both the Gospel of John and the Epistles of John (the three small books at the back of the Bible). He wrote all of those books under the inspiration of God, meaning that God breathed out those autographs (the originals, not copies). God moved John to write down God's words. In all the Scriptures, the words always matter. In the First Epistle of John, John wrote about the Word of Life. He described his personal experience with the Word of Life, and shared his firsthand knowledge of the Word of Life. John revealed that Jesus Christ as the Word of Life.

## ***The Personal Testimony of John***

1. **Personal Testimony**. Why should we care what John wrote in the Bible? We should care because the Bible provides eyewitness testimony about God in the flesh, Jesus Christ. John started his first letter with personal testimony. That testimony includes what was from the beginning (compare Genesis 1:1 and The Gospel of John 1:1; hereafter, John 1:1). You may recall that the qualifications of the twelve apostles required that they were with Jesus "beginning with" His baptism (Acts 1:22).

2. **Eyewitnesses**. John then testified that he, with others, had heard Jesus, and had seen Jesus with their eyes.

3. **Touching Jesus**. John also gazed upon Jesus, seeing His glory and truth (John 1:14). John also touched Jesus with his hands. Jesus had real flesh and blood.

4. **Multiple Eyewitnesses**. The Bible provides an accurate, detailed account of the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. John and other New Testament authors claimed they were with Jesus for years on a daily basis, and they spent further time with Jesus after His resurrection from the dead.

5. **Accurate**. Jesus recorded all these things with a supernatural guarantee of accuracy. He promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would bring to their minds all that He said (John 14:26).

6. **Abide in His Love**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that Jesus intended that His followers would read the testimony of reliable eyewitnesses so that we may walk with Him and abide in His love.

7. **The Word of Life**. We rejoice today because if anyone tells us that the Bible has all kinds of errors, and contains only the words of men, then we remember that they deny Word of God. As we read the Bible and believe the Bible, God uses the Bible to reveal Himself and all truth essential to

understanding Him, receiving salvation and living a Godly life. In Him, we have all joy each day. Without faith, we cannot please God. With faith, we stand upon the rock-solid Word of God and enjoy life in the family of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we learn more about God from the Bible.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we believe more things God taught in the Bible.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we understand the roots of our faith, proclaimed by eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ.**

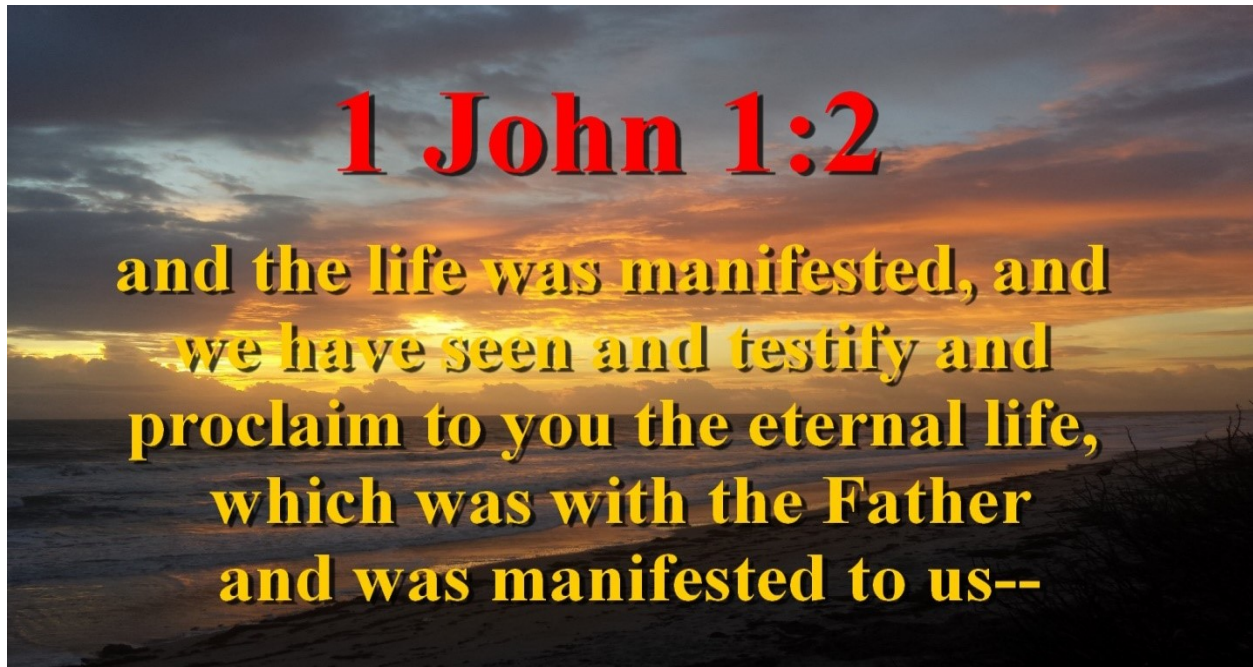
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may listen to the voice of an eyewitness of Jesus as we read the First Epistle of John. We will see Jesus in the pages of the Bible as we hear His voice. His words brought life to us, and we will live in His joy, because He is the Word of Life. Will you rejoice in His abiding love today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## **Day Two**

### **Eternal Life Proclaimed Today**



Do you believe eyewitnesses? God loved eyewitnesses and used them to reveal Himself. In court, eyewitnesses often tell what they have heard and seen. Attorneys often object when the witness testifies to things they have heard from other people, or things the witness does not know firsthand. The eyewitness nature of the testimony lends credibility. Cross-examination helps clarify the truth and separate out inconsistent statements. When God wrote the First Epistle of John, He knew that people would scrutinize every word, looking for error; God produced His revelation without error and those folks continue to look in vain to find error. Other people receive the First Epistle of John gladly, looking for truth and finding it. Some people receive it for what it really is, the Word of God, and live in great joy. God chose

eyewitnesses to proclaim the truth of eternal life manifested by the Word of Life which came from the Father to our world.

## ***Manifested***

1. **Personal Witness**. When John saw Jesus, what did John actually see? John personally witnessed the Word of Life.

2. **The Word of Life**. The Word of Life was manifested. This phrase means that the Word of Life became visible, perceivable, and apparent. You may recall that most people who saw Jesus did not recognize Him as God in the flesh, the Messiah.

3. **Apostles**. John also testified that the apostles ("we") have seen, and testified, and proclaim. Today, we must proclaim Jesus with our lips and our lives, based upon the testimony of the apostles recorded in the New Testament.

4. **Eternal Life**. The eternal life was with the Father. John wrote things you have to ponder. In this case, the eternal life refers to Jesus leaving heaven and the glory He shared there with His Father to come to earth, take human flesh, and walk among men.

5. **Titles**. Jesus came from the Father and John referred to Jesus as the Word of Life and eternal life. John showed us the truths of Jesus by the titles John applied to Jesus.

6. **Incarnation**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know that the life was with the Father and was manifested to us. Not only was Jesus the joy of His Father in heaven, but Jesus came to earth and brought joy and eternal life with Him. The term “incarnation” means that Jesus took flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus was truly God and truly man, at the same time.

7. **Joyful Living**. We rejoice today because we see in the First Epistle of John the wonderful spiritual truths associated with Jesus and how they apply to the family of God. We will also see that John shared his letter to bring full and perfect joy to believers.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we hear the proclamation from eyewitnesses of God contained in the Bible.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we listen and proclaim the great things God has done for us through Jesus Christ.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we ponder the life of Jesus Christ that brought eternal life as a free gift into the life of every believer.**

### **Application for Today**

Today we may see the Word of Life, Jesus, Who lived, died on the cross, and rose from the dead for our benefit. Jesus manifested eternal life. He gave His life for us, and paid the price for all our sins. He is the Word of Life, and offers eternal life to all people who will believe in Him for salvation. As a member of the family of God by faith alone, we may live today learning about the Word of Life described in the Bible, and knowing the Word of Life lives His life in me today. Will you rejoice today in the Word of Life?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# **Day Three**

## **Seen and Heard Today**



Have you ever hung out with some people and you shared a spiritual friendship unlike anything else? Both of you love Jesus, love to talk about Jesus, walk with Jesus, and follow Jesus in all that you do? If you have a spiritual connection with some people based upon shared truth and shared faith in the Word of Life, based upon the eyewitness testimony of the apostles, then you have fellowship. John emphasized that shared truth about Jesus, as proclaimed by the eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ, the Word of Life, brings us into fellowship with those apostles, other believers, God the Father and God the Son, Jesus Christ. Notice that fellowship rests upon believing the doctrine of the eyewitness apostles.

## ***Fellowship***

1. **Personal Knowledge**. Did the other apostles also see Jesus in the flesh? John emphasized that the apostles (including himself) proclaimed what they had seen, heard, handled and touched. They were working from their own personal knowledge of Jesus.

2. **Motivation**. John also disclosed the reason he wrote his letter. He wanted people to have fellowship with the apostles, and with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ. Fellowship will lead to complete joy.

3. **True Fellowship**. According to God, true fellowship rests upon the eyewitness testimony of the apostles as contained in the Bible. If you reject that testimony, then you have rejected the basis for fellowship with the apostles and, more importantly, fellowship with the Father and with Jesus, His Son.

4. **Rejection**. Many people today reject the Bible. They call it only the word of men, or full of errors, or something else that shows they reject the teaching of the apostles.

5. **Living in Death**. When people reject the Bible, then they reject eternal life. The live in death, for the wages of sin is death, and everyone sins and falls short of the glory of God.

6. **Free Gift of Eternal Life**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that God offers us a free gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. By faith, we accept that free gift, by confessing with our mouth Jesus as Lord and believing in our heart that God raised Him from the dead. Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and paid the death penalty I deserve.

7. **Entrusting.** We rejoice today because Jesus chose to entrust to all believers the ministry of proclaiming the good news of salvation to eyewitnesses, who would proclaim it to other people who never saw Jesus in the flesh. We heard the good news, believed it, and Jesus came into our lives and saved us to have fellowship with God and other believers who accept the testimony of the eyewitnesses.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we examine the eyewitness testimony about Jesus, the Word of Life, that brings us into fellowship with the eyewitnesses of Jesus, and with God the Father and God the Son.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when take time to fellowship with other believers and with God the Father and God the Son.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we have fellowship with God and with other believers, and spend time with them.**

### **Application for Today**

Today we may enjoy the fellowship we have with other believers and with God the Father and with God the Son, Jesus Christ. Sweet times of shared truth and love will bless me for all eternity. Will you rejoice today in the sweet times of fellowship with other believers?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## Day Four

### Our Complete Joy Today



Do you love spending time with your spouse? I love spending time with my wife. We have had our problems over our forty-two years of marriage, but I really love spending time with her. We laugh together, pray daily together, and read the Bible daily together. In short, we rejoice together. God joined us together in marriage, and we truly enjoy being married.

John wrote about the things he heard, saw, handled and touched concerning Jesus, the Word of Life. He told us explicitly why he wrote his epistle: he wanted our joy to be complete, meaning that everyone who reads his epistle will find complete joy in Jesus, just as John and the apostles rejoiced in Jesus. By writing the epistle about Jesus, God completed the joy of John and, by extension, our joy.

## *Joy*

1. **Complete Joy**. Does God want me to be joyful? John wrote to make complete the joy of all members of the family of God. God intends for us to rejoice today. By sharing the truth based upon personal, eyewitness testimony, John intended that his joy would be made complete and our joy also be made complete. The Greek term for “complete” means here to increase to fullness, to raise to the brim, to fill entirely.

2. **Joy Grows**. Notice how joy here grows to completion. John's joy increased because he had fellowship with the Father and the Son, and other believers could share in that fellowship by believing his testimony. More faith means more joy. More people with faith means more joy for each believer in fellowship with the other believers. Take time today to enjoy the fellowship you have with believing friends and with God.

3. **God's Joy**. Consider Christ: He intends for your joy to grow as you know God better. As we read through the First Epistle of John, God wants to grow our joy. If we believe what we read, and put it into practice, then our joy will grow to completion.

4. **Joy in Your Life**. Our faith and our joy go hand in hand. As our faith grows, so also our joy. As a believer, your joy grows as you have greater faith and greater fellowship with God and with other believers.

5. **God Intends Joy**. Jesus wants your joy to increase through faith in the testimony of the Apostles.

6. **Living Joyfully**. Living joyfully in the family of God depends upon reading, understanding, believing, and living according to the truths John wrote in this epistle.

7. **Greater Joy.** We rejoice today because we live with greater joy as we meditate upon the truth that Jesus uses the word of God to build joy in His family. I look forward to more joy today.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we live with Him in perfect fellowship based upon the teachings of the apostles about Jesus.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when share with them the teachings of the apostles.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we have fellowship with God and with other believers, and spend time with them.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, may our joy may be made complete. As other believers follow the doctrine of the apostles and grow in love and fellowship with God and each other, our joy matures. Will you rejoice today in the love and fellowship of the family of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 2

## **Learning To Enjoy the Light Today**

John revealed that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. As believers, we must learn what it means to walk in the Light. We have problems with sin related to darkness in our lives. Light and darkness both affect our relationship with God and with the family of God. Before death, we will always have sin in our lives. God speaks about our sin and darkness, and lets us know how sin and darkness harm our lives. But God knows exactly how we must deal with our sins. On the cross, Jesus completed the work of salvation from sins. We never suffer condemnation for our sins, because Jesus already suffered all the condemnation we deserve.

God wants us to know all about walking in the light and how the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Notice that the blood of Jesus continually cleanses us from all sins. He also wants us to have fellowship with other believers, just as God described in the opening verses of 1 John. We have fellowship with the family of God by walking in the Light.

The blood of Jesus cleanses every believer all the time. We sin every day, whether we know it or not. We sin every day whether we confess our sins every day or not. God taught us how to confess our sins to Him. We agree with God by saying the same thing about our sins that God says about our sins. We recognize the darkness within us, while we are walking in the Light. When we confess our sins, we walk in the Light and God forgives us our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. We experience the forgiveness of sins bought with the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ every day.



When we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Even when we say we have not sinned, the truth of God is not in us and we make God a liar. In fact, God never lies. We lie about our sins and deceive ourselves. By reading the Scriptures and believing what God wrote, we can learn about our sins and the joys of sins forgiven and cleansed by God. God always knows about all our sins, but He empowers us to live and walk in the Light every day. We can live joyfully in the family of God today, no matter what. I have hurt my back, my ankles, my knees, and my feet. At times, I find it very difficult to walk because of pains in my body. Some of those pains I brought upon myself lifting something, playing sports, or over-exerting myself without thinking carefully. In my life, physical mistakes can lead to pain.

In my spiritual life, spiritual sin can also lead to spiritual pain. My joy starts to leave, it gets worse the longer I suffer in sin, and I really want to stop sinning and enjoy God some more. God said He is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. God told us that in the Bible so that we can understand how sin relates to our fellowship with God.

God does not lead us into sin or tempt us in any way. We are led away by our own lusts, and then sin produces death. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Therefore, I know that all darkness in my life comes from my choices to sin. As we learn more about walking in the Light, we will enjoy the family of God today.

# Day Five

## God Is Light Today



1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard  
from Him and announce to you, that  
God is Light, and in Him there  
is no darkness at all.

Do you walk in the light? Virtually every night I turn off the light in the living room and head to the bedroom. In order to avoid tripping over the furniture, I often turn on a light down the hall so that I can walk towards it. I found that light to be an excellent guide to missing all the stumbling blocks in the living room. Sometimes a shoe or something may be left in my path, but that light solves all my problems. I can see the obstacle and avoid it, or just put it where it belongs. The light really helps me navigate through the darkness and lights up my path. It also leads me to peaceful rest.

## ***All Light, No Darkness***

**1. God Is Light.** Does God have any darkness in Him? John presented a very important truth in very simple language: "God is light." God has no darkness at all in Him.

**2. No Darkness At All.** God has no darkness in Him. God is pure light. I love the absolute purity of God. Unlike men, God is light and no darkness exists in Him. Whenever I seek God, I know I will not find darkness in God. He never has a bad day. He never stops loving the believer, not even for an instant.

**3. Only Light.** God lives in my life because I received the free gift of eternal life from Him by faith alone. When God came into my life, He filled my life with only light, divine light from His divine presence. God did not bring a drop of evil with Him. He made me a new creature filled with His light.

**4. Spreading the Light.** John told us that he proclaims his eyewitness testimony about God so that we may have fellowship with God and with the apostles and with other believers, based upon that testimony of the apostles. We spread the light of God by spreading the message and love of God.

**5. Darkness in Me.** Although God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all, I still have darkness in my life, and I sin. God explained in

this chapter how light and darkness both work in me. I have spiritual darkness in my life, but God cleanses me from all sin.

**6. Jesus Proclaimed the Light.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that I believe that Jesus identified Himself as the light of the world. People did not comprehend that light and His own rejected Him as Savior. Yet, as many as believed in Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, and such we are by faith alone.

**7. Encouraging My Friends.** We rejoice today because we love to encourage the faith of our friends in Christ. I often look for the right words to bring encouragement from God into their lives. I love to read the Bible with my friends. Many of my friends are going through difficult times right now. I try to remind them that God is light, and there is no darkness in Him. Seeking God means we never find darkness in Him. If you live in darkness, you do not live in God. I thank Jesus that He never operates from the dark side, because no darkness exists in Him.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we believe that God is light and there is no darkness in Him.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when walk in the light and avoid the darkness.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we share the light with our friends who walk in darkness.**

### **Application for Today**

Today we may enjoy the light of God. As we meditate upon Him, we know that He has no darkness at all in Him. When we see darkness, we know that we are not looking at God. When darkness comes into our lives, then we know that God did not put it there, for He is light. We take great comfort in trusting God, because God has no darkness at all. He never has a bad day, slips up, or forgets to do the right thing. God shines into every dark area of our lives. So many of my friends live in darkness, and so we may proclaim the simple truth to them that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. Will you rejoice today in proclaiming the truth that God is light today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Six

## We Lie Today



Do you lie at times? Some people lie a lot. They have a very hard time telling the truth. I have friends that do not understand that no one believes their lies. They lie about their alcohol and drug abuse. They think no one notices how drunk they are and how high they get. They lie about working and earning a steady living. They lie about their walk with Jesus. Yet, we all have a tendency to lie. Spiritually, we lie when we tell people that we have fellowship with God, and yet we walk in the darkness. Jesus wants us to practice the truth all the time. He empowers us to walk in the light with Him. We walk in the darkness when we disobey His commands, and ignore His orders. Jesus tells us to stop lying and follow Him. We love Him and so we should enjoy doing what He wants. Like sheep with their shepherd, so we follow Jesus who loves each of us.



## *The Truth*

**1. Walking and Talking.** What does it mean to walk in the truth? Walking in the truth means we walk in the Light, and Jesus is the Light. John used a black and white pattern to convey big truths. Here, John teaches us about walking and talking.

**2. Daily Living.** Walking in darkness means we do not have fellowship with God. Walking means normal, daily living.

**3. Lying and Saying.** Walking in darkness, but saying I have fellowship with God, means that I lie and do not practice the truth. When I proclaim with my mouth that Jesus is Lord of my life, but I live in darkness, I lie and do not practice the truth.

**4. Walking, Lying, Practicing.** Notice the related sins here. First, you are not walking in the light. Second, you are lying. Third, you are not practicing the truth.

**5. More Sins.** When we lie about walking in darkness, we only add two more sins to our basic spiritual darkness.

**6. Talk Remains Cheap.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that both our walk and our talk reflect Christ in our lives. Just because someone tells you that they walk with Jesus does not mean they are not lying and not practicing the truth. We should be very careful of what people tell us. We lie to people when we say we have fellowship with Jesus, but walk in the darkness. God wants us to practice the truth and walk in His light. Our walk and our talk should both shine with the light of God in our lives.

**7. Fellowship Test.** We rejoice today because our walk reflects that Jesus lives in us. The way we act daily indicates our fellowship with God. We



may talk a good game, but how do we act? If our walk matches our talk about fellowship with God, then we are not lying and we are practicing the truth.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we practice the truth and do not lie.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more do not walk in the darkness.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we practice the truth we have learned from Jesus, our Savior. His light casts out darkness and makes our joy stronger each day as we practice the truths He has taught us.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we can walk in the light and have fellowship with God. We can be careful to avoid walking in darkness by relying upon the power of God and His truth working in us. Will you rejoice today in His joy by practicing the truth?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seven

## Walk in the Light Today



**1 John 1:7**

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself  
is in the Light, we have fellowship with  
one another, and the blood of Jesus  
His Son cleanses us from all sin.

How do you handle enormous sins in your life? Does it mean that you have lost your salvation? Jesus wants us to know that when we walk in the Light with Him, we still sin. Yes, we still sin when we walk in the Light with Jesus. God never causes us to sin and never tempts us. In fact, He always provides a way of escape from every temptation. So, if we still sin while walking in the light with Jesus, what do we do about our sins? Jesus promised that His blood cleanses us from all sin as we walk in the Light. As we walk in the light, we have fellowship with other believers.

## *Cleanses Us*

**1. Walk in the Light.** If we walk in the light, do we still sin? Yes, we still sin when we walk in the Light. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin as we walk in the Light. We can walk in the Light with Jesus every day. Walking in the Light means that we follow Jesus, not our own desires. We learn His desires from reading the Bible. Notice that the Light is God the Father, because the blood of “His Son” cleanses us from all sin.

**2. Fellowship.** John wrote so that we may have fellowship with the apostles and with God, based upon their teachings, which they received from God in the Bible. Fellowship means that we enjoy the company of other believers, because we both have saving faith in Jesus.

**3. The Blood of Jesus.** Some people make fun of the blood of Jesus, but Jesus shed His precious blood to cleanse us from all sin. Only His sinless blood could atone for our sins. The wages of sin is death. We have all sinned, but when we receive the free gift of salvation by faith, we believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay the death penalty for all our sins.

**4. Cleanses.** When we walk in the Light as Jesus is in the Light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, we know that we still sin while walking in the Light. Notice that “cleanses” is present tense, continuous action. The blood of Jesus continually cleanses us all day, each day, while we walk in the Light.

**5. Us.** Believers sin. Get over it. We do not embrace sin, but we do embrace sinners as Jesus embraced them. While I walk in the Light, I will still sin and cause problems with my fellowship with other believers. Every believer must understand that none of us are perfect, but Jesus cleanses us all the time with His blood. We must believe that truth not only for ourselves, but also for all believers. We all sin, even when walking in the Light.

**6. All Sin.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we love the word “All” there. Jesus cleanses all my sin. I have met many people who drink too much because they did something terrible in the past, and never found the complete forgiveness of God through the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus. All means all. All our sin is gone forever, nailed to the cross of Jesus. Live it !

**7. Submission.** We rejoice today because the grace of God helps us follow Jesus and His plans for our lives today. We make a conscious decision to choose His path and His ways. The “if” of “if we walk” means we must submit our will to Jesus today. If we choose to walk our own path and do our own thing, then we will not be walking with Jesus today.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more today when we walk in the Light with Jesus and have fellowship with God and believers today.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we understand that when they walk in the Light, we all still sin, and I need to love them because the blood of Jesus cleanses every believer from all sin.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we all walk in the Light together, being cleansed as Jesus washes us with His blood, removing all the stains of sin from our lives.**

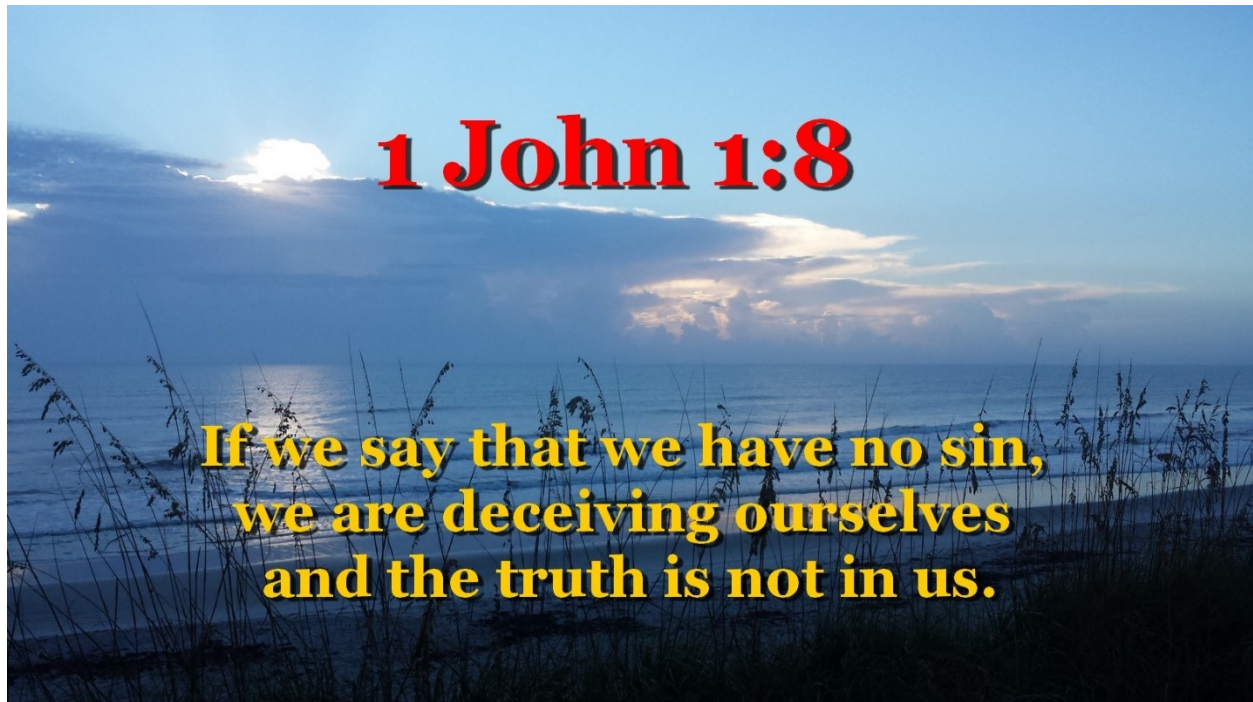
**Application for Today**

Today, we can walk in the Light and feel Jesus cleansing us from all sin. We will not walk alone, but with our believing friends. Will you rejoice today by walking in joy?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eight

## Deceiving Ourselves Today



When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Do you notice all the imperfections in your appearance? Do you overlook some things and obsess about other things? Is your weight o.k.? How about your muscle tone? Do you see any signs of disease looking back at you? Is your face happy and content? Do you look young enough? Do you look old enough? Many questions can pop into your mind. Some people look into the mirror and fall in love with themselves with every look. All that they see excites them and they never imagine that other people look at them differently. As humans, we have an amazing ability to overlook our own flaws, or over emphasize them. We can swing to vast extremes. God commands us to be truthful in all things, especially by comparing truth from God with our own behavior.



## ***Truth, Lies and Deception Today***

**1. Sin Today.** Have you sinned today? We have sin in our lives. The present active tense of the verb "we have" means a continuous present. Sin exists in our lives now as a present reality.

**2. Deceiving Ourselves.** We are deceiving ourselves if we say we have no sin. If you hear anyone say that he has no sin, then two things are true. First, he is deceiving himself if he really believes that he has no sin. Second, the truth is not in him.

**3. We Sin.** Let me emphasize the "we" in the text. John writes to fellow believers. True believers have sin their lives. True believers tend to deceive themselves about their sin and so deny they have sin. True believers can live without truth in them regarding their own sinful condition.

**4. Joyful Living.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that I know I tend to deceive myself about my sin. My family members in the body of Christ tend to deceive themselves about their sins. I should expect my friends to be oblivious at times to their sins.

**5. Truth.** The truth regarding my sin is not always in me. Likewise, for my friends in Christ. The truth is we sin more than we admit to ourselves.

**6. No Condemnation Today.** How often have you sinned lately? Ask yourselves a few questions. Any worry today? Any fear today? Any anxiety today? Any envy today? Did you love God today all day with all your heart or did you focus on your own wants and pleasures at His expense? Did you love all your neighbors as yourself all day? We have the wonderful Savior, Jesus, Who never condemns us, but seeks to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He loves us no matter what.



**7. Cleanses Me.** Living joyfully in Christ means that as I walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses me from all sin.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we stop deceiving ourselves about our own sins.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we understand that all believers sin, and tend to deceive themselves about their sins.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we embrace the truth of God's word, examine ourselves in the power of the Holy Spirit convicting us of sin, and know the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may examine our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God. We may focus upon the blood of Jesus cleansing us from all sin as we walk in the Light with Jesus, having fellowship with other believers, who sin just like us. Will you rejoice today by walking in the light of Jesus, knowing His blood cleanses you from all sin?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Nine

## Confessing Our Sins Today



Do you care about your adult children? You should always care about the spiritual condition of your children of all ages. You must care because they are your physical children for life and you have a spiritual duty to parent them all of your life. My friend's son was in jail on a drug charge. He had enough heroin on him to be charged with trafficking. As he sat in jail, awaiting trial, he schemed about ways to beat the drug charges. With just the right legal strategy, he thought maybe he could be released. In contrast, my friend prayed that the son would own up to the fact that he was a heroin addict and needed to become clean and live for Jesus. Spiritually, they were miles apart. One wanted freedom from jail, with continued slavery to drugs. The other wanted freedom to serve Jesus for an eternity.

## ***Faithful and Righteous Today***

**1. Continual Cleansing.** Why do we need to confess our sins if they have been forgiven at the moment of salvation? We confess our sins as believers to enjoy the continuous forgiveness and cleansing from sin. John has proven that believers still sin, but the blood of Jesus continually cleanses believers. We enjoy fellowship with God even more as we confess our sins.

**2. Confession of Sin.** When we become aware that we have sinned, then we must confess our sin to God. Confession means that we say the same words Jesus says about our sin. We agree with God that our behavior was sinful. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man, and so we confess our sins directly to God.

**3. Faithful and Righteous.** As we confess our sin, Jesus wants us to remember that God is faithful and righteous. Faithful means no matter how many times we seek forgiveness for the same sin, God will always be faithful to forgive us. Righteous here means that God will always maintain a holy and perfect relationship with us. So, God will not hold a grudge against us for sinning and confessing.

**4. Eternal Life.** Some cults teach that if you die without confessing your last sins, then you will go to hell. Jesus said all of our sins were laid upon Jesus at His death on the cross--our past, present and future sins. Therefore, the moment we believed that Jesus died for all our sins and He was raised from the dead, all our sins were forgiven, even if we never confessed one sin later. Salvation was complete and we have eternal life from the moment we believe.

**5. Cleansing.** So, why does God want us to confess our sins if they are already forgiven? For the same reason you take a shower. You wash and you

feel cleansed. When we confess my sins, we feel cleansed by God and thank Him for our salvation.

**6. Habitual Sin.** Living joyfully in the family of God means we know God promised that when we confess our sins, He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, we can count upon the supernatural power of God to cleanse sin and habitual sin out of our lives. He promised to cleanse us.

**7. Clean Up Time.** We rejoice today because understand we sin each day, but He cleanses us from living in sin today. Our ways do not always match His ways. Yet, as we confess our sins as we notice them, we feel His cleansing power in our lives. Jesus cleans us up each day and loves us always. Taking time every day to be clean before God adds more joy to our lives and greater fellowship with other believers.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we rely upon His faithfulness and grace by confessing our sins, knowing that He will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we know that God will forgive our friends in Christ for anything they do, because of the essential qualities of God, and they will be cleansed from all unrighteousness.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we confess our sins immediately, and do not let them stink up our lives and mess with our fellowship with other believers.**

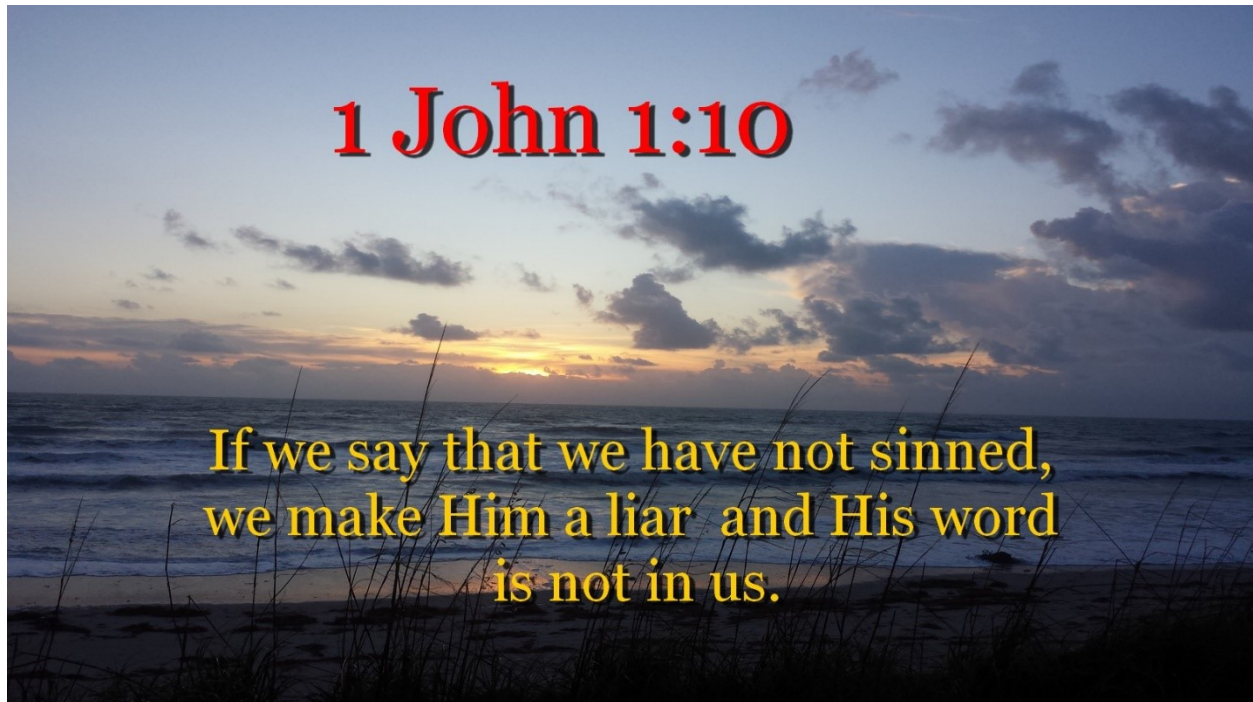
### **Application for Today**

Today, we can feel clean, Jesus clean. One day when I was a teenager, I was working on my car. My hands were black with grease. My Dad walked by and told me it was time to eat supper. He told me to get cleaned up. My father never told me I was no longer a member of the family because my hands were black with grease. He just wanted me to wash my hands before I ate dinner with the family. Today, I am going to wash my spiritual hands and enjoy supper with my friends as we dine with Christ. Will you rejoice today by washing your hands?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ten

## Have Not Sinned Today



Does God ever lie? God never lies, but at times we lie. For example, we lie when we say that we have never sinned. We should also learn about what it means to say that God's word is in us. When God's word abides in us, then we act according to what God says. We follow God and His word directs our activities.

Some people claim that they have never sinned. Indeed, they reject the very idea of sin. John emphasized that not only do we sin today, but we can never say that we have not sinned in the past. We can hear God saying in the Bible that we all have sinned and fall short of His glory. As believers, we still sin a lot. We need to be cleansed from our sins by the blood of Jesus Christ.



We make God a liar when we deny that we have sinned. God said we have sinned, and when we deny God said we have sinned, we make God a liar. Of course, God is never a liar; we are lying when we say that we have not sinned. We also do not have the word of God abiding in us, because if the word of God remained in us, then we would not be lying about ourselves. Remember that lying and self-deception go hand in hand.

God wants to cleanse us from all unrighteousness every day. We can feel clean and live clean before Him daily, all day. We will sin, but we can confess that sin immediately.

### ***His Word Is Not in Us***

**1. If We Say.** Why do people say that they have not sinned? They lie. This “if” clause means that it is likely that people will say that they have not sinned. So, God in His infinite wisdom, revealed that as believers, we have a tendency to lie about having committed sins.

**2. We Have Not Sinned.** 1 John 1:8 deals with our present sin, right now. 1 John 1:10 deals with sins in the past that still affect us. God wants to be sure that we have confessed our sins in the present, and also sins from the past that still cause bad effects in our lives. We need to confess all our sins as God convicts us of them.

**3. Make God a Liar.** God never lies, but John said we can make God a liar. He meant that when we say we have not sinned with lasting effects, then we make God a liar. He said we have sinned with lasting effects of that sin, but when we deny it, then, in effect, we make God a liar. Remember, God never lies, we are just calling God a liar. We should never call God a liar.



**4. His Word Is Not In Us.** When we lie about our sin, not only do we call God a liar, but His word is not in us. John meant that God told us that we sin. When we say we have not sinned, then we know we are denying what God said. It also means that God's word has no place in us. We are not living according to what God said.

**5. Living in Truth.** In our lives, we can either live in lies or we can live in truth. We make those choices each day, all day. We can accept the truth from God, and live accordingly. If we deny the truth from God, then we live a lie, sin, call God a liar, and His word has no place in us.

**6. Clean Today.** Living joyfully means that as we walk in the Light, we still sin, but the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Walking in the Light is fun, happy, joyful. We have a great life when we walk in the light with Jesus. We still sin, but the blood of Jesus cleanses us.

**7. Confession and Lying.** We rejoice today because we live in forgiveness and cleansing today. We confess sins by saying the same words that God says about our behavior. If something we think or do is sinful, then we must say it is sinful. Our own heart and conscience are not reliable guides. We must read the Bible to understand what God says about sin. God decides what is good and what is sinful behavior, not us. When we disagree with God, we, in effect, make God a liar and His word is not in us. We live in rebellion against God and His word when we deny that we have sinned.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we stop denying our sins and confess them to God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we stop denying that our friends in Christ have sinned, but every member of the family of God receives cleansing from the blood of Jesus.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we feel forgiven and cleansed, and get over our lying about our sins.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we thank God for cleansing us today from all our sins. We know we have been totally forgiven of our sins at the moment we received Jesus as Savior, but we want to feel clean and righteous today. We may encourage our friends in Christ today to avoid lying about our sins, and confess them to Jesus. Will you rejoice today because you have been washed in the blood of Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 3

## **Learning To Enjoy Our Advocate Today**

When people go to court, they want their advocate to present the best case possible for them. In order to present the best case, the advocate must prepare long before the day of trial. A careful advocate will ask the other side questions which must answered in writing under oath, request documents, depose witnesses and investigate the case carefully. Only after assembling the evidence will the advocate prepare questions at trial.

Could you imagine going to court and your advocate knows everything related to your case and tells you before court that you are absolutely guilty of all charges, but it will be o.k. Don't worry, I got this. Would you start to freak out at that point? Let me tell you about Jesus, our Advocate.

Jesus knows everything about everything and everyone. He knows full well just how guilty we are. We actually deserve the death penalty. Jesus does not intend to go to court and prove our innocence. He goes to court to prove that the death penalty we deserve has already been paid. Jesus does not argue that we never sinned, but that the penalty for those sins has been paid (by Him) and now we can be freed from the penalty of our sins by the grace of God alone.

As our Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous, advocates on our behalf before the Father. Satan accuses us day and night in heaven before the Father. Jesus Christ fully prepared our defense before the world was created. Our defense is simple: we sinned, Jesus died and paid the death penalty we deserve, we accepted His free gift of eternal life by faith alone, and now the

only just outcome is that we are free in Jesus and have eternal life. Jesus justified us by His death and resurrection. By His gift of faith to us, we accepted His free gift of salvation, because He paid the death penalty we all deserve as the wages of sin.

No other Savior exists. Jesus alone saves us and keeps us for all eternity. We are trophies of God's great love and grace.

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eleven

## Jesus Advocates Today



**1 John 2:1**

**My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;**

Does every believer have a lawyer? Yes, Jesus Christ the Righteous advocates for us before the Father. Getting real with yourself before God means that you understand that you sin. At times, you sin the same sin over and over. You worry, you doubt, you fear, and God does not control all your thoughts and all your emotions. You do not control your tongue all the time.

I like to shop at Harbor Freight. I buy cheap tools. I wanted to buy a tool chest on sale. I had the advertisement for the tool chest with a great price with me when I went into the store about closing time. I showed them the ad, they brought the item up front, scanned the item, and then said the price was about fifteen dollars more than I saw in the ad. I showed them the ad again.

They then showed me a letter on the wall informing the world that the ad price was wrong. I expressed my surprise and asked to speak to a manager. Finally, after the closing time had arrived, a manager appeared from the back and showed me the small notice on their board that they could not honor the sale price. I asked for his manager. It was now about ten minutes after closing. I did not want to waste an hour of drive time going to Harbor Freight for nothing. I wanted to get the item at the advertised price. I persisted. Finally, instead of calling his manager at home after hours, he gave me the sale price as advertised. I went home and opened the tool chest. It was bent near one of the wheel attachment points. I got what I paid for. In retrospect, I tried not to be rude, but persistent. In review, I felt that next time I would accept their decision not to honor the sale price as advertised. I kept three employees working overtime for about fifteen dollars. They will probably see me again, and think I wasted their time. I hope in the future I can be more gracious. Exercising my rights may be a bad idea at times. Being gracious always pays dividends when we walk with Jesus. Even when I sin by insisting on my way, I have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.

## ***The Advocate for Little Children***

**1. Not Sin.** When I sin, what does Jesus do for me? Jesus advocates for me when I sin. John told us his purpose for writing these things. John did not want his little children to sin. Even though Jesus cleanses us from all sin, the goal is not to sin. John intended that the truths he shares in his letters would help his little children to avoid sin.

**2. All Believers Sin.** We know from the first chapter of 1 John that all believers sin, but John had no intention of promoting or condoning sin in any way. John thoroughly opposed sin.

**3. Jesus our Advocate.** John described the believer's Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous. If anyone sins, then we have an Advocate with the Father. John phrased it so that he takes it for granted that believers will sin. Jesus Christ the Righteous advocates for sinners who trusted Him as Savior.

**4. Satan the Accuser.** Scripture calls satan the accuser of the brethren, who accuses the saints before God night and day. As satan accuses, so Jesus advocates for us.

**5. Confession of Sin.** Now we begin to see the full picture here. On earth, believers sin every day. God instructs us to confess our sins, and God promises to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In heaven, day and night, satan notices our sins and accuses us before the Father. Jesus our Advocate stands before the Father and shows His full payment for all sins made effective in our lives by faith in our Savior. In our daily lives, we should take our sin seriously. We should learn and believe the great truths of the Bible, especially the truths of 1 John, so that we do not sin. We should never forget our advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous, speaking up in our defense as our Advocate and Defender night and day. Our Advocate never slumbers or sleeps.

**6. Jesus Christ the Righteous.** Living joyfully in the family of God means rely upon Jesus Christ the Righteous. The title, Jesus Christ the Righteous, describes His work, His perfections, and His perfect relationships. Jesus advocates in righteousness. He became sin for us, died in our place on the cross, endured the full wrath of God we deserved for our sins, and transferred His righteousness to us. In Christ, we died to sin so that we may live in righteousness.



**7. Sin and Righteousness.** We rejoice today because we understand how sin affects our lives as believers. We learn from John, speaking under inspiration from God, that God knows our sin, loves us continuously, commands our confession of sin, promises His forgiveness and faithful cleansing, and declares His advocacy for us. Notice how God described Himself as righteous, and explains how His righteousness helps us with our sins.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we believe the truths about how Jesus Christ the Righteous advocates for us before God.**
- **We enjoy our friends in Christ when we remember that Jesus advocates for every believer, and we all need Him as our advocate, day and night.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we believe the truths about advocacy and do not sin. We do not take advantage of Christ as our Advocate by sinning, but we rejoice in His perfect advocacy.**

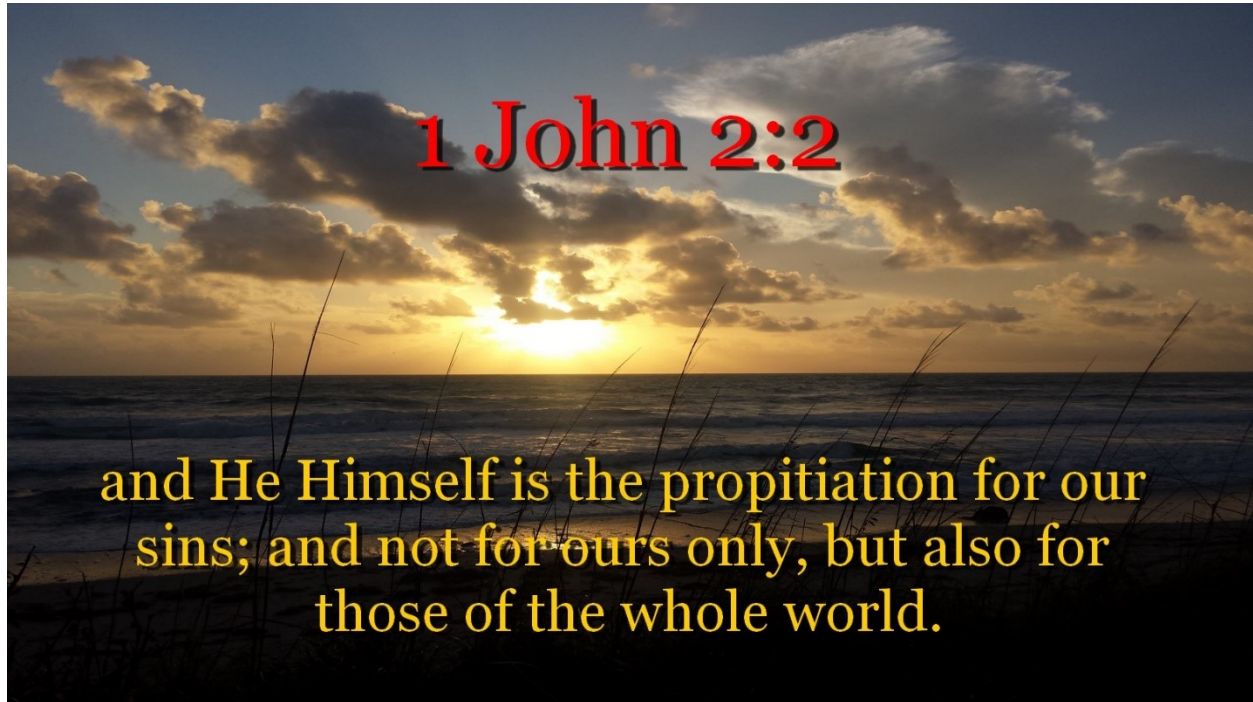
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may rejoice in Jesus Christ the Righteous, our Advocate. He stands before our Father, and intercedes with His blood for us each day. With great thanksgiving, we may live today in the blessings of Jesus Christ the Righteous, our Advocate before the Father. Will you rejoice today because you have an Advocate named Jesus Christ the Righteous?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Twelve

## Propitiation Today



Can you atone for your sins? I hear people trying “to atone” for their sins. They may torture themselves, like the people who whip themselves. They may give away lots of money to make up for things they did to obtain that money. They may try being nice to a person they offended or took advantage of. People try so many things to make themselves feel better and to put things right with other people and with God. While nice gestures may help in some human relationships, they do nothing, absolutely nothing, to take away the penalty of sins. God plainly states that the wages of sin is death. If you ever sinned, then you deserve the death penalty, case closed, you are done.

Because God loves the world, and does not desire for anyone to perish, but for all people to come to eternal life, He sent Jesus into the world to atone for your sins. If you try to atone for your own sins, then you mock the perfect sacrifice of Jesus as unnecessary for you. You call His sacrifice incomplete or imperfect because you still think that you must “do your part” to atone for your sins.

You cannot atone for your sins because you are a sinner. The only sacrifice acceptable to God is a sinless sacrifice. A totally sinless sacrifice. If you have ever sinned, then you are not perfect and cannot offer a perfect sacrifice. We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Only Jesus lived a sinless life. He was God in the flesh. He died to atone for our sins. His perfect, sinless blood completely propitiated the wrath of God and covered our sins forever. Only Jesus could do that and He offered Himself for death on the cross. He died for us.

We accept that free gift by faith alone. While Jesus died for everyone and atoned for the sins of the world, that payment only becomes effective when we accept that free gift by faith alone. We must receive that free gift by believing that Jesus Christ died in our place, and God forgives us on that basis alone. Jesus rose from the dead and lives inside us forever. Amen.

### ***Propitiation Today***

**1. Little Children.** If I sin without confessing all my sins, will I still go to heaven? Yes, we still go to heaven because we have faith that Jesus Christ died for us, and we received by grace through faith His free gift of eternal life. Confession of sin after salvation has nothing to do with salvation.

Once saved, always saved. Jesus is the propitiation for our sins, and for the sins of the entire world.

**2. Propitiation Defined.** John continued his message to his little children. That affectionate tone underscores his teachings of basic doctrines perfect for young believers. The term "propitiation" means to satisfy the righteous demands of God regarding the penalty of sin. It conveys also the appeasement of God's righteous wrath towards sin.

**3. The Wrath of God.** At times, we might think that God is angry with us because we have sinned. In fact, our sins grieve the Holy Spirit. All of the wrath we deserve for our sins fell upon Jesus as He suffered and died for us on the cross.

**4. The Scope of Propitiation.** Notice the scope of propitiation. Jesus paid the price of salvation with His blood on the cross, culminating in His death, with resurrected glory to follow. His perfect sacrifice satisfied the sin debt of all sinners of all times, not just believers. So, is everyone going to heaven?

**5. Individual Faith.** Salvation rests upon individual faith that Jesus died for me, He forgave me, and I received His free gift of eternal life.

**6. By Grace through Faith.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that by grace through faith we have been saved. We receive the free gift of salvation which Jesus bought with His blood, and then gave to us without cost to us. So, while Jesus is the propitiation for all sins, His offer of salvation must be accepted individually by faith alone. Without saving faith, no sinner goes to heaven.

**7. Basic Doctrine.** We rejoice today because we love the basic doctrines of faith that bring all believers into the family of God. Jesus paid one price (Himself on the cross) for all of us. As little children we delight in

the marvelous free gift He gave to us, at great expense to Himself. We have the One and only Savior of all men of all time.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we stand by faith upon the atonement for sins provided by Jesus.**
- ➤ **We enjoy our friends in Christ more when we see them as people who have been forgiven of all their sins by grace through faith in Jesus.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we apply the doctrine of propitiation to the way we see ourselves before God and other people.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live knowing that Jesus took all the wrath of God we deserved for our sins—past, present and future. We live in grace today, without a license to sin more. We may share the great truth that God poured His wrath upon His Son, Jesus, so that we would never be condemned. Will you rejoice today because you live without condemnation?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 4

## **Learning To Enjoy Perfect Obedience Today**

Jesus talked about love. In contrast to all the talk we hear from people today about love, Jesus had very specific things to teach us about love. Jesus commanded us to love. We must love like God loves.

As Jesus taught us about love, He tied love to obedience and keeping His commandments. John wrote so that we would love people like God loves people. John also exposed the lie of saying that we love God, but hate our brothers.

John also declared that walking in the Light relates directly to our love for God and other people. If we hate other believers, then we are not walking in the Light. When we love our brothers, then there is no cause of stumbling in us. When we hate our brothers, we walk in the darkness. We do not know where we are going, and the darkness blinds our eyes.

Because of Jesus, we can walk in the Light. God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. We can walk in His love, have fellowship with other believers, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

**HALLELUJAH !**



# **Day Thirteen**

## **Know Him Today**



How can we know if we really know God? See if we keep His commandments. If you do not keep His commandments, you may have never known God. I knew a man who was driving around on a license suspended for alcohol abuse. My friend drove for many years that way. One day I suggested we read Romans 13 about submitting to the government and obeying the law. In this case, obeying the law of the land meant that he could no longer drive. He would have to find a way to get his license reinstated, and until then, find other means of travel.

My friend completely freaked out. He said he had to drive to support his family and provide food for Himself. My friend was homeless and still had a problem with alcohol. He still drove drunk and never cared enough about the danger he posed to other people when he drove drunk. He did what he wanted, and he wanted to keep drinking and driving.



As believers, we are not allowed to associate with so-called brothers who are drunkards. I also read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 about bad conduct. If someone is a drunkard, without repentance and real change, then believers are not allowed to associate with such a person, or to eat with them. Jesus wants them to change, by His power, immediately. My friend could trust Jesus to stop drinking and driving, but he chose to ignore Jesus and keep drinking. His future looks very dark, unless He turns to Jesus.

### ***Keep His Commandments***

**1. Know You Know God.** How can you know God without seeing Him first? John wants believers to know that they know God.

**2. Eyewitness Testimony.** Think back to 1 John 1:1. John said he heard, saw, and touched what was from the beginning concerning eternal life. We can know God by reading and believing the testimony of the apostles.

**3. Assurance of Salvation.** In 1 John 2:3, I can also know right now that I have come to know God in the past and continue in that knowledge of God. I can know by looking at my life.

**4. Keeping Commandments.** Let us be clear here. God never calls the church to obey the law of Moses. The law of Moses was designed for sinful men who needed a Savior. Now that Christ has come and fulfilled the requirements of the law for every believer, we no longer live under that law. Instead, we keep the commandments of Christ. Is my life about keeping the commandments of God? Do His commandments direct my life?

**5. Shrinking Back?** I suspect that many true believers shrink back from those questions and they should not shrink back. Our lives should reflect our obedience to Jesus Christ. John implies that every believer will

see in their lives that obedience to the commands of Christ. Remember that we all sin, but confession in itself shows that we want to follow Jesus.

**6. Imperfections.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we are not looking back at perfection in our lives, but we are looking at a life pleasing to God as we served Him.

7. **Know.** We rejoice today because we know that we are in the family of because we keep His commandments. For my friend, the decision to drive while drunk remains a problem. Does that sinful behavior prove he is not a believer? No, it proves he is an alcoholic. Even believers acting like alcoholics and drug addicts go to heaven. All believers have been washed in the blood of Jesus, but they need to trust Jesus to free them from evil behavior. \

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we keep His commandments and so know that we know Him.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we encourage one another to keep the commandments of God and together we know Him.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we look at our lives and see that we know God because of His presence and activity in all of our lives.**

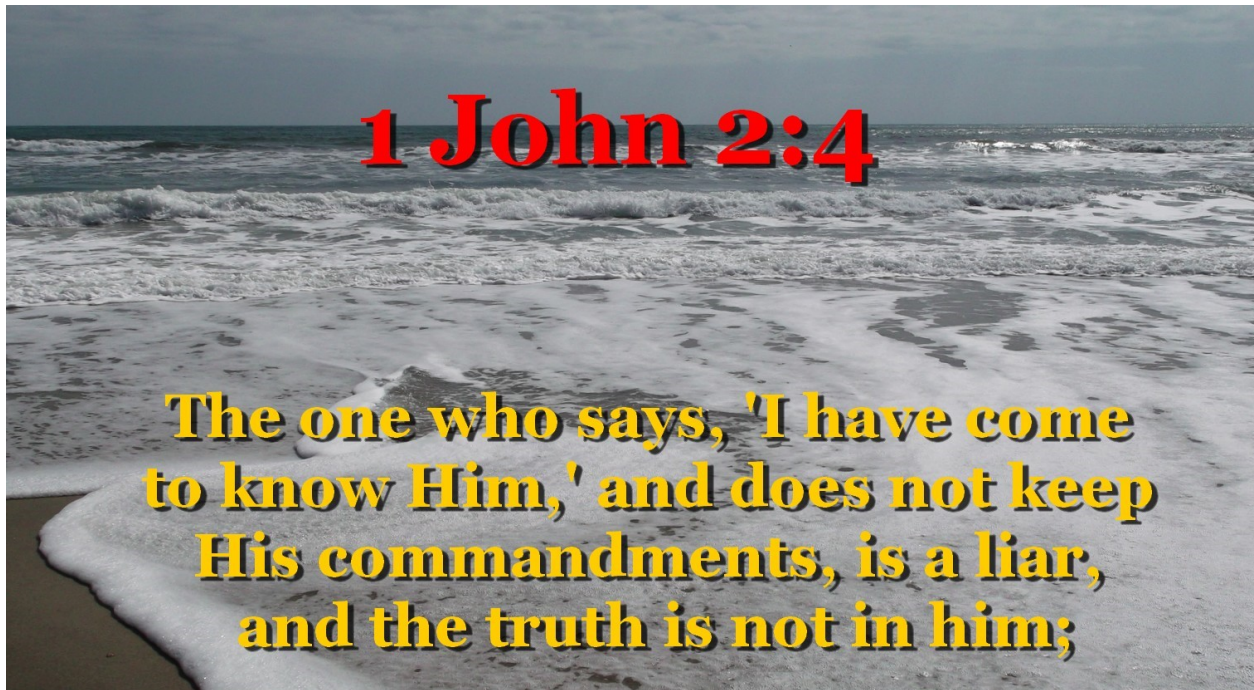
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may keep the commandments of God and know that we know Him. We want all the members of the family of God to keep the commandments of God and to know that they know Him. As we keep His commandments, our joy grows. Will you rejoice today because Christ Jesus saved you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## Day Fourteen

### Lying and Knowing God Today



Do you know people who lie frequently? I know people who lie over big things and small things. They tell many lies, and often their lies do not make sense to anyone except themselves. When it comes to our spiritual lives, lying can be most dangerous. Some people think they were “saved” at any early age, but they know nothing about the cross of Jesus or why He died there. They know nothing about salvation being a free gift of grace received by faith alone.

John addressed lying several times. We have already seen that anyone who says they have not sinned makes God a liar, and the truth is not in them. John also said we must look at our own conduct and the conduct of others. I

hear people say we must never judge other people. People who say that we must never judge have never considered the many judgments God makes about people. He expects us to adopt His judgments.

God says we can know if other people know God or if they are lying. When people say “I know God” and do not keep His commandments, then we know they are lying. God has already passed judgment upon such conduct. For example, if a person says “I know God,” and that person has never received Jesus Christ as Savior by faith alone, without works, then we know that person is lying. God has pronounced judgment upon such people already. So, one may ask the question “What works prove salvation?” Actually, that question misses the point John made. John makes the point that the only way to know God is through the blood of Jesus Christ cleansing us from all sins. Our works do not factor into our salvation. The work of Jesus is the sole basis of our salvation. We receive salvation by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves; grace and faith are both gifts of God. Our works play no role in our salvation. God created us for good works, but He did not bring us into the family of God on the basis of any of our works. He adopted us into His family based solely upon the work of Jesus Christ, which we accept by grace through faith, which God gave to us a free gift, apart from any of our works.

### ***Keep His Commandments***

1. **Lying and Truth**. Have you ever met people who claim to know God, but live as if they never met God? John deals with real people saying real things. John said that some people lie and the truth is not in them. He means these liars were never believers.

2. **1 John 1:8**. Compare 1 John 1:8. Notice the “we.” “We” refers to believers who are deceived about their sin (they do not recognize their own

present sinful behavior). Therefore, they never confess the sin they do not see, but it remains in their lives.

3. **1 John 1:10.** Compare 1 John 1:10. Notice the "we" again. These believers deny they have sinned in the past. They make God a liar because God said everyone, even believers, sins and have sinned. The word of God is not in them. In other words, these believers deny they sinned, no matter what God said. The word of God regarding sin has no impact in their lives.

4. **Learning about Lying.** All believers need to learn and practice recognition of sin based upon what God says about them and their behavior. They need to believe that Jesus Christ the Righteous advocates for them when they sin. Because we sin as believers, we should be very careful to pay close attention to what God says in His word about our behavior, thoughts, and emotions. We can sin in many ways, and just because we are not aware we sinned does not excuse our sin. By reading the word of God, we learn about our sin that grieves the Holy Spirit and makes us less useful to God in His service. Lying occurs when we claim to know God, but we do not keep His commandments, whether we know those commandments or not. Ignorance of God's commandments will never be an excuse for anything. Please remember that John does not require us to keep the law of Moses, but rather to follow the commandments of God directed to the church.

5. **Behavior Counts.** All people need to grasp the significance of their own behavior. What you do regarding the commandments of God reflects upon your salvation. Lying about things also reflects on your salvation. When you struggle with assurance of salvation, John will help you. He never said we live sinless lives; He emphasized that all believers sin, but the blood of Jesus cleanses all believers as they walk in the Light.

6. **Testing Salvation.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know we are saved by grace through faith. We already know from chapter one that all believers sin. So, sin in our lives is not the test of salvation. In 1

John 1:4, our verse today, the test is: as a present, continuous pattern of living, do you not keep His commandments? In other words, as a way of life, will we find evidence that you keep the commandments of God. No evidence equals no salvation. Notice the absolute quality of "does not keep."

7. **Fidelity to the Commandments**. We rejoice today because our lives show our fidelity to God by keeping His commandments. All believers sin, but we also demonstrate faith by confession of sin. We praise Jesus for His great love. You can be sure of salvation by reviewing the truths of 1 John.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we keep His commandments and avoid lying.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we encourage our friends to stop lying about their sins and keep the commandments of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we stop lying about sin, and walk in the Light with Jesus. As we walk in the Light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin and we keep His commandments.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may encourage ourselves and others to walk in the Light with Jesus. If our friends claim to know God, but do not keep His commandments, they may be liars in need of salvation. We may gently encourage them to review their salvation and be sure that they received the

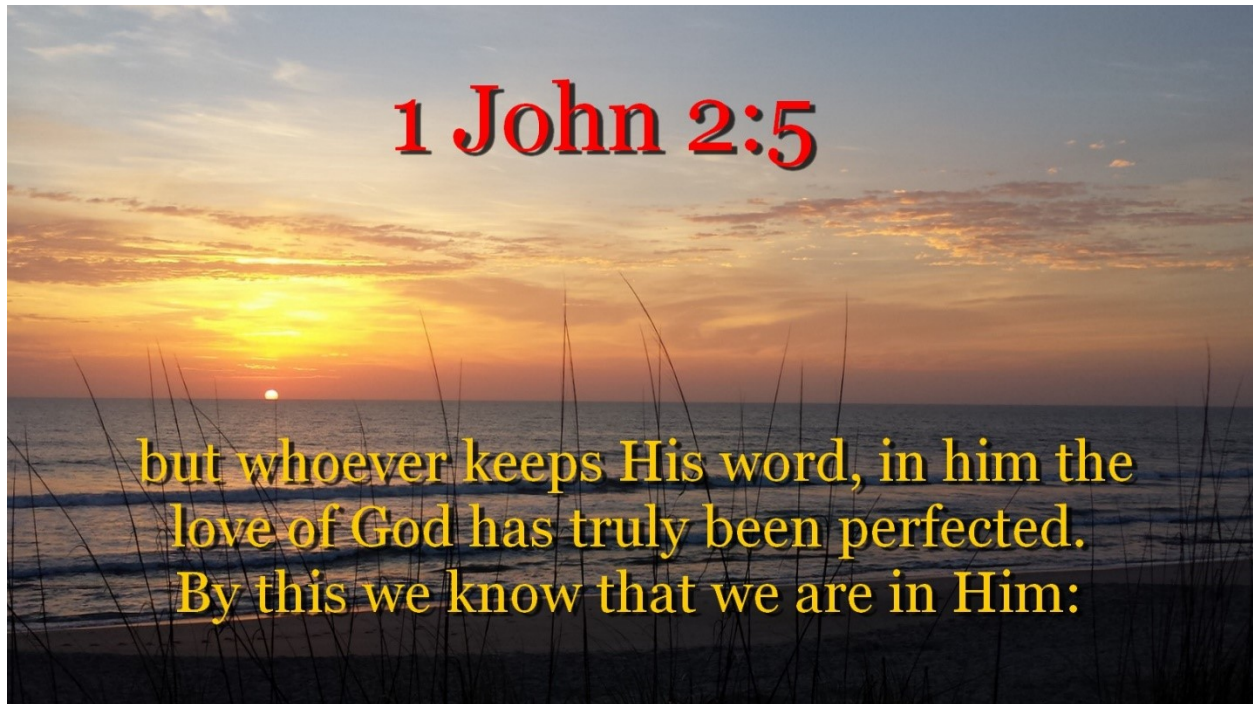


free gift of eternal life from Jesus. Will you rejoice today by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with liars?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifteen

## We Are in Him Today



Do you really love God? Many people I have met claim to love God. Yet, they violate the commands of God frequently. They take His name in vain with phrases like “Oh My G-d” and “Oh Lo-d.” They lie about many things. They think nothing of acting contrary to the commands of God when it comes to male-female relationships. Some people love to do their own thing, and other people love God and love to do His things.

John linked the love of God with keeping the word of God. Our love for God grows over time toward full maturity. As we love God more, we strive to keep His commands provided by His word. John told us that we know we are in God because we keep His word. Jesus emphasized that abiding in His

word means that we are truly His disciples. We would know the truth and the truth would set us free from slavery to sin.

Have you ever met people who hope to go to heaven? They live without really knowing if they have been saved or not. John wrote so that we may know that we are in God. Not only have we been saved, but our lives have been placed into God. We live in God and in His love. As we live by faith in God, so our love for God grows and we keep His commands.

### ***Perfected Love***

**1. Assurance of Salvation.** How can we have assurance of salvation? John wanted every believer to rest assured they have eternal life and are going to heaven. John connected the love of God with the assurance of salvation.

**2. Perfected Love.** The love of God grows to perfection in our lives. As we keep (follow and obey) the word of God, the love of God becomes perfected in us.

**3. Consistent Obedience.** As a child of God, the love of God grows more perfect in me by consistent obedience to His word. I trust God to perform His work of obedience in me. By faith I submit my will to His will for my life.

**4. If You Keep.** The original text introduced the idea of “possibility” with the word “may.” A believer “may” keep the word of God. John conveyed the meaning that if you keep (and you probably will) the word of God, then, and only then, will the love of God have been perfected in your life.

**5. Want To Keep.** As a believer, I want the love of God brought to perfection in my life. The only way to reach that goal is by keeping His word. No shortcuts or detours. I desire to do the desires of God.

**6. Knowing.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know that we have assurance of salvation. We have assurance that we really know God because we see: (a) that we keep His word; and (b) we see the love of God being perfected in our lives. Jesus wants us to know that we are in Him. He wants us to experience His love perfected in us and to know that we are in Him.

**7. Joyful Living.** We rejoice today because the love of God grows more and more perfect in our lives as a result of our persistent obedience to the word of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we obey God and keep His commandments. As we keep His commands, God perfects our love.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we see God perfecting His love in the lives of the family of God. Love grows over time toward ultimate perfection. Perfect love and perfect obedience to the commands of God go hand in hand, family member to family member.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we obey God and see him perfect our love for Him.**

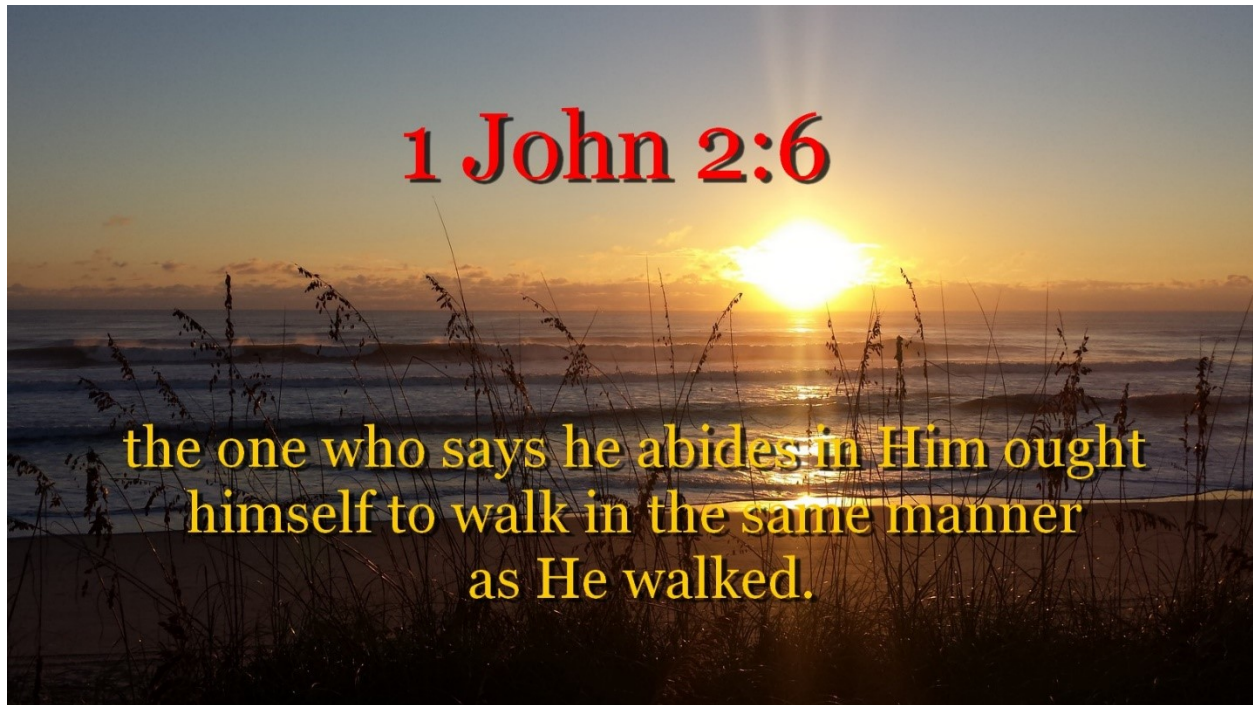
**Application for Today**

Today, we may obey God and see Him perfect our love for Him. As our love grows, our love will be perfected. Will you rejoice today by seeing God's perfect love?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixteen

## As He Walked Today



Do you love to do things your way? Many people love freedom to do their own thing in their own way. They want to kill babies in the womb, have sex with anyone at any time they want, and worship anyone or anything at any time. They want to say whatever they feel like saying and earn money doing anything that pays.

Jesus completely rejected lifestyles that reject Him. He offered freedom based upon eternal truths. If a person says that they abide in Jesus, then that person ought to walk in the same manner that Jesus walked. In other words, if Jesus lives in you by faith, then Jesus ought to control you.

So many people today hate the idea of control. They think that someone “controlling” them means they no longer control themselves and they hate such ideas. Jesus commanded every believer to let Him control the life of every believer. He promised an abundant life for doing so.

## ***The Same Manner***

**1. Walk Equals Talk.** Do we say we love Jesus but do not walk like Jesus? We ought to walk like Jesus each day. John taught us about love perfected. He also taught us about the importance of matching walk with talk.

**2. Ought To Walk.** Jesus expects us to do what He commanded us. We "ought" to walk in the same manner He walked. Ought implies an obligation or duty.

**3. Power and Obedience.** God commanded us to do many things. Yet, God never commanded us to things we are incapable of doing. With every command, God also provides the spiritual power to fulfill that command. So, when God says walk like Jesus, He promises the power to walk like Jesus all day, every day. What we do with the infinite power of God remains our choice. We can obey and live in God’s power, or we can do our own thing, and reject His power and purpose for our lives. Power and obedience go hand in hand.

**4. Learning.** In order to walk like Jesus, I need to learn from the Bible how Jesus walked through life. I can read about His life in the Old Testament and the New Testament.



**5. Bible Truth.** I frequently hear my friends tell me about things in the Bible, but those things are not in the Bible. Most often my friends saw a movie or a video and never realized many things in the movie or video were never in the Bible. They know so little about the Bible that they have no idea when movies or other things add to or subtract from the Bible. Remember that the devil wants to tell us what Jesus was like, but He lies about Jesus. We should never accept movies or videos at face value, but compare them to the Bible to see if they are true.

**6. Bible Study.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we walk like Jesus. We spend time reading the Bible and talking with Jesus. Praying while you read the Bible really helps you understand what Jesus says in the Bible.

**7. Ought To Rejoice.** We rejoice today because Jesus promised us joy when we walk with Him. He did not exclude times of sorrow, suffering and pain, but He promised joy. We live in joy by walking as Jesus walked. Walking like Jesus brings me peace and joy, because I ought to walk like Him. I abide in Him as I talk like Him and I walk like Him.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we walk in the same manner that Jesus walked.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we encourage one another to walk in the same manner that Jesus walked.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we walk as we ought to walk. Walking in the power of Jesus produces joyful obedience and we live like Jesus.**

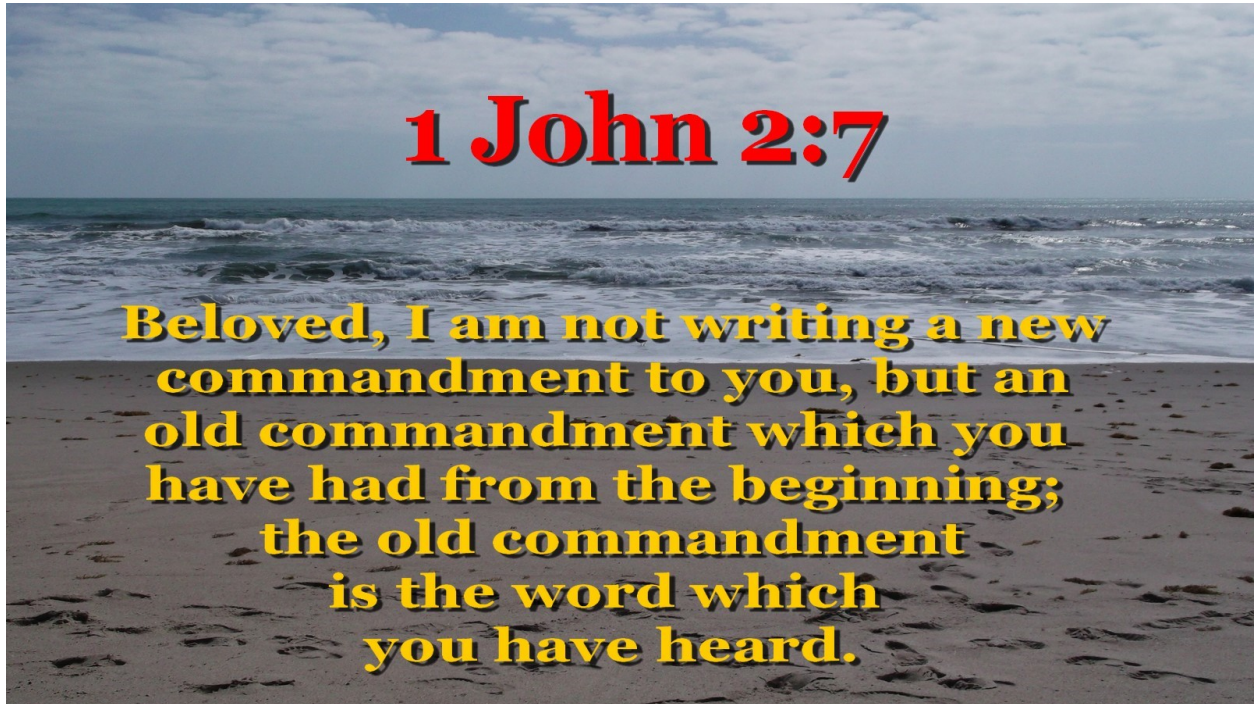
### **Application for Today**

Today, we ought to walk in the same manner that Jesus walked. We may trust God for the power to live like Jesus today. He lives within us and we hope that everyone will see Jesus in us today. Will rejoice today as people see Jesus in you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventeen

## An Old Commandment Today



Do you enjoy old things? I have some old things that I really enjoy. I bought a riding lawnmower years ago for a cheap price. When I first saw it, I noticed that the engine was shaking because it was not attached to the frame properly. The bolts were loose. The owner said he worked on it, but did not get it back together correctly. I took a chance and bought the old mower. I tightened the bolts for the engine, made a few other repairs, and I have been riding that thing for years. It cuts the grass and works pretty well. Sometimes old things really help us.

I also like driving old pickup trucks. I buy them cheaply, and then use them for years. I am fairly particular about old trucks, and not every old truck will suit me. I like an old truck that is mechanically sound. Of course, I expect some repairs, but I want to be sure the old truck will run when I need it, virtually every day.

I love old things that work well. Just because they are old does not mean they have no value or can serve no purpose. By the way, I have grown old and God still has a purpose for my life. I enjoy God every day.

## ***The Word Which You Have Heard***

**1. Beloved.** Who are the “Beloved”? John used the term “Beloved” to describe his relationship with his spiritual children. He tied his love for them to the faith in Christ and to their obedience to God. John explained first that God perfects His love in us as we keep His commandments. John never loves them less, but he John loves the obedience produced by faith in keeping the commandments of God.

**2. The Old Commandment.** John said he was not writing a new commandment, but an old commandment which they had heard from the beginning. Notice that they should be very familiar with the old commandment.

**3. The Apostles’ Teaching.** The old commandment is the word they have heard from the beginning. The word would include all the apostles teaching delivered to them. Notice that chapter one starts with the beginning. Therefore, all the things concerning the word of life proclaimed by the apostles must be included in the reference to the word.

**4. Commandment.** John emphasized the word "commandment." At times in our Christian life, we may overlook the power of commandments. What God commands, we must do. He promised to provide the power to keep His commandments. Commandments are never optional and are never to be taken lightly.

**5. Obedience.** God gave us His commandments so that we would obey them. Seems simple. Yet, we often fall short of keeping His commandments. Even so, God still loves us and never leaves us.

**6. Perfect Obedience.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that God perfects our love through our obedience to His commandments.

**7. The Word.** We rejoice today because we obey the commandments of God. As we obey those commandments, we walk like Jesus and our love of God is perfected.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we keep His commandments, including the old word which we have heard from the beginning.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we encourage one another to keep the commandments of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we call one another “Beloved” and mean it. In love, we keep the commandments of God and God perfects our love.**

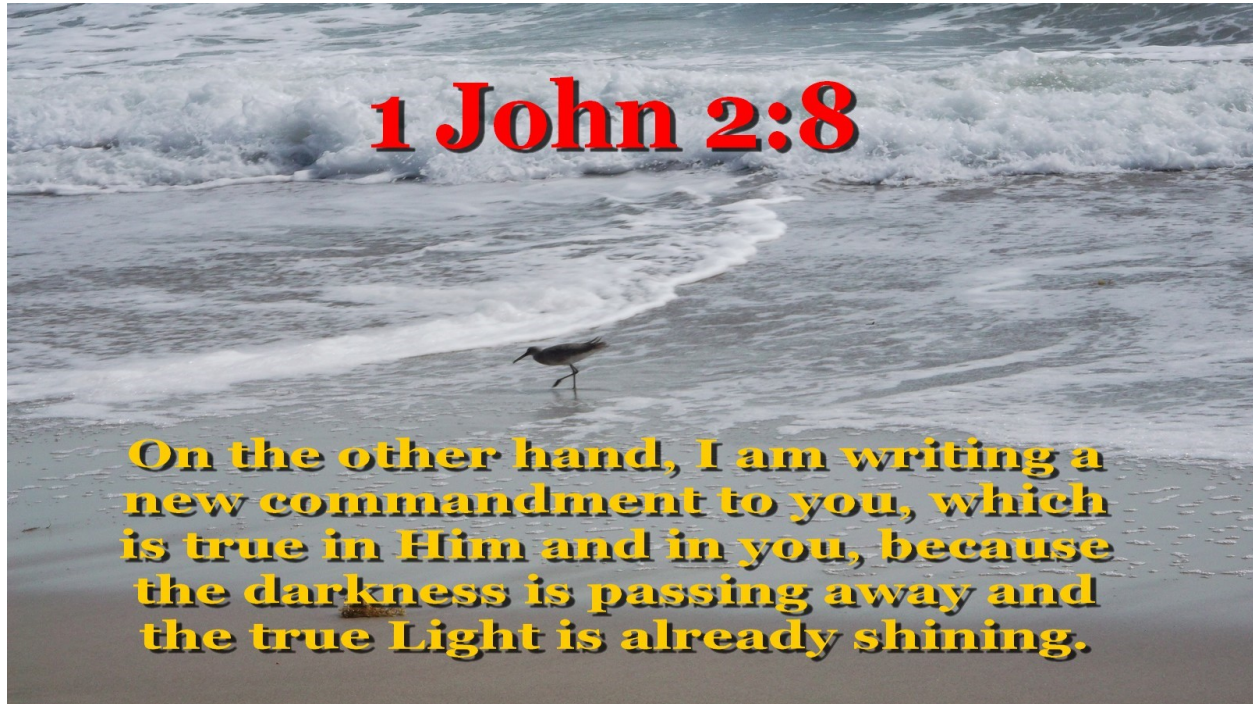
### **Application for Today**

Today, I intend to call my friends in Christ “Beloved.” I want to encourage them and myself to keep the commandments of God and so feel His love perfected in us. What will you be calling your friends today?



# Day Eighteen

## Already Shining Today



Do you love mornings? I love mornings. I often start my day before the sun rises, but I truly enjoy sunrise. I used to fish at night and fish until morning at Sebastian Inlet in Florida. I would be casting my fishing plugs and catching fish. The eastern sky would begin to show signs of light and then over the next forty-five minutes or so, the sun would peek over the horizon. It was beautiful. The fish enjoyed it too and began their bite about first dawn. The first hour around sunrise was usually very nice fishing. Of course, I loved night fishing too. When the sun finally rose over the horizon, it was time to think about fishing with live bait, instead of artificials. I loved watching the darkness pass away and the light to start shining in all its glory. The light changed everything. What was black became green, gold, blue and beautiful.

## ***The Darkness Passing Away***

**1. Walk in the Light.** What does it mean to walk in the Light? John revealed the command of God that believers must walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light (1 John 1:5-7).

**2. The New Commandment Explained.** In our present verse, God explains the new commandment. This new commandment is true in Him and in us (believers). We walk in the Light as He Himself is in the light.

**3. God is Light.** Because God is light, and His light is already shining, and is the true light, the darkness is passing away. Notice the Light causes the darkness to pass away.

**4. Passing Away.** The darkness does not pass away all at once. Notice also that the action takes place over time, like dawn grows over time. Things get brighter and brighter until the full light of day (Proverbs 4:18). You see light before the sun crests the horizon. The Sun does not change its brightness, but direct sunshine only occurs after the sun rises above the horizon.

**5. Jesus Arrived.** Jesus existed as God from eternity past. He was never created. He has always existed as God. When He took flesh, things on earth changed. When He died on the cross and arose, things changed. Redemption came to all born-again believers. Jesus paid the price, the death penalty, for our sins. He rose in triumph for our justification.

**6. Walk Together.** Living joyfully in the family of God means we all walk together in the Light. Together we watch the darkness passing away



because the Light of Jesus is already shining. We love each other as God loves us. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

**7. The Marvelous Light.** We rejoice today because God transferred us into the Light of God. As the Light, which is God, shines in our lives, the darkness passes away. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin as we have fellowship with one another and with God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we see the Light of Jesus already shining the know the darkness is already passing away.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we walk in the Light with Jesus and have fellowship with one another. The Light drives away the darkness.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we walk in the truth that it is in Jesus and in us, and we see the darkness passing away.**

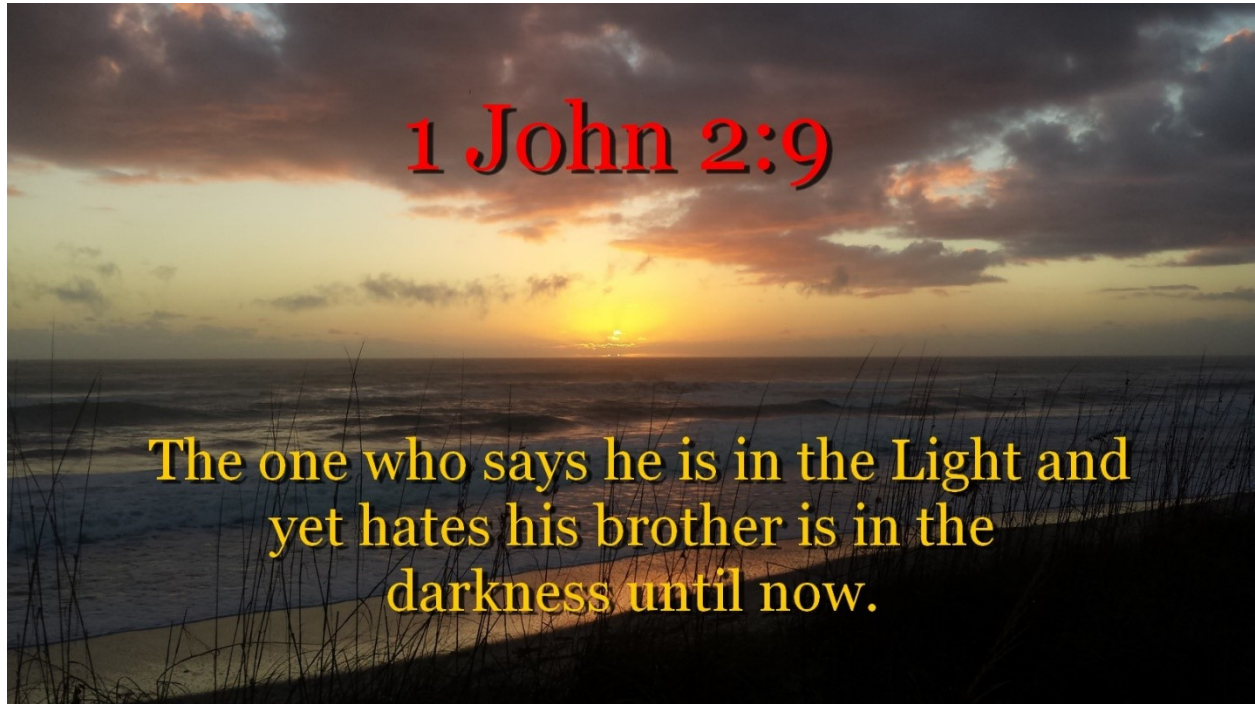
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may enjoy the fellowship of other believers as we walk in the Light and watch the darkness passing away. Will you rejoice today as you see the Light drive away the darkness?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Nineteen

## Hates His Brother Today



Do you hate anyone? Hatred can seep into your bones and make your life brittle. The deeper it goes, and the longer it stays, the worse it gets. Some people hate themselves for things they have done and turn to alcohol or other drugs. Others hate other people for the perceived injustices done to them. They may hold a grudge and never let it go.

Hatred may not be evil by itself. According to the Bible, God hates many things, including: (1) abominable acts; (2) idolatry; (3) people who love violence; and (4) people who do iniquity. Yet, God loved the world and gave Jesus, His only Son, to die for the sins of the world, so that we may have eternal life and not perish.

When our hatred focuses upon another believer, we have a major problem. God wants us to understand hatred and how it affects our lives. Today we can leave all hatred behind, by the power of God.

## ***Darkness Now***

**1. Self-Examination.** Why do believers deceive ourselves about our sin? Because we ignore what God tells us about our sins. Even believers deceive ourselves about sin. For example, we may deceive ourselves about hating people. John calls us to examine our spiritual lives by reviewing our feelings, thoughts and actions. We need to let the word of God penetrate our live and expose any hatred for other believers, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and members of the family of God.

**2. The Claim.** Do you say you are walking in the light? Do you tell yourself and others that you know Jesus as Savior and Lord and walk humbly with your God, living like He wants?

**3. Hate Your Brother?** If you make that claim, then see if you hate your brother. The Greek word in the New Testament for “hate” means to detest and means to reject with forceful negative feelings. Please keep in mind that God hates. If you harbor strong negative feelings toward another believer and you detest them, then you hate them.

**4. Walking in Darkness.** If you hate your brother, then you are walking in darkness. We know that there is no darkness in God. John put powerful truths about relationships in very simple terms. If we claim we are walking with in the Light, and yet we hate other believers, then we are deceiving ourselves. In some cases, you must not associate with other believers because of their unrepentant evil behavior, but even so, you still

love them and pray for them to change their behavior by repenting and turning to God for spiritual power.

**5. Self-Test.** John gave us this self-test so that we can know about our walk. Hating other believers, no matter what they have done, only means I am walking in darkness.

**6. Never Walk in Darkness.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that God never wants me to walk in darkness. When I find myself walking in darkness, I must repent of my sin and love my brother as Christ loves me.

**7. No More Hate.** We rejoice today because we recognize that when we hate our brothers and sisters in Christ, then we are walking in darkness. By the grace and power of God, we will not hate our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we stop hating our brothers and sisters in Christ.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we stop hating our brothers and sisters in Christ and encouraging our friends to do likewise in obedience to Christ.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we no longer hate our brothers and sisters in Christ and walk in the Light.**

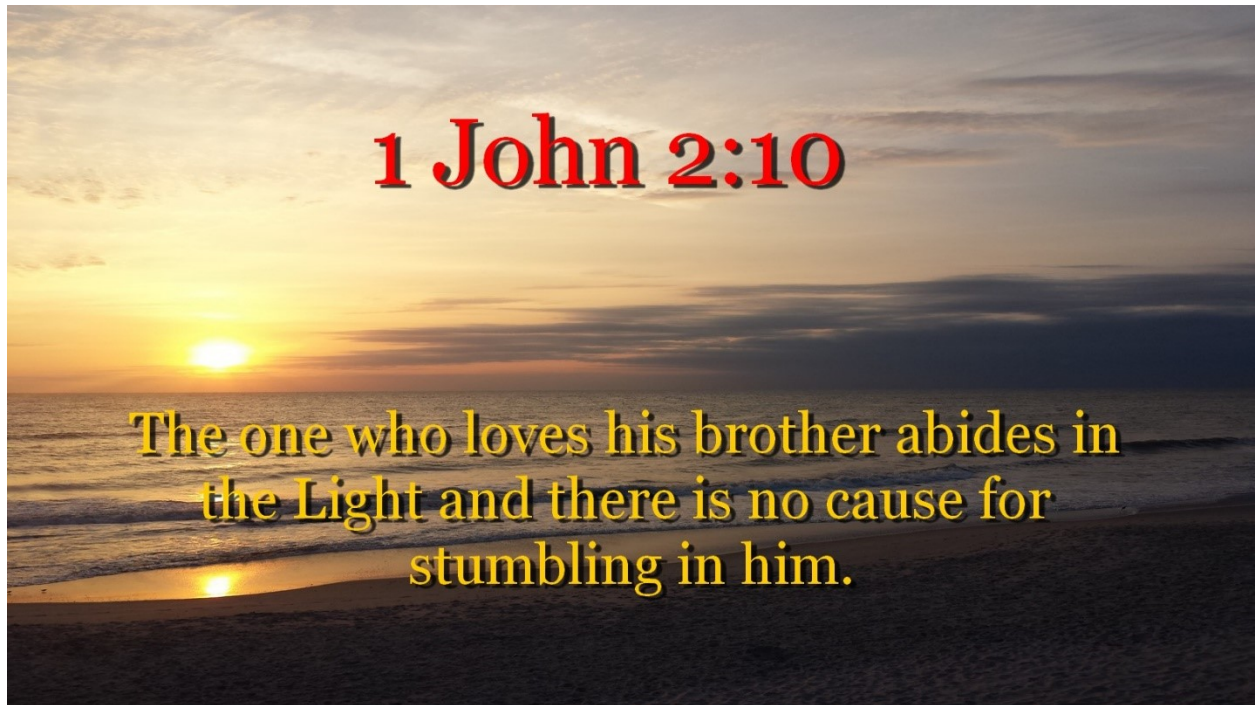
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may look at ourselves and be sure that we do not hate any brother or sister in Christ. As God examines us, we may walk in the Light. Will you rejoice today as God keeps you from hating your brothers or sisters in Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Twenty

## Abides in the Light Today



Do you enjoy parents and their children? I enjoy parents with their young children at the beach. Many toddlers like to test out their walking skills. They laugh and toddle about. They may fall, but the beach sand makes a nice landing pad for them. Plus, they do not fall far. Things that parents walk right over can cause those toddlers to fall right down.

At times, I see parents holding the hand of their child. The toddler may start to fall, but the parent holds them up and keeps them from falling. The toddler then resumes walking right along. Parents keep toddlers from falling,

and also teach the toddler to walk. Children need to learn to walk one step at a time.

Toddlers tend to stumble over both big and small objects. A stick, a shell, or an uneven surface can cause that toddler to lose balance and fall. I have seen parents clear the area of problems for the toddler. Removing stumbling objects really helps the toddler to walk safely and have more fun.

### ***No Cause of Stumbling***

**1. Love Your Brother.** Do we always do what we say? John distinguished between what we say and what we do. God commands that both our words and actions must match His will. You can say you love your brother, but what you do concerning your brother really matters. Jesus commanded us to love the family of God.

**2. Abides in the Light.** If we love my fellow believers, then we abide in the Light. Remember that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Jesus wants me to abide in the Light always. Jesus commanded us to love the brothers and sisters in Christ. When we obey that command, we abide in the Light.

**3. Love and Light.** My love indicates my abiding in the Light. How we love act affects they entire family of God.

**4. No Cause of Stumbling.** We can cause other believers to stumble in the walk with Jesus. Just the toddler stumbles over uneven ground, so also we can stumble spiritually and tend to fall down. We do not lose our salvation, because we have eternal life.



**5. Ripples of Stumbling.** When we sin, we create spiritual ripples around us. Those ripples may cause other believers, particularly spiritual toddlers, to stumble and fall into sin themselves. We have an obligation to God first and then to all believers to avoid sinning and causing spiritual ripples. We grieve the Holy Spirit with our sins, and we cause other believers to stumble.

**6. Love First.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that when we love first, and walk in the Light, we still sin, but the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. We can avoid causing others to sin because of our sin. By placing love for God and love for the family of God above our own wants and desires, we avoid causing other believers to stumble. We may sin alone, but our sin never remains alone. It causes stumbling waves that affect other members of the family of God.

**7. Abiding in Love.** We rejoice today because we take special care to love other family members. We must love them as Jesus loves us. We must obey Jesus in the ways we treat our spiritual family. Love must be primary in all our ways in God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we walk in the Light and love the family of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we walk in the Light and there is no cause of stumbling in us.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we understand that we can cause other believers to stumble when we sin. Walking in the Light keeps me from causing other members of the family of**

**God to stumble and we rejoice in such knowledge and behavior.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may walk in the Light and not cause my family members in Christ to stumble. What we do today will affect them for good or for bad. Our choices today ripple into other lives. Will you rejoice today with choices you make?

# **Day Twenty One**

## **Hates His Brother Today**



**1 John 2:11**

**But the one who  
hates his brother  
is in the darkness and  
walks in the darkness, and  
does not know  
where he is going because  
the darkness has blinded his eyes.**

Do you like to fish? One day I went fishing with my friend in his thirteen foot Boston Whaler boat. The weather was beautiful and sunny, but

spots of fog appeared here and there. We really looked forward to fishing at Sebastian Inlet.

Sebastian Inlet can be pretty busy with boats at times. The mouth of the inlet is about two hundred yards wide or so. Waves tend to break off the south jetty because of the shallow water there. Small boats should avoid big waves in the inlet.

We decided to anchor off the south jetty and fish there. As we were anchoring, the fog rolled in. It was thick, but we anchored anyway. As I sat there fishing, I realized just how blind we were. I heard a boat, I thought, passing nearby. I knew it was close, but we could not see it. We could catch fish just fine, but we could not see through the thick fog, where danger lurked.

Because the fog blinded us, we could not see other boats coming through the inlet and they could not see us. We also could not see any big waves coming. Before long, we pulled up the anchor and moved to a spot less dangerous. We decided that the fog not only blinded us, but it also blinded everyone else and produced real danger.

## ***Darkness Has Blinded***

### ***His Eyes Today***

**1. Spiritual Darkness.** How does hatred relate to spiritual darkness? If we hate believers, then we walk in spiritual darkness. John continued with revelation of how hatred of Christian family members relates to spiritual darkness. If we hate other believers, four terrible things happen in our lives as believers: (a) we are in darkness; and (b) we walk darkness; and (c) we do not know where we are going; and (d) the darkness has blinded our eyes. My hatred affects every part of my spiritual life, because I stumble along in spiritual darkness and my eyes have been blinded.

**2. Blundering About.** Hating my brother plunges my life into spiritual darkness. Because my eyes see nothing, I blunder about, especially in my relationships with other believers. My hate for one person blinds my relationships with everyone.

**3. Difficulty with Love.** If you find it difficult to love some believer, you may be blinded by hate already.

**4. Deceived in Darkness.** Remember, saying you have no sin can mean you are deceived about your sin. Jesus commanded us to love our family in Christ. We may not recognize our hatred, but it does not mean it is not there.

**5. Love for Jesus.** If your relationships with every believer you know does not reflect your love for Jesus Christ, then you are blind and walking in darkness right now.

**6. Jesus Love.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we often find it helpful to see if we love other believers by asking ourselves: am we acting toward him the way I want Jesus to act toward us? Jesus loves us always, keeps His promises always, and fills our lives with His marvelous light--always.

**7. Joyful Relationships.** We rejoice today because we know that fellowship with one another rests upon believing the truth and walking in the light, with the blood of Jesus cleansing us from all sin. As we walk in the light, we have fellowship with other believers and with God and our joy is made complete.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we stop hating people in the family of God and walk in the light.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we stop hating them. When we hate our family members in Christ, we walk in darkness, we do not know where we are going, and the darkness has blinded our eyes.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we confess our hatred and enjoy the cleansing power of Jesus washing us in His blood. Relationships are restored and fellowship blooms.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may pray that we see the blindness in us that affects our relationships with other believers. We may be walking in darkness, and not even aware of it. If we are not loving every member my family in Christ, then we are surely walking in darkness and we do not know where we are going today. Will you rejoice today by seeing your blindness?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 5

## **Learning To Enjoy Fathers, Young Men and Children Today**

Living joyfully in the family of God comes from knowing Jesus Christ. We get to know Him better through learning about the family of God. John identified family relationships as keys to understanding how relate to one another in God.

John wrote to little children because our sins have been forgiven. Salvation always forms the bedrock of our relationship with God. Until we have received the free gift of salvation by faith alone, we do not have eternal life and we have not been born again. The children also know the Father.

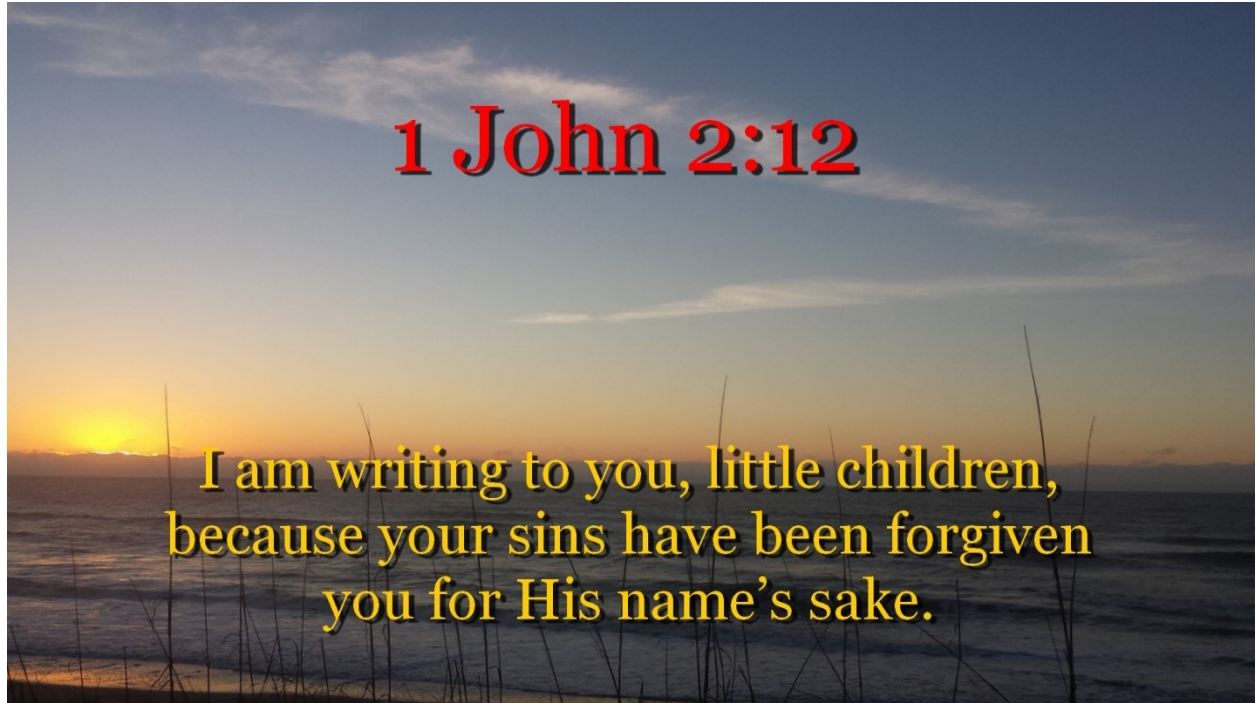
John also wrote to fathers because they know God who was from the beginning. They have known God for a longer time and have grown in love and obedience.

John also wrote to young men because they had overcome the evil one. With the strength of spiritual youth, overcoming the evil one characterizes the lives of strong young men. The word of God abides in them.



## Day Twenty Two

### Your Sins Have Been Forgiven Today



Do you recall being born again? When I was five years old, I heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and believed that He died for me on that cross. By faith I received Him as Savior and was born again. I recall that I was extremely happy for months afterward. My sins were all gone.

As I grew older, I encountered a wide variety of problems in my life. At times, I did not walk worthy of my calling in Jesus Christ. At times, I did not love people as God loved them. At times, I was unwilling to do the things that God wanted me to do and I indulged the desires of the flesh, the lust of eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Because I was saved at an early age, virtually all the major spiritual problems I have had in my life occurred after I was born again. Some of the things I did as a believer cast shame upon the holy name of my Savior, Jesus Christ.

John knew about the faith of little children. I truly enjoy John calling me and all of us little children. He viewed us spiritually and he thought of us as His spiritual children. He loved us. John emphasized that He was writing to us because our sins have been forgiven. In other words, we are little children to him because our sins have been forgiven already. He understands that after we were born again, we still sin and may have profound spiritual problems in our lives. Even so, we have been forgiven for His name's sake. John wants us to look at our salvation from the perspective of the name of Jesus. Jesus did not save us because of our works or our obedience to anything. He saved us because He laid down His life and paid the death penalty for our sins with His holy blood. He was raised for our justification. All the work of salvation He did and He finished that work once and for all.

### ***His Name's Sake***

**1. Little Children.** Why did John write to little children? John wrote to little children because he meant new believers, not necessarily young in physical age.

**2. Forgiveness of Sins.** John further identified the little children with forgiveness of sins. Every new believer has a basic understanding of forgiveness by faith alone.

**3. The Name of Jesus.** John also linked forgiveness to His name's sake. The name of Jesus is the only name of salvation. Because we trust in Jesus for salvation, John said we have forgiveness for the sake of Jesus. In other words, we recognize only Jesus provides salvation. Only because of the love, work and Person of Christ are we going to heaven.

**4. Devoted Children.** As children, we have obtained salvation and live in that salvation for the sake of Jesus (only because of Jesus and only to please Jesus). We lived as children devoted to Jesus.

**5. Beloved.** John loved believers and referred to them as family. Notice the word "beloved." I praise God for His love.

**6. Childcare.** Living Joyfully in the family of God means that we must love those children, and they need milk (not meat) from the Word of God. They also require nurture, loving friendship, and time with other believers. I praise God for children in the family of God.

**7. New Believers.** We rejoice today because we understand some family members are little children. They are new to saving faith and were born again recently or have never matured in Christ. I need to encourage them regarding forgiveness of sins for the sake of Jesus.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we know that God loves us as little children.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we love each other and think of each other as children beloved by God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we love one another as members of the one and only family of God.**

**Application for Today**

Today we may live with our family members in Christ with real devotion to Jesus. That means we love them as Jesus loved us, His little children. Will you rejoice today as a child of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Twenty Three

## The Word of God Today

### 1 John 2:13

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

Do you enjoy parks? I sit at a beach park nearly every day. On the weekends, many families come to the beach. They often bring their children of different ages. Some are little children, others older children, and some young men.

Little children come in all shapes and sizes, with all kinds of energy levels. Some little children make a lot of noise, and others sleep peacefully.

Some little children have bright and perceptive eyes, and others sparkle with joy and excitement.

Children often love to run to the beach. I often see children running over the boardwalk to get to the sandy beach. Their parents often struggle to keep up with the energized children.

Often I see large men holding their little babies in their arms. Those fathers love their children and hold them carefully. They walk carefully towards the beach and the children seem content in their father's arms. Sometimes, depending on the age of the child, they get to ride on the Father's shoulders.

Young men also come to the beach. Some come to surf, others to fish, and most come just to enjoy the beach with their friends. Those young men differ in size and strength, but they all look stronger than the little children, and most of them are smaller than their fathers. Those young men that surf often visit the beach every day.

John wrote about families with little children, fathers and strong young men. He had spiritual things to say to everyone in the family of God, but they all have the same God and He is light and love. He works in the lives of each family member differently, but He remains the same with everyone.

## ***Writing Family Members***

**1. Eternal Family Truths.** Why did John write to different family members? He addressed family members by different groups, depending upon where they were in spiritual maturity, not in physical age. John wrote things many centuries ago that stand as the eternal and unbreakable Word of God.

**2. Fathers, Young Men, and Children, and Little Children.** John wrote to: (a) fathers; and (2) young men; (3) little children; and (4)

children. John divided the groups by spiritual maturity, not physical or spiritual age. Some believers do not mature much in their faith and do not care much about spiritual maturity.

**3. Fathers.** John identified fathers as believers who know God who was from the beginning. The knowledge of God deepens with spiritual maturity.

**4. Young Men.** John also identified young men as believers who have overcome the evil one. Many believers linger in spiritual infancy because they have not learned and practiced overcoming the evil one by faith and obedience to God's commandments.

**5. Little Children.** John also addressed children, in contrast to little children. Those children know the Father. From young to mature, all believers know the Father. The question is: how well do you know the Father and His ways? Do you walk in His ways?

**6. Growing up in Christ.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we love to watch believers grow up in Christ. God encourages our spiritual maturity. He understands our spiritual diversity. Jesus loves all believers, and He does not show partiality to anyone. Have you noticed His work in the lives of the family lately? Let them know you praise God for fathers, young men, and children in His family.

**7. The Spiritual Family.** We rejoice today because we are members of the family of God, which has many little children, children, young men, and fathers. We are all at different levels of spiritual maturity, but we all know and love the only Father of us all. We have all been forgiven by the same salvation through the only Savior, Jesus Christ the Righteous.



### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we enjoy the family of God more and understand the different spiritual people in the family of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we understand different levels of spiritual maturity. We should remember that John addressed different family members in different ways, but wrote to all of them.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we encourage our different family members in the family of God by remembering the strengths of each group, as John described them.**

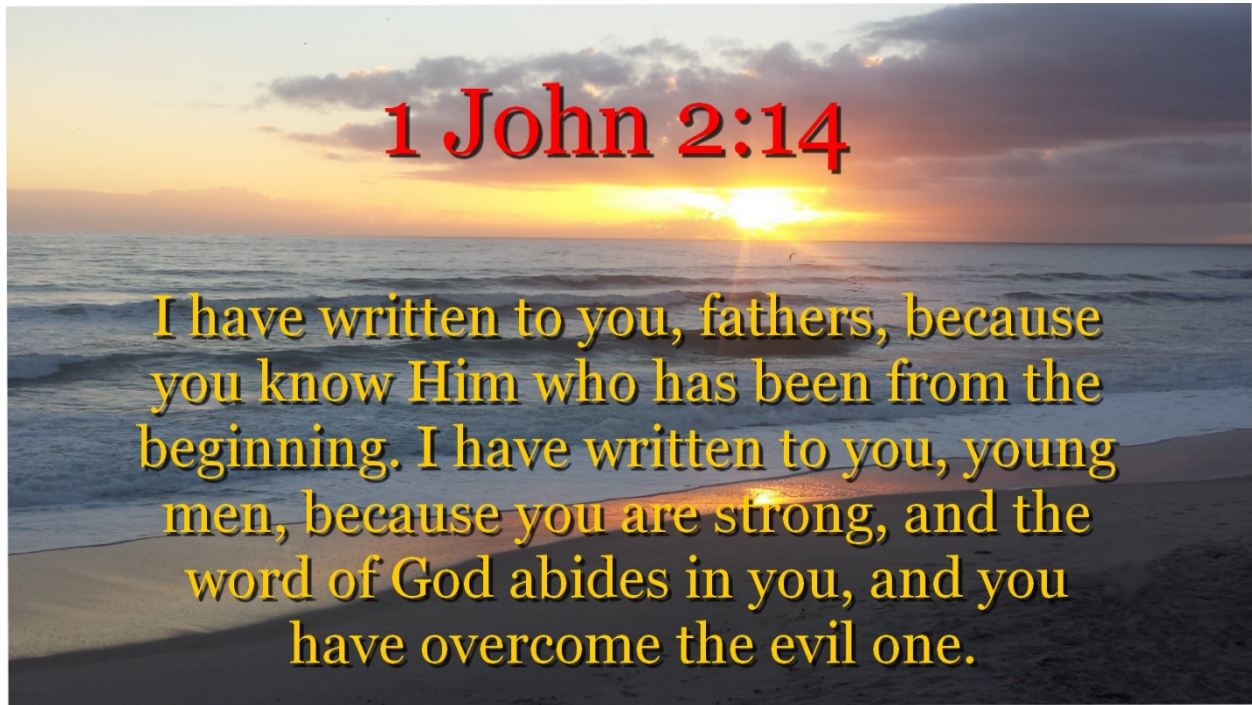
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may talk with the little children, children, young men and fathers in the family of God. As we see different members of the family of God as John saw them, then we will encourage them more appropriately, depending upon where they are in spiritual maturity. Will you rejoice today as you encourage the family of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Twenty Four

## Fathers and Young Men Today



Do you enjoy new things? As I grow older, I enjoy doing new things. I began painting with acrylics in my early fifties. I started working with databases in my sixties. But I started working on computers in my twenties.

About 1984, I was working in a large hospital. I did several different jobs there, but my last job was hospital librarian. I was the entire library staff. I ordered journals, researched medical issues on line, and used a modem. I got to know Medscape. I also had a PC with an 8088 chip on my desk, for my personal use each day. I learned about using personal computers, and DOS, and all kinds of things.

I loved computers because my father had a TRS 80 with 12” floppy disks. I wrote my doctoral dissertation on that thing and loved it. I could save things on computer disks and fix errors easily. In 1985, I bought my first computer to go to law school. I bought a clone 80286 and loved it too. I spent thousands of dollars, but it really helped writing papers. About the same time, I also bought my first hard disk (40 megabytes), and really appreciated the extra storage space.

Today, I work with computers that are old by present standards, but they get the job done. I now use SSD drives, which are huge improvements over my first hard drives. I have more RAM than virtually all my first computers combined. RAM is now measured in gigabytes, and soon terabytes, for home computers. I have seen many things with personal computers, because I had an early start with them. In some ways, I am a father of computers. Yet, the young men know more about computers and phones than I know, but some young men lack experience in solving many computer problems.

I solve computer problems for my friends and family. I even solve some simple network problems. I also help with installing new programs and even constructing websites. I really like computers.

## ***Experience and Strength***

1. **Families**. Why did John write to fathers and young men? John wrote to different family members about their strengths and needs. John elaborated upon the spiritual family theme. Within the family of God, John wrote to fathers and young men.

2. **Spiritual Growth**. No believer ever outgrows the word of God.

3. **From the Beginning**. Fathers know Him who has been from the beginning. Notice the same words from 1 John 2:13. As mature believers, fathers depend upon knowing God. They have known God and He has existed

from the beginning. Eternal life means we know the only true God, and Jesus Christ (God Himself) sent by God.

4. **Strong**. John described young men as strong and the word of God abides in them. Only by learning the word of God (the Bible) can the word of God abide in you. Only as the word of God abides in you, can God develop spiritual strength in you. Because of that spiritual strength, and saving faith in Christ, young men have overcome the evil one. Count upon these truths in your life.

5. **Abides in You**. Jesus talked about His words abiding in believers. As His words abide in the believer, then they abide in the truth and they prove to be His disciples.

6. **Obedient Love**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know about the link between abiding in Christ and keeping the commandments of Christ. Without loving obedience to Jesus and His words, we will not gain strength and maturity in Christ.

7. **Know God**. We rejoice today because we know God. Fathers know God. Jesus has strengthened those fathers so that they may have a mature relationship with their heavenly Father. Jesus calls us to know Him better and deeper, to know the word of God abides in us, and to know we have overcome the evil one. Likewise, young men display spiritual strength that enables them to overcome the evil one.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more because fathers have known Him from the beginning, and young men have spiritual strength, abide in the word of God, have overcome the evil one.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we appreciate the experience and strengths of different members of the family of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we learn from our fathers and benefit from the strength of young men.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may love fathers for their experience and knowledge of God. Likewise, we may benefit from the strength of young men who have overcome the evil one. Will you rejoice today in your strength and experience with God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 6

## **Learning To Enjoy Eternal Life Today**

At the moment of salvation, we received the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Eternal life is to God the Father, and Jesus Christ Whom He sent. By grace through faith we received eternal life. As we walk in the light with Jesus, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin and we have fellowship with one another. Jesus said that everyone who lives and believes in Him will never die (John 11:25-26).

Eternal life also means that we love God and the family of God. We also avoid loving the world, and the things in the world. If we love the world, then the love of the Father is not in us. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from God, but rather from the world.

Eternal life does not pass away. The world and its lusts will pass away. The family of God has eternal life, and we will live forever.

## Day Twenty Five

### Do Not Love the World Today



Do you love the world? I see people who really love the world. They love to make money, buy new things, and enjoy the pleasures of their life. Yet, very often I see that money does not buy family happiness. Their children have sexual identity problems, criminal law issues, broken marriages, drug addiction, mental problems, and the list continues.

I have many friends who have plenty of money. Two of them grew up in fairly low income homes. They both made choices in life to make more money, but those choices meant spending very little time with their children. They both had high-paying jobs, and never had serious financial worries. Yet, because they loved money more than family, their families grew to love the world. One of those people taught his children to steal, lie and cheat. He



taught by example. His children did likewise, and it infuriated him. The other person sent his children to the best schools, but was so busy working that the children grew up without consistent discipline and parental guidance. His children had drug problems, criminal law issues, relationship problems, mental issues, and social disabilities. One of those two friends of mine claimed to be a believer, but you would have a very hard time knowing which one. The families both reflected what love for the world will produce in your life and in the life of your family.

### ***The Love of the Father***

**1. Love the World v. Love of the Father.** Why did John contrast the Love of the World with the Love of the Father? John contrasted the love of the world with the love of the Father so that we could avoid sin and embrace the love of God. If you love the world and the things in the world, then the love of the Father is not in you.

**2. Do Not Love the World.** Simply put, John warned us not to love the world and the things in the world. Jesus taught many great truths about love and used John to write some of them down for us. We hear about the *agape* love of God. Here, John warned us not to have *agape* love for the world.

**3. Love God and the Family of God.** After commanding believers to love God and our brothers in Christ, John now taught believers to avoid loving the world and the things in the world. Not all love is holy love. Not all *agape* love is holy love. As believers, we can love the wrong things.

**4. The Things in the World.** John warned us not to love the things in the world. He specified those things in the next verse. In our verse today, he first stated the general commandment before he developed the fuller explanation of the truth. We should learn to think, talk, walk and love like Jesus. John helps us with this letter.

**5. The Love of the Father.** If a person loves the world, then we know that the love of the Father is not in him. John gets right to the truth.

**6. Evaluating Love.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we have great love of the Father within us. What do you long for in your life? More money? Watching cool stuff on the internet that has nothing to do with God? Finding acceptance among people who matter to you? One measure of love is time and attention. We spend our time and attention on things we love. Jesus commanded us to love Him and follow Him. He commands our attention. We should love our brothers, but we should not love the world and the things of the world. We need to be very careful with our love.

**7. Time and Attention.** We rejoice today because we focus our time, attention, and affections upon God and not the world. The love of God excludes the love of the world and the things of the world. What do you focus your daily affections upon?

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we avoid loving the world and the things in the world; when the love of the Father controls us, we walk in the Light.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we spend more time and have greater affection for the family of God and no time to love the world and the things in the world.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we dedicate ourselves to the love of the Father abounding in our hearts and lives. The love of the world will fade out of our lives as we live in the sunshine of the love of God.**

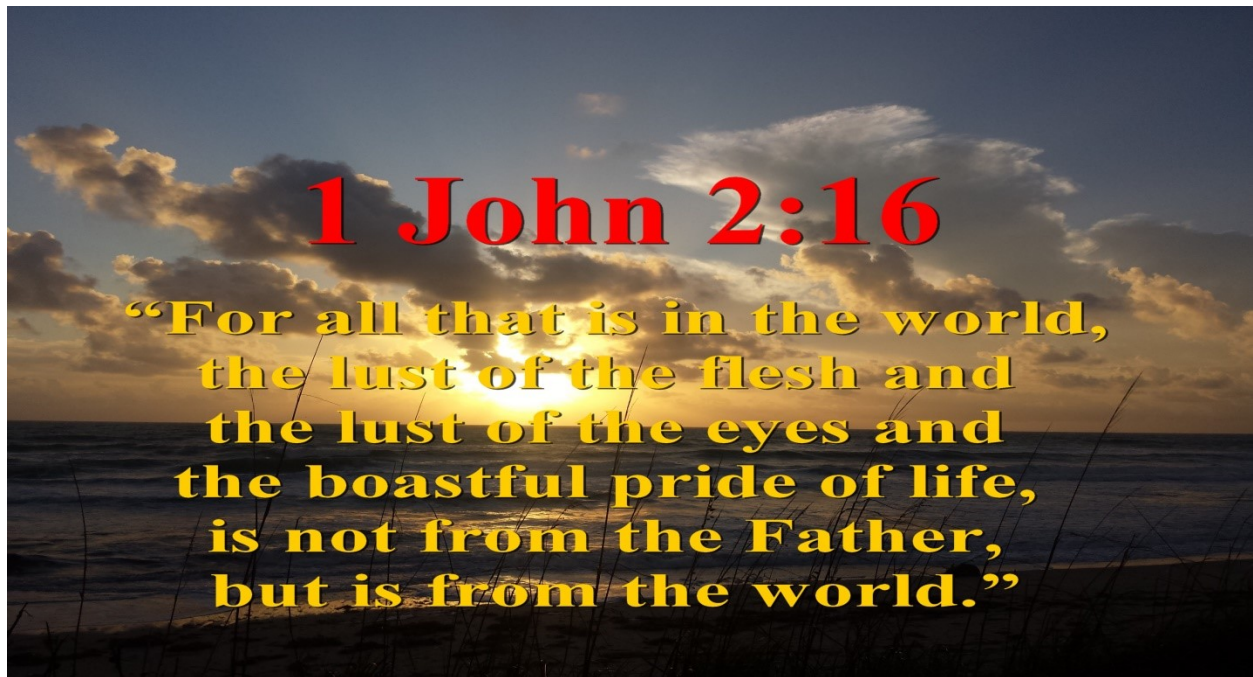
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may spend some time thinking about time. What time do we spend each day walking in the love of the Father? What time do we spend loving the world and the things in the world? We want the love of the Father to dominate our lives today. Will you rejoice today as you spend your time for God?

**HALLELJUAH !**

# Day Twenty Six

## All That Is in The World Today



Do you love the things in the world? Three things tend to plague many people: their flesh, their eyes, and their pride. Those three things are not separate, but directly related to one another. Consider King David from the Old Testament. He looked at Bathsheba bathing upon her roof. He lusted for her, based upon what his eyes were seeing. He took her without apparent remorse. He even commanded other people to kill her husband, so that he could have her as his wife. David thought he could get away with all these things, and he enjoyed being king, filled with the pride of life.

God sent Nathan the prophet to confront David about his sin. Using the story of a little lamb, precious to a family, God used Nathan to convict David of his sins. We do not read about David continuing in those sins. God taught David a very powerful spiritual lesson. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, are all of the world, and not from God. When we indulge in the things of the world, we reap the displeasure of God. David not only lost the son born of Bathsheba, he also lost his own family to the sword, rebellion, and division. We should all learn about how diving into the things of the world, which seem so enticing at the moment, can bring long-term problems in to our lives for generations to come.

## ***Lust and Pride***

**1. The Love of the World.** How does our flesh and the world entice us to sin? John explained that the love of the world entices us to sin. Most believers would deny that they love the world. Most believers, however, struggle with all that is in the world.

**2. The Lust of the Flesh.** John described three issues we face as believers. The lust of the flesh means that our fleshly sinful natures entice us to sin in many ways. We can be carried away by our sinful, fleshly lusts. Lusts means strong desire, passion, consuming internal demand. David lusted for Bathsheba as she bathed on the roof.

**3. The Lust of the Eyes.** The lust of the eyes often provokes the lust of the flesh. What we see often lures us into sin by provoking our lust. Think of King David looking at Bathsheba on the roof. He fell prey to the lust of the eyes and sinned greatly.

**4. The Boastful Pride of Life.** The boastful pride of life motivates us to accept our sin. We love to brag about our achievements in this life. Paul counted all his human achievements as rubbish compared to knowing God. David used his position as king to commit adultery, murder, and conspiracy to commit murder, and thought nothing of it until confronted by God.

**5. The Things We Love.** You can often tell what you love by looking at the things around you and how you spent your time yesterday.

What do you own and what did you do? All the things we tend to love in this world that produce sin are not from God. They come from the world and not from the Father. Things that do not come from the Father are not good for anyone, especially for believers.

**6. The Love for God.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we understand that the lust to sin does not lie entirely in the things of the world, but also inside the believer. John described the things of the world (the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life) as things inside the believer that produce sin. God gave us sexual desire, eyes, and the ability to appreciate good things. When sin controls our inherent desires, we embrace the things of the world that produce further sin. By grace through faith, God has delivered us from such slavery to sin.

**7. Love Controlling.** We rejoice today when God dominates our lives and we overcome the love of this world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life. Think about the great promise: we do not have to live under lust or pride because God is now our Father. He has delivered us to live in freedom from lust, pride and sin.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we avoid the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we do not make them a target of our lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and boastful pride of life.**
- **We strengthen our joy when by grace through faith we live in triumph over the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may sense the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life swelling within us. At that point, we may thank Jesus for His power in setting us free from all the evil things in the world and we will enjoy God and His power in our lives more today. Will you enjoy that power today?

**HALLELUJAH !**



## **Day Twenty Seven**

### **Passing Away Today**



Do you enjoy sunrises? I truly enjoy sunrise at the beach. As the sun begins to illuminate the clouds, I see the dark lines of the Gulf Stream Mountains. The Gulf Stream flows north near the coast of Florida. Very warm water all year teems with sea life and makes the most beautiful clouds throughout the year. The warm water interacts with the cooler air and clouds start billowing up.

The sun shines behind the clouds, spreading its rays in beautiful patterns. I enjoy painting pictures, but God paints on a moving canvas, in real time, all over the earth, all the time. While the sun may rise and the

clouds pass away, God remains eternal. One day He will destroy the heavens and the earth with intense heat and they will be gone, because no place will be found for heaven and earth. By His loving grace, God allows people to see His glory in the skies and worship Him.

Thankfully, God promised that the world, and all of its lusts, have already begun the process of passing away. Evil has a limited time span upon earth. God will create a new heavens and new earth. As believers, we will live forever because we do the will of God.

## ***Doing the Will of God***

1. **Lust, Pride, The World.** Why do we need to know about lust, pride and the world? Because we need to understand how temptation works in our lives. John wrote about lust and pride. He linked them to the love of the world. Now we learn more about the future.

2. **World Passing Away.** John described the world as an evil system with sinful desires. All that is in the world is not from God the Father. John wrote that the world is passing away.

3. **Lust of the World Passing Away.** The lusts of the world are also passing away. All of the sin and lusts of the world are passing away, just as John described the darkness passing away in 1 John 2:8.

4. **Pestering.** Because John told us, we know the world and its lusts will not always pester us. All believers can take heart that our struggles with sin will not last forever.

5. **Living Forever.** Jesus promised eternal life to everyone who does the will of God, beginning with saving faith and spiritual birth. As new creatures in Christ, we do the will of God. We will live forever, because we do the will of God. Eternal life means that we have passed out of judgment into life at the moment of salvation. Eternal life is to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ sent by God.

6. **Sinful Imperfections.** Living joyfully in the family of God means God loves imperfect people, but seeks to perfect us in love. Many people

know some of our sinful imperfections. So, how can we confidently proclaim that we do the will of God and will live forever? Because the Bible told us so. As believers, we walk in the light and have fellowship with believing friends, while the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin; by faith alone we were born again and by faith alone we live in Christ, adopted into His family, where we live joyfully with God and our brothers and sisters in Christ (Who is God).

7. **New Heavens and New Earth**. We rejoice today because we know that lusts of this world will pass away, when God will burn up the heavens and the earth with intense heat. In the meantime, we know that the process of destruction of this world is passing away, along with the lusts of the world. God has a timeline for evil, and in the fullness of time, His plans for this world and its lusts will finally pass away, while believers enjoy eternal life.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we know that the world and its lust are already passing away.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we all live together in doing the will of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we live knowing that God has ordained time for all things, and this world, with its lusts, will not last forever, but we have eternal life, freed forever to do the will of God.**

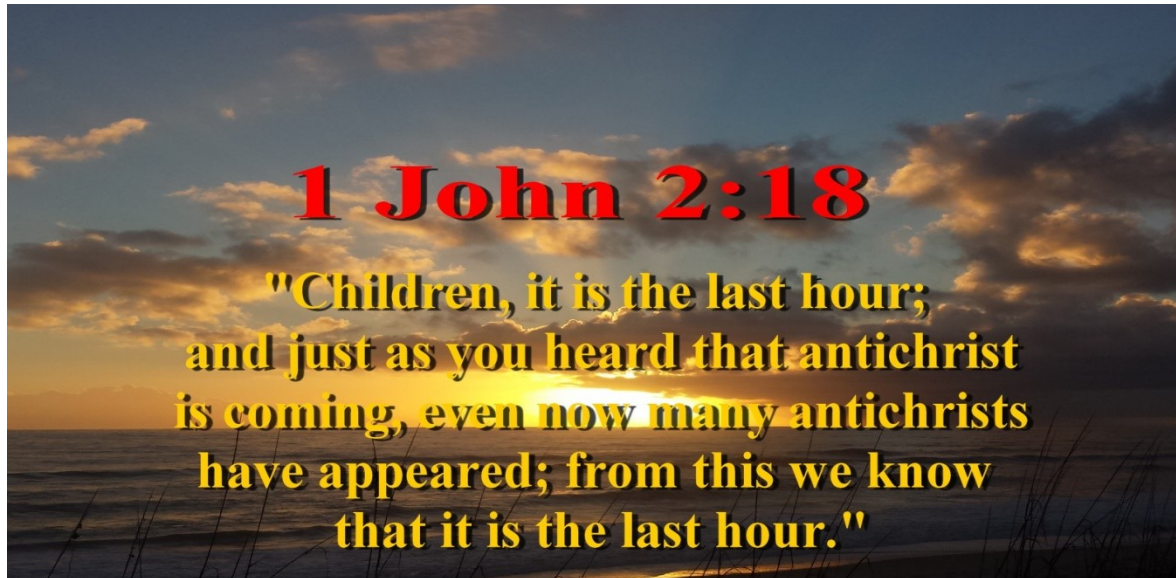
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may do the will of God, knowing that this entire world, with its lust, is passing away. The family of God continues to do the will of God, and we rejoice in watching God do His will in our lives. Will you enjoy today doing the will of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Twenty Eight

## Many anti-Christ



Have words ever changed your life? Many people tell me how the words of a man changed their lives. They heard words that stirred their hearts, but they never stopped and asked if those great sounding words were actually from antichrist. People who have not been born again fall easy prey to the words of antichrist. John told us that he lived in the last hour, and that many anti-Christ have appeared. So, we know that anti-Christ remain active among us today.

We live in the last hour, just as John lived in the last hour. He wrote his messages recorded in the New Testament about two thousand years ago. When John spoke about the last hour, he did not mean literal time of sixty minutes, but the special time of Christ returning. John taught that Jesus will come back to earth to reign, but that time is only an hour away. John

intended all believers in the family of God to be ready for the soon return of Jesus Christ. Until then, we must live knowing that many anti-Christ's have come and will attack and deceive people all over the world with their lies and tricks.

## ***The Last Hour***

1. **The Last Hour**. When will the world pass away? John emphasized that the world is passing away. John then specified that he was living in the last hour.
2. **Time**. As you read through this epistle, time plays an important part. John teaches us about the time so we know what to expect and how to live.
3. **Children**. Notice please that John addresses the children. Older believers should already recognize the signs of the times and be ready.
4. **Long Hour**. John declared to the children of his day that they are living in the last hour. How can that last hour still exist two thousand years later (today) ?
5. **Anti-Christ**. John answered that question by identifying one indication that the last hour has begun. That indication was that many anti-Christ's have appeared, just as the believers had heard that anti-Christ would be coming. anti-Christ himself will appear after the Rapture of the church and the war in heaven, when God throws the great dragon (satan) out of heaven to earth. Then the anti-Christ will appear and begin a reign of terror and destruction upon the earth, for an appointed time.
6. **Aware**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know many anti-Christ's live among us, but our faith has overcome them. We remain vigilant against their schemes to destroy the lives of all people, especially Christians.
7. **Careful**. We rejoice today because Jesus has overcome all anti-Christ's and their time is limited. Many anti-Christ's do their work daily to promote evil and devour people. In Christ, from youngest to oldest, we recognize the times, know it is the last hour, identify the anti-Christ's and live joyfully in the overcoming power of Jesus Christ.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we know that many anti-Christ's walk among us and that God has overcome them.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we stand together against the many anti-Christ's.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we live in the last hour by holding firmly to Jesus, Who holds us in the palm of His hand, so that the evil one does not touch us.**

### **Application for Today**

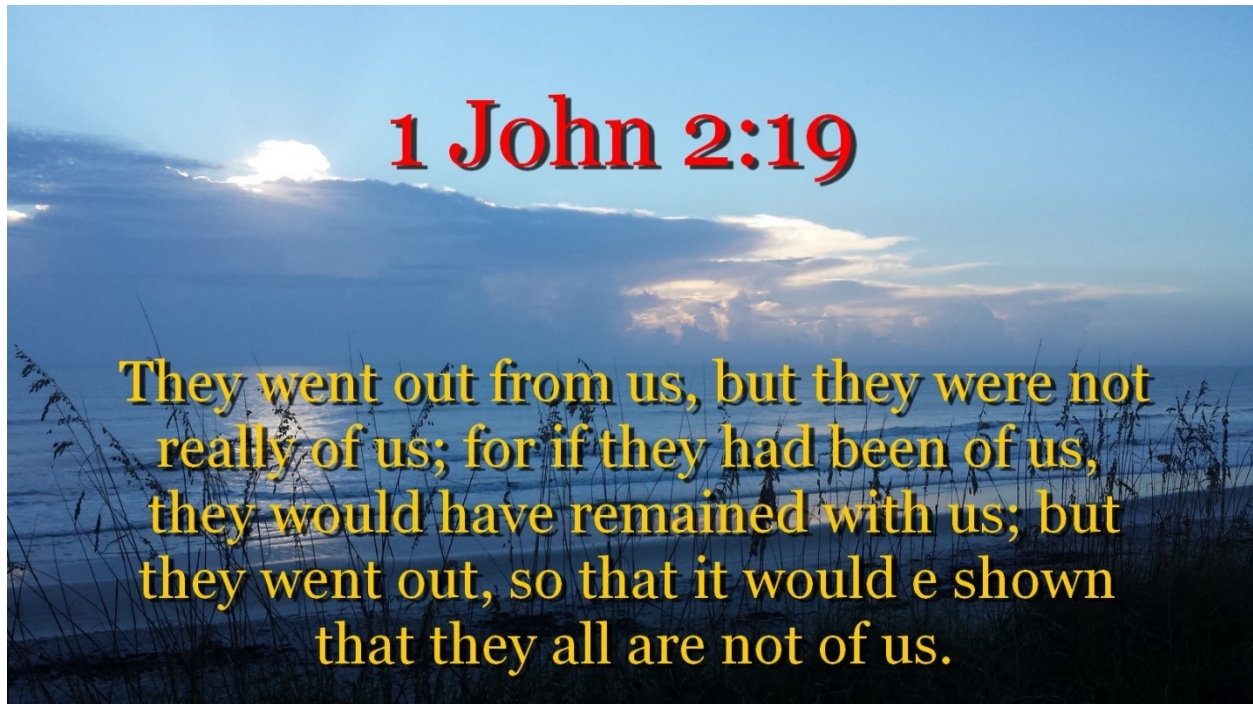
Today, we may live carefully, knowing it is the last hour, and that many anti-Christ's have come. Because of our faith in Christ, and as children of God Almighty, we know Jesus will help our faith overcome the world and all that is in it, including anti-Christ's. Will you enjoy today being a child of the God Almighty?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Twenty Nine

## Went Out from Us Today



Do you know people who have fallen away? I have seen many people fade away from Jesus and His family. I do not mean that they lost their salvation, but that they gave up on a certain group or a certain ministry.

At other times, I have seen people come and sit with me at the beach for a while. They start off very interested in reading the Bible, praying, and learning to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. They make a profession of faith in Jesus as Savior. Soon their interest fades and they leave. I never hear from them again in most cases. But sometimes, I learn that they have become a Mormon, or joined some other cult. That person was never really saved, but merely made a profession of faith. Maybe you have joined a cult without



knowing it. If you are a Roman Catholic, a Jehovah's Witness, a Mormon, a Oneness Pentecostal that denies the Trinity, then you have joined a cult. If you joined such a cult after spending time in a born-again group of believers, then you left so that God could show that you were never really one of the group of born-again believers. Born-again believers do not remain in cults, but come out from them.

## ***Not Really of Us***

**1. Some anti-Christs.** Where do antichrists come from? John warned that some antichrists went out from the congregation of believers.

**2. anti-Christs among Us.** If you have been in a church building lately, then you may have been standing next to one or more antichrists. Those anti-Christ's often leave the congregation of believers because they were never believers. Try asking your neighbors at the church building and the staff there two simple questions: If you were to die tonight and stand before Jesus, and He asked you, Why should I let you into my heaven? What would you say? You might find a surprising number of people who do not know about the free gift of eternal life. The only people going to heaven are those people who have received the free gift of salvation by grace through faith.

**3. Beach Ministry.** I visit the beach virtually every day to do ministry for Jesus. If you have been to that beach ministry lately, then you know about the antichrists at the beach who deceive people daily. They have gone out from us, because they were never of us.

**4. Coming and Going.** Do not misunderstand. True believers come and go from the beach ministry frequently. You can fellowship, share your faith, break bread, pray, and continue in the apostles' doctrine wherever God calls you. If you have a regular group of born-again believers where you fellowship together with fidelity to God's Word, and you stick with that group, then you fulfill the Scriptural requirement to assemble with born-again believers.

**5. Fellowship with God.** Believers share fellowship with God. That unbreakable bond with God forged and sustained by His love surpasses all.

**6. Gone out from Us.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know antichrists are in church buildings, but many of them have gone out from us, so that they prove they were never of us and never part of the family of God. When anti-Christians leave, they show they were never of us and never believers. True believers stay in fellowship with other faithful believers and with God.

**7. Fellowship Joy.** We rejoice today because faithful believers walk in the Light with Jesus, and we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Unbelievers may walk among us, and some leave us and go out, proving that they were never really of us, but only pretending.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we know that anti-Christians leave the fellowship of believers, so that it becomes obvious they were never of us.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we fellowship with other members of the family of God and practice the apostles' doctrine together.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we know that everyone who walks with Jesus fellowships with other believers, and so we**

**strive to maintain warm spiritual relationships with other members of the family of God.**

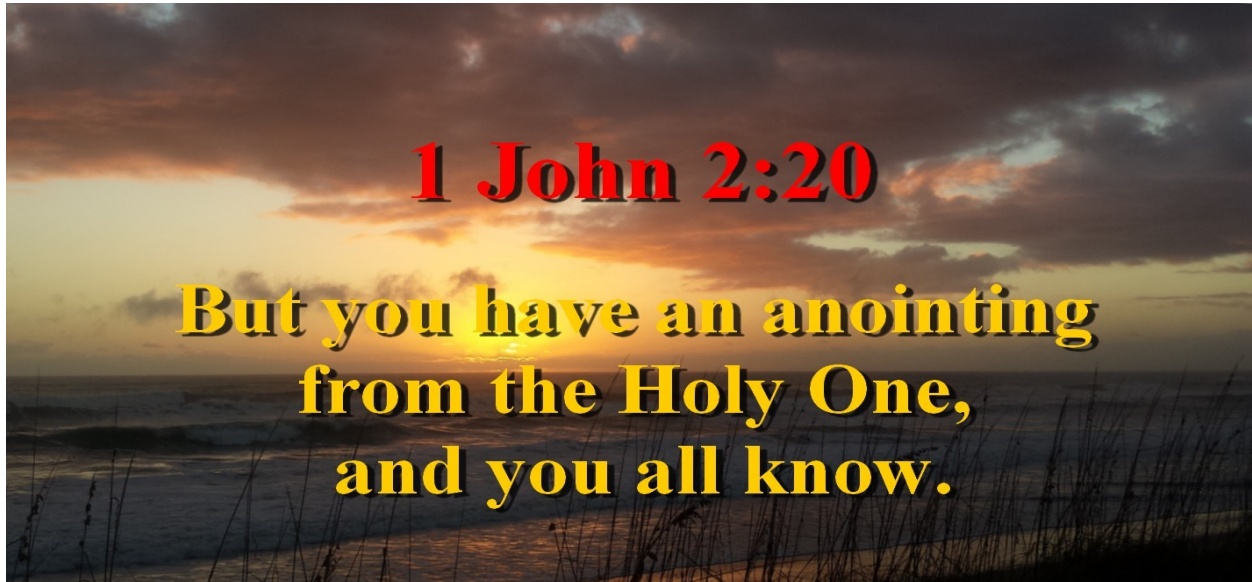
**Application for Today**

Today, we may see who will leave the fellowship of Christ, and go out from us, to show that they were never really of us. Will you enjoy today the fellowship of Christ while others go out from us?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Thirty**

## **Anointing from the Holy One Today**



Do you know anointed people? So many people today use the word “anointed” to describe different things in the church. Some people say that was an “anointed sermon,” or an “anointed song” or an “anointed ministry.” They seem to mean that God placed a special anointing upon something. As always, let us compare what the Bible says about “anointing” with what people say about anointing.

In the New Testament, the disciples anointed sick people with oil and they were healed (Mark 6:13, page 1568). Likewise, James directed sick believers to call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over the sick person, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:14, pages 1892-1893). Jesus anointed the eyes of a blind man, who received his sight after washing (John 9:11, page 1673). Jesus also directed His disciples to

anoint their heads and wash their faces when they fasted (Matthew 6:17, page 1509). Jesus also advised the Laodicean church to buy from Him salve to anoint their eyes, so that they may see (Revelation 3:18, page 1918).

Many references in the New Testament describe Jesus and anointing. A sinful woman anointed Jesus at the home of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7, page 1611). Later, Mary also anointed Jesus for burial (Mark 14:8, page 1586; John 12:3, page 1680). God also anointed Jesus: (a) as His servant (Acts 4:27, page 1706); and (b) with the Holy Spirit and with power (Acts 10:38, page 1720); and (c) with the oil of gladness above His companions (Hebrews 1:9, page 1870). Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, brought spices, and came to anoint Jesus in His tomb, but He was not there, but already raised from the dead (Mark 16:1, pages 1591-1592).

God anoints every believer (2 Corinthians 1:21, page 1805), as they all know (1 John 2:20, page 1905). The anointing abides in believers, and teaches believers about all things, and is true and is not a lie, teaches believers that they abide in Christ (1 John 2:27, page 1906).

Based upon the New Testament references to anointing, we see that after the Holy Spirit came and filled believers, and Jesus baptized each believer in the Holy Spirit, things changed dramatically. Every believer became anointed, and they received spiritual gifts. Therefore, when you hear people talk about a special “anointing” today, ask them to show you in the Bible why they would say such a thing. Every believer has been anointed, baptized and gifted by God for ministry.

## ***Every Child Anointed***

1. **Born-Again**. Is every believer anointed by God? Yes, at the moment of salvation, God gives the anointing to every believer, not just some believers. Jesus baptizes every believer with the Holy Spirit, the Seal of their redemption, and joins them into His body.

2. **Knowing**. John wanted all believers, especially spiritual children, to know that the Holy One has anointed each one of them. Indeed, John wrote that they already knew that wonderful truth.

3. **Messiah**. As we saw above, Jesus is the anointed Son of God, the Messiah. The term Messiah means “Anointed One.”

4. **Your Own Anointing**. When you hear some talking about “anointed” preaching, and they think it is something special, you remember that God said you have your own anointing from the Holy One.

5. **Teaches**. As we will see later in the passage, the anointing teaches believers about all things.

6. **Distinguished**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we delight in the anointing of God in our lives. In the immediate context, we see that the anointing of believers distinguishes them from those unbelievers who went out from us, because they are not of us. Unbelievers never received the anointing from the Holy One.

7. **Permanent**. We rejoice today because we live constantly with the anointing of the Holy One upon our lives. Indeed, the anointing abides in us as we abide in Christ. We are permanently anointed.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we enjoy the anointing of God in our lives.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we rely upon the anointing to teach us all things.**
- **We strengthen our joy by the power of the anointing working in the lives of all believers.**

## **Application for Today**

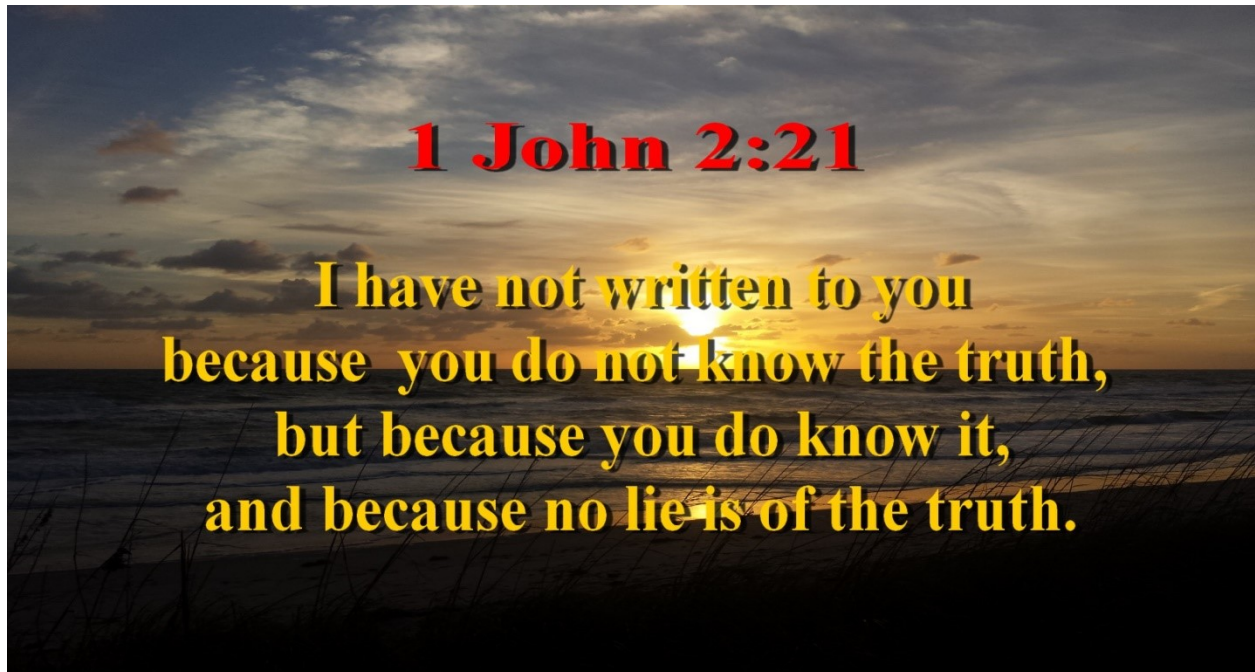
Today, we may notice the anointing at work in our lives and in the lives of other believers, thanking God for His power at work in our lives. Will you enjoy today walking in the anointing of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Thirty One

## No Lie Is of the Truth Today



Do you hear people lying to you? In court, I see people tell absolute lies. At times, attorneys get caught lying to the court. One day I went to an appellate court and stood before three appellate judges. I argued my case briefly, but they had no questions for me and I sat down. When the other attorney stood up, he had barely begun before the three judges began asking him very pointed questions.

The first justice read a statement and asked the other attorney if he said that at trial. He denied it, but it appeared that the justice was reading from the court transcript. The first justice made it plain he was reading the trial transcript of the very words the other attorney said at trial. The second justice

then read another statement and asked him if he said that at trial. He denied it again. By the second time, I knew they were testing the truthfulness of opposing counsel. I was waiting for the third justice. He also read from the transcript, and again the attorney denied it.

I knew because they asked me no questions and had lots of issues with what happened at trial that things were not going well for the other side. We had appealed a win in the lower court, because we did not win all we should have won—not even close. Months later, the appellate court ruled in my client’s favor on all counts.

Lying is never of the truth. God does not need a transcript of prior statements and testimony to know the truth. God wants us to tell the truth always and also to know the truth and live the truth. Jesus called Himself the way, the truth and the life.

## ***You Know It Today***

**1. Believers Know the Truth.** Why should we love the truth? Because God is truth and values the truth. John highly valued the truth. He revealed that believers know the truth.

**2. One Truth.** Some people claim truth is different for each person. John taught that all born-again believers know the same truth about God. The anointing present in every believer teaches us the truth, so that we may resist the lies of many anti-Christ.

**3. Believers Already Know the Truth.** Notice John does not write to impart the truth, because the believers already know the truth. You cannot be saved without knowing the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**4. Review the Truth.** If you ever have doubts about knowing the true God, remember and review this passage. God really wants us to rely upon the anointing from the Holy One. That anointing causes us to know the truth about God.

**5. Faith and Truth.** By faith, we believe the truth. As Christians, we live in the truth of Jesus Christ. We know Jesus by faith in the truth. Faith is the assurance of things hope for, the conviction of things not seen. No lie is of the truth. So if someone tells you that lies and truth go together, they are not telling the truth, because no lie is of the truth. They are opposites.

**6. Truth and Freedom.** Living joyfully in the family of God means knowing the truth frees us from the lies of anti-Christ. The anointing from the Holy One brings spiritual knowledge of God directly into our lives.

**7. Every Family Member Knows the Truth.** We rejoice today because the entire family of God knows the truth of God. We live in truth, freed from the dark lies of anti-Christ. We together, as one body, enjoy knowing the truth of God for all eternity.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we remember that no lie is of the truth.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we remember that everyone in the family of God knows the truth about salvation.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we live the truth of Jesus Christ.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, people will be telling lies, but claiming they are telling the truth. Some of them may even believe they are telling the truth, but really they are telling lies from anti-Christ. We know the truth, and we know that no lie is of the truth. Will you enjoy today listening to the truth?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## Day Thirty Two

### The Liar Today



**1 John 2:22**

**Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.**

Do you tell lies? People lie often. Jesus described lying as not telling the truth. At times, you may lie without knowing it. But at times, you lie and you know it. John wanted us to know about lying when it comes to Jesus. Because many anti-Christ's have gone out into the world, we need to be able to identify them quickly.

When you hear someone deny that Jesus is the Christ, then you know you are looking at anti-Christ. Of course, they may look and sound very religious, but be sure that if they deny that Jesus is God, the Holy One of Israel, the Messiah, God in the flesh, then you are looking at an anti-Christ.

I often hear from believers that their friends must be going to heaven because they are “good people.” Many people I know are deceived by anti-Christians around them. Do not rely upon your own sense of good and bad. Rely upon what God wrote in the Bible. God said if anyone, “good people included,” denies that Jesus is the Christ, then they are anti-Christians. When they deny that Jesus is the Christ, they also deny both the God the Father and God the Son. Be sure to identify the anti-Christians that you see every day. They lie about Jesus and God the Father.

## ***Denies the Father and the Son***

**1. The Liar.** Can we identify anti-Christians today? Yes, we can spot anti-Christians today. If a person denies that Jesus is the Christ, then they are liars and anti-Christ.

**2. Anti-Christians.** anti-Christians deny that Jesus is truly the Christ, the anointed one, God in the flesh. When anti-Christians deny Jesus, they also deny God the Father.

**3. Deny the Son, Deny the Father.** anti-Christians deny that Jesus is God, the anointed one of God. God the Father sent Jesus, God the Son, to seek and to save the lost on earth. To deny that Jesus is the Messiah means that you never knew God the Father. anti-Christians deny Jesus, and so they also deny the Father Who sent Jesus as the Christ.

**4. Liars Deny Jesus, The Messiah.** At times, anti-Christians try to claim they believe in God the Father, but deny that Jesus is the Christ of God. When anti-Christians deny Jesus is the Christ, they identify themselves as anti-Christians. To deny Jesus is the Christ is to deny the Father also.

**5. Liars Lie about Jesus the Messiah.** anti-Christians lie because they work for the devil and there is no truth in the devil. He is a liar from the beginning. In contrast, believers live in Jesus, who is the way, the truth and

the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Jesus. To deny Jesus means you deny the only way to the Father and so deny the Father.

**6. Confessing Jesus as Messiah.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we confess Jesus as Messiah, and love Him as the anointed Savior of the world.

**7. Rejecting the Lies.** We rejoice today because we know Jesus as Savior and confess Him to the glory of God the Father. At the moment of salvation by grace through faith, we confessed Jesus as Lord and believed that God raised Him from the dead.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we reject the lies of anti-Christ.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we glorify Jesus as the Messiah, sent by God the Father.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we confess Jesus as Messiah to the glory of God.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may confess Jesus as Messiah. We may identify the anti-Christ around us because they deny both God the Son and God the Father. No one can say they know God the Father while rejecting Jesus as Messiah. We triumph in the Name of Jesus, the Messiah sent by God the Father to deliver us from death and the power of sin. Will you enjoy today confessing Jesus as Messiah before people?

**HALLELUJAH !**



## **Day Thirty Three**

### **Confesses the Son Today**

**1 John 2:23**

**Whoever denies the Son  
does not have the Father;  
the one who confesses the Son  
has the Father also.**

Do you ever feel like a target? Christianity has become the target of many groups today. Some governments, particularly some Islamic governments, persecute the church fiercely. Others, like the United States of America, wage culture wars against the church. They promote immorality, lust, greed, and many other things God called sin in the Bible. Because some believers value the opinions and acceptance of non-believers more than they value the warm fellowship of God, they hide their Christianity and live in the Christian Closet.

Jesus confessed that He was the Son of God, the Messiah, and that everyone would see Him coming with the clouds. When His accusers heard



that confession, they sentenced Him to death for blasphemy. Jesus later made the same good confession before Pontius Pilate. Jesus told Pilate the Governor that He was the King of the Jews, but His kingdom was not of this world. Pilate also sentenced Jesus to death.

Jesus made the good confession repeatedly in His life. As followers of Jesus, we make decisions everyday about confessing our faith in Him. Not all confessions of Jesus lead to death, but the world hates Jesus. If we confess Jesus as Lord with our mouths, and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. For many believers, the time has long passed for them to come out of the Christian Closet and let their faith be known as they confess Jesus before all men. Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father.

You may say wait a minute. Peter denied Jesus three times in one night. Surely Peter went to heaven, even though he denied Jesus. Yes, but Jesus said that satan would sift Peter like wheat, and then Peter would return to his brethren, and he would strengthen them. Peter made one of the greatest confessions of Jesus in the Bible: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus told Peter that he was blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal that truth to Peter, but the Father of Jesus revealed it to Peter. Even so, Peter did not understand what it meant to be a dying and rising Messiah, and rebuked Jesus shortly thereafter. Jesus has tremendous patience. Jesus understands our sinful behavior, even our denials of Him, and still loves us. But if you have never confessed Jesus as your Savior by grace through faith, then you remain in denial of Jesus that will send you to torment for eternity. Jesus does not want anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance and salvation.

## ***Denies the Son***

1. **Anti-Christ's Exposed**. Why did John expose the anti-Christ's? John exposed the anti-Christ's because they tell lies about God.

2. **Deny the Son**. John further explained that you cannot deny the Son and have the Father. Today, you may hear people say they believe in God, but they deny that Jesus is God, the only Savior for all people. If you deny the Son, you are not going to heaven and you do not have eternal life.

3. **Scorn**. In some cases, you can mention the name God without offending people, but if you mention the name Jesus, those same people will scorn you. Jesus told us that they hated Him without cause, and they will hate us just like they hated Him.

4. **Confess the Son**. John also emphasized that if you confess the Son, you have the Father also. John meant, in part, that Jesus reveals the Father and is One with the Father—One God, three divine Persons.

5. **The Father Reveals Jesus**. The Father reveals Jesus to people, and then Jesus reveals to those believers the Father. By confessing Jesus with your mouth and having faith in your heart, you will also have the Father.

6. **Jesus is God**. Living joyfully in the family of God means we confess Jesus as Messiah and have the Father also. Some people think of Jesus as only a man, a good teacher or a prophet. In contrast, John declared that confession of Jesus means you have the Father also. You cannot know God and have a personal relationship with God without first confessing Jesus as the divine Son of God—God in the flesh.

7. **Confessing Together**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that together and individually we confess Jesus, and love to make that confession before God and people. By our confession of Jesus, we have confidence that we also have the Father in our lives.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God when we confess Jesus before God and men.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we confess Jesus together before men.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we do not live in the Christian Closet, but boldly confess Jesus and His love for the world.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may confess Jesus before God and before people. We want people to know of the mercy God has granted us, and how He loves to forgive people. Will you enjoy today confessing Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Thirty Four**

## **Abide in You Today**



**1 John 2:24**

**As for you,  
let that abide in you which  
you heard from the beginning.  
If what you heard from the beginning  
abides in you,  
you also will abide  
in the Son and in the Father.**

Have you ever considered all the living things that live in you? On any given day, millions of small bacteria live in our intestines. Inside our mouths, all kinds of bacteria hang out. In fact, without bacteria living in us, we would have a very hard time. But not all bacteria are good for us.

Bacteria live on our skin. In fact, our skin keeps them out of our body. As the largest organ in our body, our skin protects us and helps us in many ways. When some bacteria invade us through a cut or by something we ate, we can get very sick. Bacteria can multiply very quickly. Blessedly, God designed our bodies to fight bad bacteria.

The good bacteria help us digest our food, and may play important roles in helping the body stay healthy. Bad bacteria can make us very sick. Bacteria abide within us, whether we know it or not.

Jesus taught us that we need to have His truth abiding within us. We should be sure to let it abide in us. At the moment of salvation, Jesus comes to live within us. Jesus is not a bacteria, but lives inside of us keeping us spiritually healthy. If we let evil things into our lives, then we become spiritually sick. Jesus commands us to let what we have heard from the beginning abide in us.

### ***Continuity***

**1. Continuity.** What is spiritual continuity? Spiritual continuity means we must continue to believe and practice what we heard from the beginning. God commanded continuity in our lives.

**2. Masquerading.** anti-Christ's always seek to introduce lies masquerading as new and improved truths. They deny both the Father and the Son.

**3. Truths.** As believers, we continue to believe in the truths that brought to us the free gift of salvation.

**4. Fundamentals.** Continuity means I continue to believe the fundamentals of the faith, as expressed in the Bible. As the truth of Jesus abides in us, we abide in the Father and the Son.

**5. Eyewitness Accounts.** What I have heard from the beginning is the testimony of John and the other apostles who provided eyewitness accounts of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

**6. Never of Us.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we continue in our faith and truth founded in Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Do you know people who claimed to have had saving faith, but then left behind the

truths of the Bible and no longer continued in what they heard from the beginning? Those people went out from us because they were never of us.

**7. Abide in You.** We rejoice today because both the Father and the Son abide in us and we let what we have heard from the beginning abide in us. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ never changes, but it does change us.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when what we have heard from the beginning abides in us.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we abide in the Father and the Son as one family of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we abide in the truth and focus our attention upon abiding in the Son and the Father, with the same truth abiding in all of us.**

### **Application for Today**

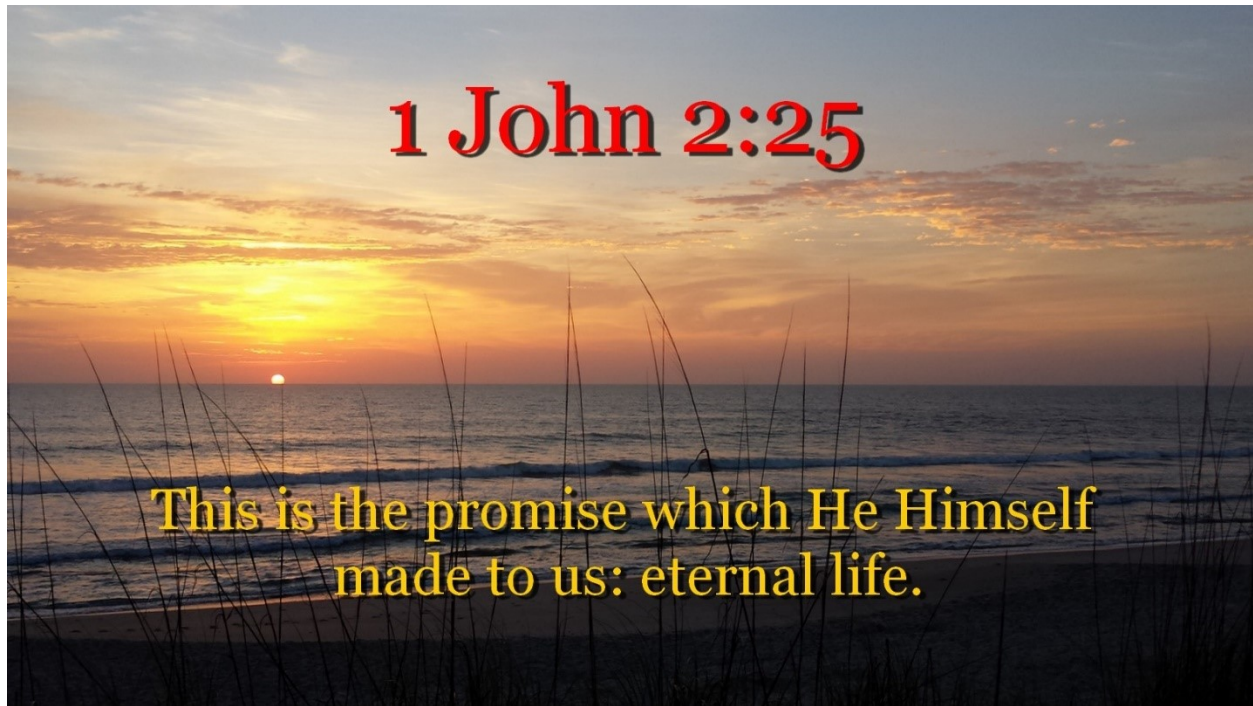
Today, we may abide in what we have heard from the beginning, and enjoy the family of God as we abide together in the Father and the Son. Will you enjoy today abiding in the Father and Son?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Thirty Five

## The Promise of Eternal Life Today



Do you enjoy health foods? I often see advertisements for health supplements that claim some marvelous benefits for people taking them. If you take this supplement, then your knee will feel better. If you take this mineral, then your back will no longer hurt. Of course, they lack the approval of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In fact, the advertisement must contain a disclaimer that the product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. Yet, people pay billions of dollars for such health foods in hope that it may help them.

Why would the government want the warning label on health supplements? Because many studies have shown that most health



supplements often do more harm than good. In fact, they have no basis to make any claims of diagnosis, treating, curing or preventing any disease. The supplement makers often try to provide some evidence that their products work, but work to do what? People need to be very careful with health supplements. If their products really treat, cure or prevent diseases, they could make more money by seeking and obtaining FDA approval.

When it comes to eternal life, we need to be very careful about who offers us eternal life. Many anti-Christ's have appeared and they all offer ways to obtain eternal life, but they are false hopes built upon lies. For example, many anti-Christ's claim that if you follow them and their teachings, then you will have eternal life. People even drink poison and die, all because they believe in the words of some anti-Christ. Only Jesus has the power, love and authority to give you eternal life. Do not be taken in by false claims of some anti-Christ.

Only Jesus offers eternal life and backed up His claim with a perfect life, fulfilling all Scripture, and then He was raised from the dead, to come back to earth to reign, after resurrecting His own to reign with Him.

### ***Eternal Life***

1. **Abiding**. What is the promise of eternal life? Jesus promised eternal life and John, writing under the inspiration of God, built upon the doctrine of the Word of God abiding in us. He focused upon the promise of God: eternal life.

2. **The Promise**. Of all the many promises of God, why did John focus upon the promise of eternal life?

3. **Truth**. In this context, John has taught young believers about the lies of antichrist and how they deny Jesus is the Christ. John also taught the importance of the truth.

4. **Anti-Christ**. anti-Christ's seek to deceive believers with their lies about Jesus and His relationship with the Father.

5. **Definition**. John focused upon the promise of eternal life because knowing the Father and the Son is eternal life. Jesus defined eternal life: "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom you have sent" (John 17:3, page 1689) Jesus also described eternal life in the context of resurrection: "... everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:26, page 1678).

6. **Faith**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we live the promises of God by believing those promises are true. God Himself promised us eternal life. We already have eternal life by faith alone.

7. **Always**. We rejoice today because God promised every member of the family of God eternal life in Him. God loves us. God loves us. God loves us. We live in eternal life every day because we believe God always tells us the truth and always keeps His promises.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we know we have eternal life as a free gift from God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we share our faith in knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we remember that eternal life starts the day you were born-again, and so having believed, you will never die.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live in joy, knowing that we have eternal life, promised by God. We know the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom God sent for us. Will you enjoy today living in joy based upon the promise of eternal life?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 7

## Learning To Enjoy The Anointing Today

Faced with a world of anti-Christ's and the family of the devil hating us, how can the family of God survive? God provided each believer with the anointing of God. The anointing teaches us all things. We actually thrive as we depend upon God and live in love for Him and our family.

John warned about the dangers of anti-Christ's. They bring many weapons. They work to deceive believers to trust in lies. They destroy relationships and do evil. They hate the family of God.

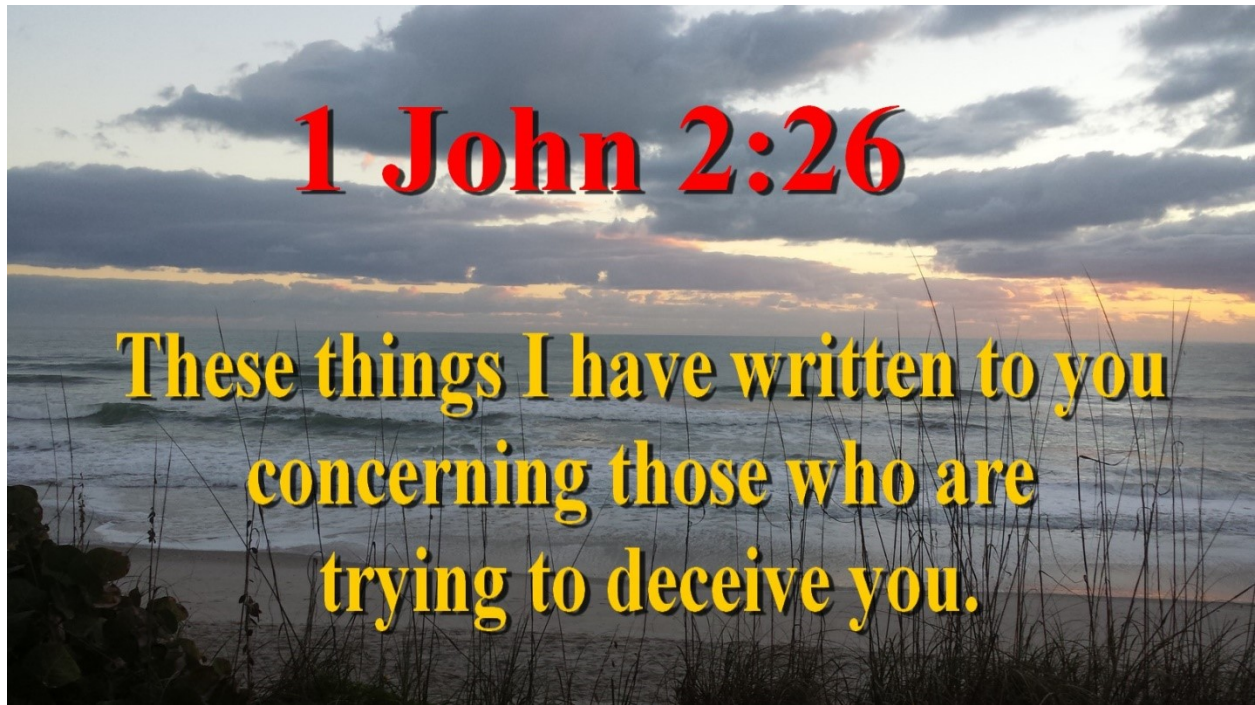
Believers live in the family of God. We live in one family, and each of us has eternal life. The world hates us for our righteous deeds, because their deeds are evil.

As we live in this world, we abide in Christ. God blesses our lives with His presence. He brings joy into our lives through Him. As we abide in Him, He abides in us for all eternity.

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Thirty Six**

## **Trying To Deceive You Today**



Do people try to deceive you? People will try to deceive you, but most people do not recognize the spiritual deceivers all around them. John wrote about spiritual deception so that the family of God would recognize the spiritual deceptions of anti-Christ.

If someone tells you that Jesus Christ was a great teacher, but not God in the flesh, then you are talking to an anti-Christ. If someone tells you that Jesus is not divine like the Father is divine, then you are talking to an anti-Christ. If someone tells you that all spiritual roads lead to heaven, and you can be a Buddhist, a Jehovah's Witness, a Mormon, or a member of another cult and still go to heaven, then you are talking with an anti-Christ.

Many people have been seriously deceived. I find it very sad when parents tell me that their children have become Mormons, because those children have joined a cult. At times, the parents do not recognize that Mormons proclaim the religion of anti-Christ, and teach that Jesus and Satan are brothers, and Jesus is not divine like the Father.

The devil loves to deceive believers and entice people to follow him and live in his deceptions. John wrote that we could identify anti-Christ, because many of them had already gone out into the world. Believers must be educated about the deceptions of anti-Christ, because anti-Christ truly oppose Jesus Christ and His Gospel of salvation. Believers must be ambassadors for Christ who expose the deception and proclaim the loving truth of Jesus.

### ***Dangers of Deception***

1. **Danger**. John recognized the danger of deception. All believers, especially young believers, face anti-Christ trying to deceive them. Many anti-Christ live in the world around us.

2. **Deception**. As believers, we must understand the constant dangers of deception. Anti-Christ tell lies for the purpose of deceiving people about Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

3. **Bible=Truth**. The word of God, the Bible, helps us know the truth and expose the lies of anti-Christ.

4. **The Anointing**. John wrote in his letter about the anointing which teaches us the truth. In Christ, with the Word of God, we guard against anti-Christ who schemes to deceive us.

5. **Warning**. Under the inspiration of God, John warned us about anti-Christ trying to deceive us.

6. **Family Joy.** Living joyfully in the family of God means we live with Christ in triumph, even in a world plagued by many anti-Christ. We have family joy in Christ.

7. **Reminder.** We rejoice today because we have eternal life, promised by God. We gladly bow our knees to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God our Father.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we avoid being deceived by anti-Christ.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we practice what we read in the Bible about the truth and avoid the lies of anti-Christ.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we remember the Lord Jesus Christ triumphs over the lies of all the anti-Christ.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may remind the family of God about the warnings of John. Anti-Christ try to deceive all people and spread lies. In contrast, the family of God stands strong in Jesus and the strength of His power. Will you enjoy today warning someone about the deception of anti-Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**



## Day Thirty Seven

### Trying To Deceive You Today



1 John 2:27

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Do you ask a lot of questions? I often ask Google on my phone to answer a question for me. Google can search millions and millions of articles on the internet and provide information it found with its search. Google can find information very quickly. I also find Bible verses I cannot remember by asking Google to find the verse. Google works like a concordance at times. In fact, many people have never heard about a concordance to search words. Such is the power of Google and the internet.

You must always be careful about what you read on the internet. Google can point you to many lies about spiritual subjects. Google can return results about the Bible written by cults, such as the Roman Catholic cult, of the Mormon Cult, of the Jehovah's Witness cult. Google cannot distinguish

between the truth and the lies of anti-Christ. How can we be sure that we know the truth?

We know the truth because the anointing from God abides in us and teaches us the truth. The anointing never lies to us, but exposes the lies of the cults and ant-Christ. The anointing helps us understand the Bible.

## ***The Anointing Today***

1. **The Truth**. How can we avoid being deceived by the lies of anti-Christ? The anointing we received from God at the moment of salvation tells us the truth and exposes the lies of anti-Christ.

2. **Salvation**. All believers receive the anointing from God at the moment of salvation. The anointing never leaves the believer, but continually abides in every believer.

3. **Teaching**. The anointing teaches us all things about God. We have no need for anyone to teach us about God, because we already know God and the anointing teaches us about all things. John means in this context that the anointing has taught the believers about the basics of salvation, so that they are born-again already. Notice that John is teaching them in this passage.

4. **Scope**. The anointing teaches us about all things. God works within each believer to lead us and guide us. The anointing helps us understand the Bible and apply it correctly to our lives. We should truly enjoy the anointing every day.

5. **No Lies**. As with Jesus, so also the anointing only teaches truth and never lies. We should also praise God daily that His anointing never lies, but always teaches us the truth without lies.

6. **Always**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that His anointing abides in all of us, teaches us all things, and never lies to us, but always teaches us the truth.

7. **Continuous**. We rejoice today because the anointing has taught us about God and salvation. Now we must abide in Jesus. I praise God that His anointing has taught us and continues to teach us about all things. What a pleasure to abide in Him.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when the anointing teaches us about all things and we listen and obey.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when the anointing works within all of the family of God to teach us the truth and draw us together in fellowship.**
- **We strengthen our joy when the anointing helps us avoid the lies of anti-Christ, and abide closely with Jesus.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we can rest assured the anointing ministers the truth to our lives. We abide in Jesus and walk in the light with Him. The anointing teaches us and leads us into all truth. Will you enjoy today the anointing working within you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Thirty Eight

## Confidence Today



**1 John 2:28**

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that  
when He appears, we may have  
confidence and not shrink away  
from Him in shame  
at His coming.

How many times in your life have you shrunk back from something because of fear? As a young teenager, I liked to surf, but I hated big waves. When I was about 13 years old, I rode some hurricane surf with wave faces over ten feet tall—big waves by Florida standards. I could catch these huge rollers before they ever broke and ride them a long way. I would kick out of the wave before it broke and paddle back out. I left the wave when most guys would start paddling for the wave.

I was having a nice time surfing those big waves until I rode one too far and the entire wave walled up suddenly and started to pitch forward. I thought this would be a terrible time to wipe out. I was at the bottom of the wave looking at the top of Mount Everest about to land right on me. I lost my balance and started to fall backwards off my board. The enormous lip of the

wave hit me squarely in my chest and knocked the wind out of me and then crushed me under water. I was hurting and held down, wondering if I would come up for air and, if I did, could I still breathe. My chest hurt and I was far from shore.

After that experience, I often rode shore break closer to the beach. I shrunk back from paddling out in large storm surf, because I had many bad experiences in large Florida waves. I hated being so far off the beach with a long swim if I wiped out. With the advent of surf leashes tying you to your surfboard, I found it easier to surf larger waves. But by then, I had developed a love for high-tide shore break waves with tremendous power and tube riding. The outside waves in Florida were often mushy by comparison. I preferred head-high, pounding tubes in shallow water. A strong swell with offshore or south winds made for a great time surfing. I loved surfing Spanish House near Sebastian Inlet, Wabasso, and First Peak, but I spent most of my time at Eighth Avenue in Indianalantic and Sea Ranch. Confidence surfing shore break waves helped my surfing later at Huntington Beach, California when I lived in Orange County for three years. I still avoid big waves far off the beach, when I can.

### ***His Coming Today***

1. **Consistency and Confidence**. Why do some believers shrink back at the thought of Jesus returning? They shrink back in fear because their lives lack consistency and confidence in Christ.

2. **Abide in Christ**. God builds confidence in our lives through consistently abiding in Christ. When we consistently abide in Christ, then our confidence grows. So, we look forward to Christ appearing, we do not shrink back in shame.

3. **Little Children**. As believers, we must encourage little children (young believers) to abide in Christ consistently, gain confidence, and no longer shrink back in fear because of shame within us.



4. **Shame**. As believers, we understand the shame of sin. Shame enshrouds believers who ignore Jesus for a time. They feel shame for the things they have done in disobedience to Christ. If Jesus suddenly appeared, their shame would cause them to recoil from Christ. Jesus understands our shame, but commands us to abide in Him and see Him replace the shame with consistency and confidence.

5. **Confidence**. As we abide in Christ, we gain confidence in Christ. We look forward to the coming of Jesus. We will be overjoyed to see Him, because we have been abiding in Him.

6. **Obstacles Removed**. Living joyfully in the family of God means you get right with God today and believe God will remove every obstacle that interferes with you abiding in Christ.

7. **Confident and Eager**. We rejoice today because we can be confident and eager to see Jesus today. No more shame, no more shrinking back.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we abide in Christ and eagerly look forward to His appearing.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as our consistency and confidence grows in Christ, leaving behind the shame of disobedience.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we help little children gain consistency in their lives by the power of Jesus, removing their shame and building confidence in Christ.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we can encourage the little children in the family of God to leave their shame behind. We love them and let them know about consistency and confidence gained from abiding with Christ. Will you enjoy today and not shrink back when Christ appears?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# **Day Thirty Nine**

## **He Is Righteous Today**



**1 John 2:29**

**If you know that He is righteous,  
you know that everyone also  
who practices righteousness  
is born of Him.**

How does what you know change what you do? What we know influences what we do. God wants us to know Him. Therefore, God revealed Himself to us in many different ways over time. In these last days, God has revealed Himself through Jesus Christ, and also through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

By grace through faith we have been born into the family of God. At that moment of salvation, we became new, righteous creatures in Christ. Jesus gave us new lives so that now we have been saved by His righteousness and we practice righteousness because of Jesus in us.

John explained that we still sin while we walk in the light with Jesus, but we also confess our sins and experience the righteous cleansing by God of our lives. John also emphasized that because God is righteous, everyone born of God is also righteous. John begins to develop a complete picture of who we are in Christ Jesus. We must understand our spiritual birth to understand our spiritual lives and the righteousness of God in us.

### ***Practices Righteousness***

**1. Paternity.** John invoked a paternity test for all people. You can identify the children of God by the way they live in righteousness.

**2. Righteousness.** Righteousness means you live in the state of God's perfection, having been declared and made righteous by faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

**3. Actions.** Your actions reveal your spiritual paternity. Because believers live to righteousness and died to sin, our actions testify that we have been born of God and abide in Christ.

**4. Daily.** Although we sin daily, we also live in righteousness daily. Because we have been born of God, so also we practice righteousness daily. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin daily.

**5. Identification.** John emphasized that people live their paternity. Those people born of God practice righteousness. Because God is righteous, so also is everyone born of God.

**6. Righteous Family.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know the family of God is righteous. Everyone in the family of God has been born of God and His righteousness becomes our righteousness at spiritual birth.

**7. The Joy of Righteousness.** We rejoice today because in Christ we have complete joy. As we practice righteousness as one righteous family of God, so we also rejoice in the righteous practice of God's children.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we practice righteousness.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we recall that every member of the family of God has been born of God and His righteousness.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we encourage the family of God to remember their paternity and live in righteousness without fear or shame.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we practice righteousness because we have been born of God. Will you enjoy today by practicing righteousness?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 8

## Learning To Enjoy The Children of God Today

John revealed a paternity test for all believers. They practice righteousness because they have been born of God. John then revealed more about the family of God.

John linked the love of God to the family of God. John wrote about the great love of God that we should be called children of God. We really are the children of God. We walk in the light, but we still sin. Even so, we remain righteous by birth into the family of God. God created us as righteous new creatures.

John also explained the family of God experiences opposition in many forms. The world hates the family of God, because the world never knew God. Paternity matters in many spiritual ways. Because the children of the devil practice sin, we expect the world to hate us. All the world lies in the power of the devil, and the world follows the directions of the devil. The world hates believers who practice righteousness and know the love of God. As the world hates us, we are not surprised by such hatred because God explained why the world hates us and what prompts their hatred. We must practice righteousness as members of the family of God and love people with righteous love.

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty

## Children of God Today



**1 John 3:1**

**See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.**

Have you submitted your DNA to learn more about your genetic heritage? Many people today all over the world send in a DNA sample to different companies that will provide a profile of your genetic ancestry. Some people find out that they are unrelated to their family members. Some children learn they were adopted and no one ever told them.

DNA profiling also has some unintended consequences. By analyzing DNA, some people may be arrested for crimes committed decades before.

The DNA at a crime scene may match their DNA, even though the criminal never submitted a DNA sample. The family tree shows the genetic relationship of relatives. Therefore, if a relative committed a crime and left DNA at the crime scene, then a relative's DNA sample may be enough to require the suspect to submit DNA to see if it matches the crime scene. When someone has been exposed as a criminal, often family members recoil and some parents feel great shame.

God never has any doubts about what people do. He not only knows our DNA, He created our DNA. God also knows our crimes committed under human laws and He also knows that we are all guilty of killing Jesus, His unique Son. Jesus died for our sins on the cross, so, in effect, we killed Jesus by our sins. God said that the wages of sin is death, and we have all sinned and fall short of His glory. Even so, knowing all of our horrible crimes against God, He still adopted us into His family. You see, God never adopted a perfect person into His family. He always adopts sinners into His family, and all sinners deserve the death penalty. Because God loves sinners like us, Jesus paid the death penalty for us and welcomed us into the family of God.

### ***The World Today***

1. **Great Love**. How great is the love of God for sinners? God loved sinners and adopted only sinners into His own family, the family of God.

2. **Bestowed**. God bestowed His love upon us. Bestow means to place upon. So God placed His great love upon us, as a free gift we receive by grace through faith.

3. **Children of God**. All the children of God are born of God. Seems simple at first, but then we realize that God meant that He takes people of all ages and makes them His children. They are born again, and born from above. We truly are the children of God. Our spiritual DNA should fill us with joy every day.

**4. The World.** At the moment of salvation, God delivered us from the domain of darkness and freed us spiritually from the chains of this world. By the loving power of God, we became brand new spiritual creatures and members of the family of God. At that moment of salvation, the world no longer knows us.

**5. Never Knew God.** In contrast to the family of God, the world never knew God. Of course, many people of the world claim to know God, but God says they never knew Him; they were deceived about their own sin and never turned to God by faith for salvation.

**6. Do Not Know Us.** Living Godly in the family of God means that we understand that the world does not know us, because the world never knew God. God wants us to understand that He calls us His children, but only people who have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior know God. Therefore, the world does not know us, because the world never knew God.

**7. Special.** We rejoice today because God calls us His children. Such we truly are. Although we still sin, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin and we have fellowship with other believers and walk in the Light with Jesus.



**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we hear God calling us His children today.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more because we all have only one Father, one Savior, and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we understand the world does not know us, because the world never knew God.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we know that God bestowed His great love upon us and calls us His children, the family of God. Will you enjoy today by sharing the great love of God today with people God seeks to adopt into His family?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty One

## We Will Be Like Him Today



**1 John 3:2**

Beloved, now we are children of God,  
and it has not appeared as yet what  
we will be. We know that when He  
appears, we will be like Him,  
because we will see Him  
just as He is.

Do we appear to be children of God today? We are the children of God. Yet, our appearance will be changed in the future. We will be just like Jesus one day. So, while we do not yet look just like Jesus today, when He appears, we will be like Jesus, because we will see Him just as He is.

If you tend to get down at times because the world does not know us, and people in the family of God act badly, then you may begin to lose heart. John wrote to us and wanted to grow our hope, based upon a fantastic change in us.

When Jesus appears, we will be changed in an instant. We will see Jesus just as He is, in all His glory. We will become like Him, with a resurrected body. Our lives will never be the same.

### ***Just Like Him Today***

1. **The Future**. Will we ever see Jesus? Jesus promised that when He appears, we will be like Him, for we will see Him just as He is. Jesus talked often about the future. He prophesied frequently, because He wants His children to find hope about our glorious future.

2. **Children of God**. Having declared that all believers are children of God, John turned next to our future in the family. John revealed we will be changed when Jesus appears. We will no longer look the same.

3. **Like Him**. When Jesus appears, all His children will be like Him. We long for the day that Jesus appears, and we will be transformed, so we will be like Jesus.

4. **Not Yet**. While we wait for Jesus to appear, we are children of God, but it does not yet appear what will be. We await the return of Jesus.

5. **Changed**. When Jesus appears and we see Him, then we will be changed because we will see Jesus just like He is. We long for that day when we see Jesus just like He is. It will change us instantly.

6. **The Family Future**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we are the children of God, but when Jesus appears, we will all be changed in an instant. Every member of the family will instantly be transformed to be like Jesus.

7. **Finally**. We rejoice today because we will finally see Jesus just as He is. Jesus said we are blessed for believing in Him, although we have not yet seen Him. But we will see Him soon. Even so come Lord Jesus.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we look forward to seeing Jesus just as He is.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we long for Jesus to change every member of the family of God when He appears, and we see Him.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we remind one another that we are not yet what we will be when Jesus appears.**

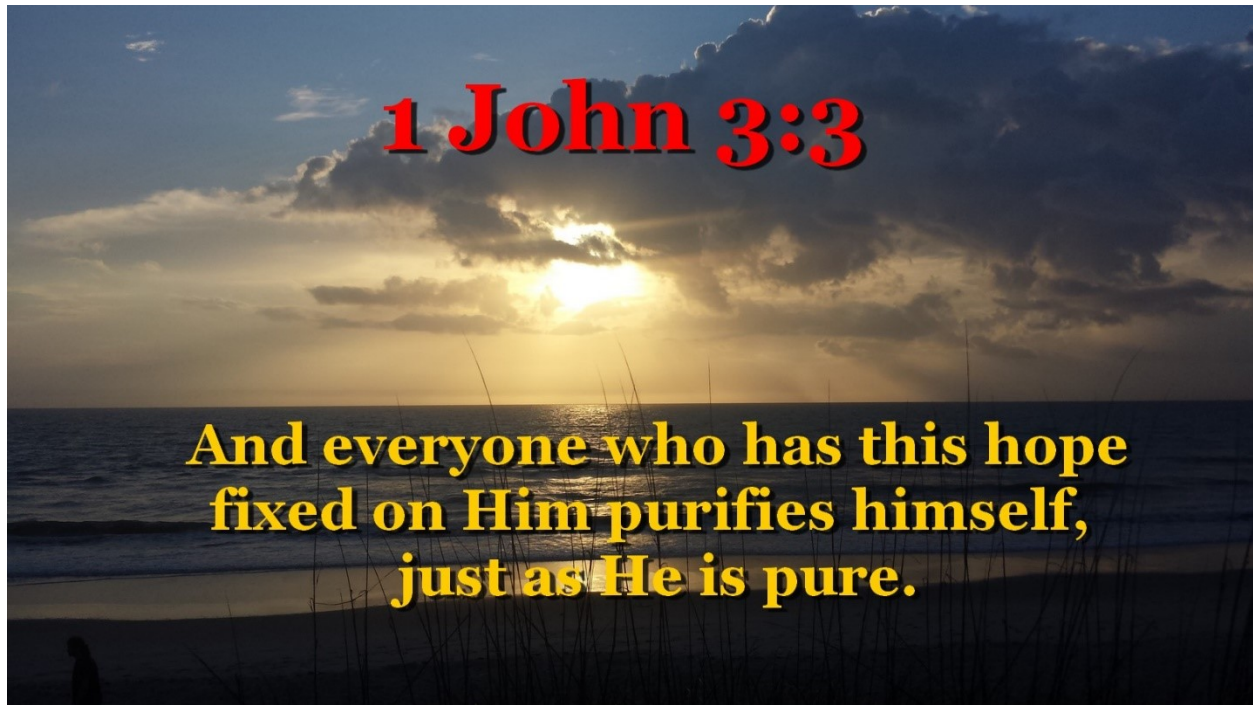
**Application for Today**

Today, we look forward to Jesus appearing at any moment. When He appears, we will see Him just as He is and we will be changed. Will you enjoy today ready for change?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## **Day Forty Two**

### **Purifies Himself Today**



Do hope and purity go together? John wrote about the relationship between hope and purity. He explained that we hope to be like Jesus when He appears, for we will see Him just as He is. That hope causes us to purify ourselves.

When I surfed daily, I used to paddle out in big waves and small waves. I was hoping to catch some nice waves. So, as I sat at school, waiting to get to the beach, I thought about surfing. I would get my board at home, ride my bike to the beach, and surf. I did not let other things like homework distract me from surfing. I also did not wait for my friends to get ready to go surfing. I looked forward to getting into the water as quickly as possible. In a sense, I purified myself of all distractions. I focused upon surfing and looked forward to my first wave of the day, when it appeared.

As believers, we look forward to the day when Jesus will appear. We will see Jesus just as He is, for the first time, in person. Our hopes will be fulfilled. I paddled out looking for perfect waves. Now I await seeing Jesus, the author of all perfection, the creator of the sea and waves. I also purify myself so that when He appears, I will not be shrinking back in shame, but as a child looking for my Savior, to bow before Him and worship up close and personal.

### ***Our Hope***

1. **Hope**. Why do we purify ourselves? We purify ourselves because we have fixed our hope upon seeing Jesus, just as He is.

2. **Purify**. John linked the believer's hope of seeing Jesus to purifying ourselves.

3. **Holiness**. Purify in this verse is similar to make holy. The term means to remove uncleanness, especially any uncleanness related to presenting holy offerings to the Lord. Be holy and pure as God is holy and pure.

4. **Losing Hope**. Have you ever met believers who have lost all hope? God tells us that we must have hope fixed upon the appearing of Jesus, and that hope will cause us to purify our lives.

5. **Personal Action**. This verse also emphasizes personal action. You must take action to purify yourself.

6. **Ready**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that you have hope every day that Jesus will appear today and so purify yourself today to get ready.

7. **Smiling**. We rejoice today because we will be all smiles when we see Jesus, because our hope of seeing Him causes us to purify ourselves today.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we purify ourselves.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we model purity for all believers as we await the appearance of Jesus.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we fellowship with others who purify themselves, hoping to see Jesus today.**

### **Application for Today**

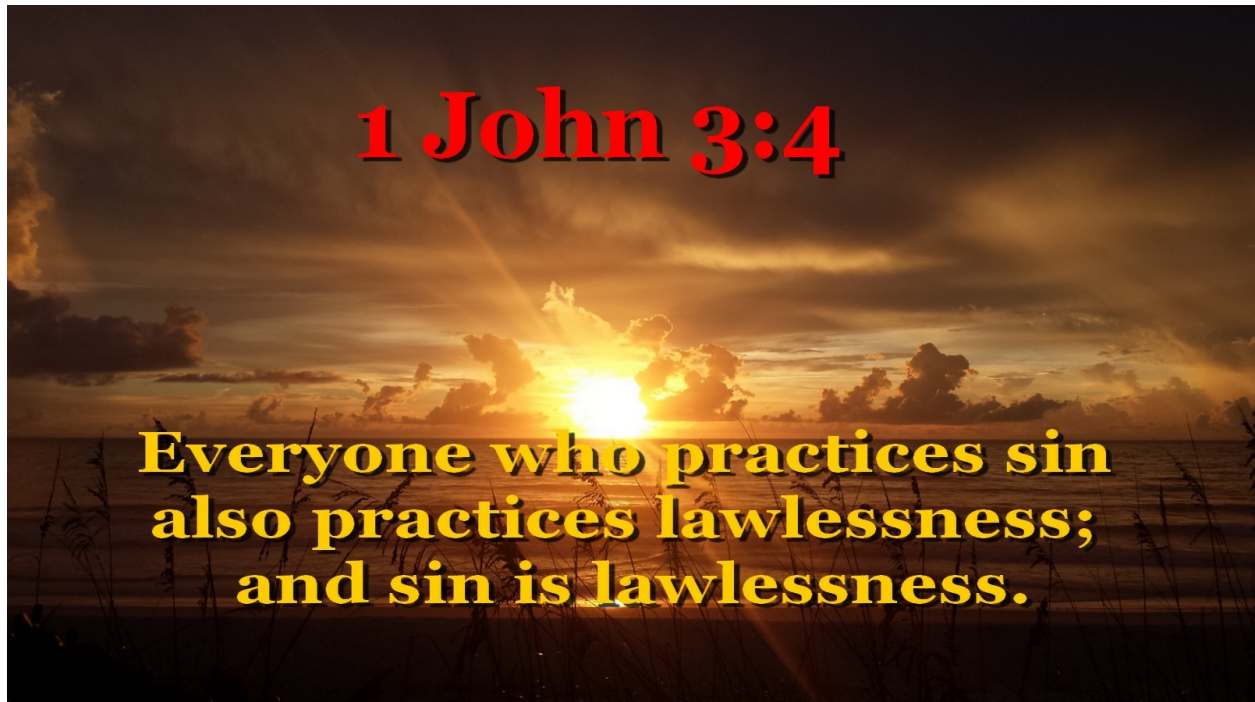
As we await the appearing of Jesus at any moment, we purify ourselves. We have fixed our hope upon Jesus. Will you enjoy today with your hope fixed on God today?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Forty Three

## Sin Is Lawlessness Today



Growing up, I knew people who thought it was cool to shoplift from stores. They did not swipe a candy bar, they swiped the entire box of candy bars. If they needed some wood to build a tree house, they took hundreds of dollars worth of wood from homes under construction. What they wanted, they took without a second thought.

In our lives, we can believe that taking things that do not belong to us may be o.k. if we really need it. Of course, our definition of really needing it only means that we want it pretty bad. We could certainly live without it. When we set our own standards, even then we do not always live by our own standards.

When we live by our standards, we tend to ignore God's standards for all human beings. He provided standards in the Bible. Many people know the Ten Commandments. God provided many more commandments than just those ten commandments. He commanded us to rejoice, to cast our anxiety upon Him, and gave us many more really cool commandments that many people have never heard about. When we ignore God's commandments, we live in lawlessness. We ignore His laws and His ways. God gave us commandments and laws to keep us out of trouble with Him and with other people.

John summed up the entire matter. Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness. We should be careful to understand how sin affects our lives in The Family of God.

### ***Practicing Sin***

1. **The Truth about Sin.** Do born-again believers still sin? John revealed the truth about sin. We know that all believers have sin in their lives (1 John 1:8, 10).

2. **Practices Sin.** John focused upon the practice of sin. He meant that you do sin all the time. John used a very common word for doing, making, and producing.

3. **Continuous.** John emphasized the present, continuous action of deliberate sin. You are sinning and you know it.

4. **Lawlessness and Sin.** John linked continuous sinning with continuous lawlessness. You might think of lawlessness as living as if no laws

existed. You live to please yourself, without rules, laws or any restrictions of any kind. You ignore God's commandments for living.

5. **Selfish Living**. Living in sin, without regard to the commandments of God, means that you practice sin, which amounts to practicing lawlessness.

6. **Confessing Sin**. Living joyfully in the family of God means we confess our sins to God; we do not run away from God.

7. **Cleansing from Sin**. We rejoice today because we no longer practice sin continuously. We do not live in lawlessness, because we have been born of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we recognize that sin is lawlessness and so confess it.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we remind our friends in Christ that sin is lawlessness and God hates sin.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we enjoy the cleansing love of God that draws all of us closer to Him.**

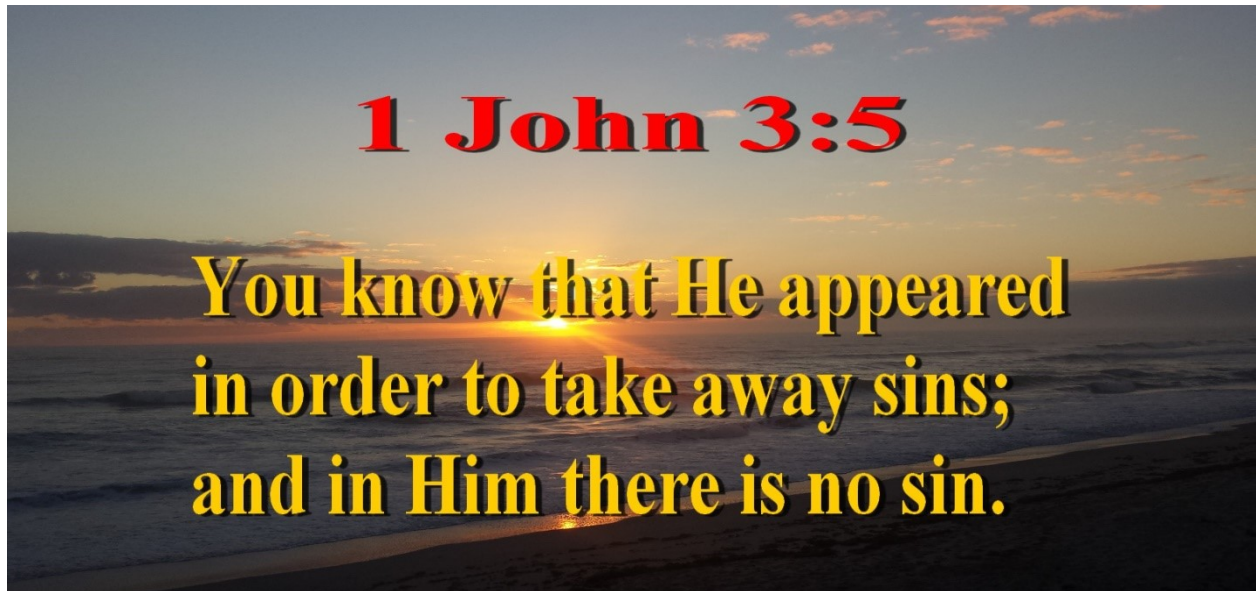
### Application for Today

God wants us to understand that practicing sin is practicing lawlessness. Therefore, I intend to avoid practicing sin today and stop doing the same sinful things time after time. God will cleanse me today as I confess my sin and break sinful habits that amount to lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness today. Will you enjoy today by avoiding lawless behavior?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Forty Four**

## **Trying To Deceive You Today**



Have your sins been taken away? As a child, I heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures. I believed the truth and accepted the free gift of eternal life through grace by faith. I recall that I was very happy that all my sins were forgiven and taken away.

Today, some people teach that Jesus did not keep the Law or somehow sinned for a good reason. They do not believe what the Bible says about Jesus. Jesus was sinless, always. He became sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Jesus.

God took away all of our sins. Where did Jesus take them? He took all our sins to the cross, and paid the death penalty by laying down His life and shedding His precious blood for our sins. Now, there is no condemnation for every born-again believer. Jesus died once, for all sins. His death-penalty

payment only becomes effective to take away sins by faith alone. By faith, God justifies sinners. Only a sinless Savior can become sin for us.

### No Sin

**1. Simple Language.** Why did Jesus leave heaven, take human flesh, and live among men? Jesus appeared to take away sin. John revealed great truths about Jesus, using very simple language to convey deep doctrines.

**2. You Know.** John frequently mentioned how much his readers already knew. John reinforced and expanded their knowledge of God, the world, and themselves.

**3. Jesus Appeared.** Jesus took flesh and dwelt among humans on earth. He did so for a very particular purpose.

**4. Take away Sins.** John reminds us in simple language why Jesus appeared. Jesus appeared to take away sins. Remember that Jesus will appear again and believers will see Him just as He is.

**5. No Sin.** Jesus also has no sin in Him. So, Jesus was perfectly sinless at all times. Jesus abides in me and I abide in Him. Therefore, Jesus brings His sinless life into my life so that I am a new creature, and my sins have been taken away. Where did Jesus take them? He took them to the cross, shed His blood, died and God raised Him from the dead.

**6. No Condemnation.** Living joyfully in the family of God means our faith calls us to live by faith. By faith, we believe the promise of God that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

**7. Death Penalty Removed.** We rejoice today because Jesus appeared to take away sins. We have been released from the death penalty, because Jesus died in our place on the cross. He died, so we may live. He rose for our justification.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we remember that Jesus appeared to take away sins.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we all focus upon Jesus who had no sin.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we live in Jesus knowing that Jesus has freed us from the power and slavery of sin.**

### **Application for Today**

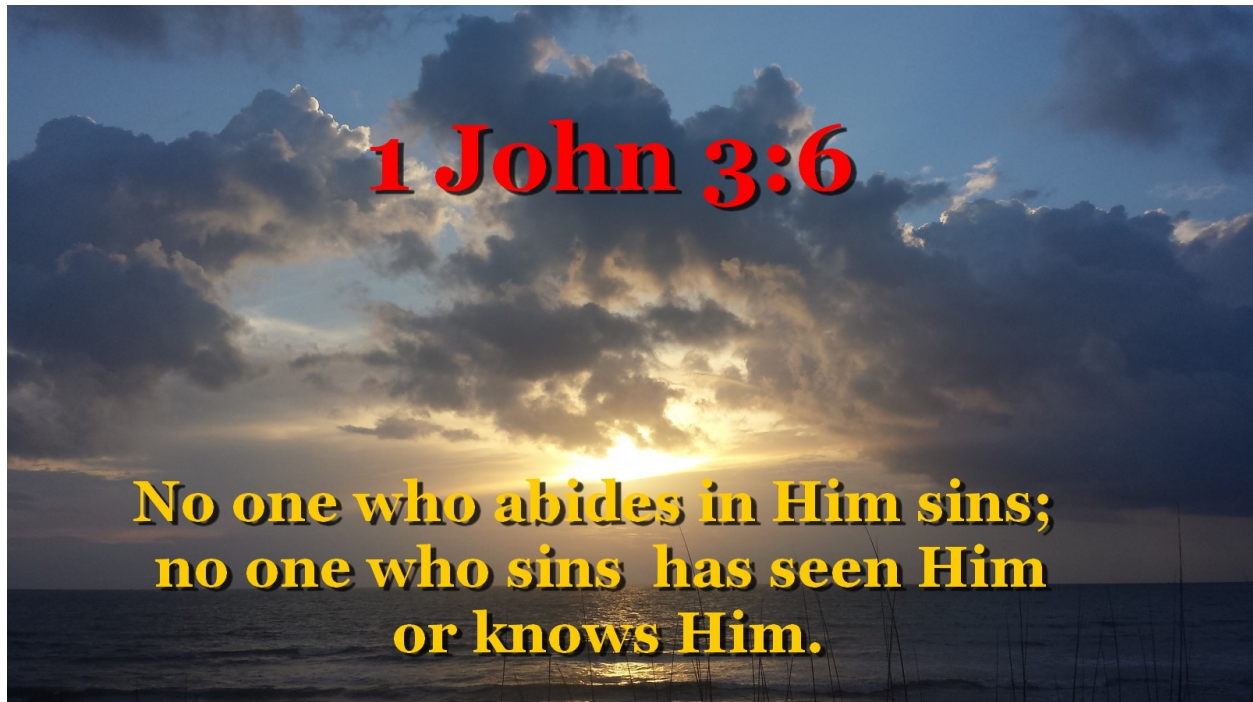
Today, we can remember there is no sin in Jesus. Because He was sinless and loves us, He became sin for us and freed us from sin and its bondage and punishment. Will you enjoy today remembering that in Jesus there is no sin, and He lives in you today?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# **Day Forty Five**

## **Abides in Him Today**



What really happened at the moment we were born again? We were born of God and we became new creations. We did not look different. Our bodies were not different. So, what changed? John described to us what happened at the moment of salvation. We began to abide in Christ. He remains in us and we remain in Him. As new creations, we partook of the divine nature and the new creation does not sin. In fact, John told us that no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

But what about 1 John 1:8-10? Believers still sin and the blood of Jesus Christ still cleanses us from sin. So why does John say that the one who abides in Jesus does not sin? Why does John say that no one who sins has seen Jesus or knows Jesus? We must keep the context in mind here. In 1 John 1:8-10, John explained what it means to walk in the light with Jesus. As

we walk in the light, we have fellowship with other believers and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins.

In Chapter 3, John focused upon the family of God. As children of God, we do not sin. In fact, if we sin, we have not seen God. John does not explain our walk in the light (see chapter one), but now John reveals who we are in Christ as members of the family of God. As children of God, we know God and see God spiritually through the Bible and we fellowship with Him through the blood of Jesus, our Savior and Advocate.

### ***No One Who Sins***

1. **Sin and Salvation**. Do the children of God sin? No, the children of God do not sin. Believers still sin, but not the children of God. John revealed truths that have puzzled believers for centuries. John disclosed truths about sin and salvation.

2. **Doubt and Sin**. In 1 John 1:7, 8, 10, John emphasized that believers continue to sin after salvation. Believers often doubt their salvation because of sin.

3. **Abide in Christ**. In 1 John 3:6, John said that if you abide in Christ, you do not sin. Likewise, no one who sins has seen God or knows God.

4. **Unity**. How can all of those verses fit together? Some people emphasize that believers do not continually practice sin. These people notice that the word "sins" is present tense, meaning continuous action. One problem for that view of continuous sin is that 1 John 1:8 also is present tense, "we have no sin."

5. **Old and New**. So, God recognizes that believers sin continuously, based upon 1 John 1:8. So, in 1 John 3:6, John does not contradict 1 John 1:8. John actually begins an explanation of the new creature, born by the Holy Spirit, that never sins and always abides in Christ. Inside every believer lives a new creature and the old evil nature. The old evil nature in believers has never seen God and does not know God. See Romans 7:14-17.

6. **The New Creature**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that the new creature always abides in Christ, has seen God and knows God. In Christ, I am the new creature.

7. **Abides**. We need to focus more upon the truths here. The new creature never sins. We are new creatures, with new ministries, and with new jobs in Christ. We know God and never sin. Yet, sin takes advantage of me, when I yield to temptation and my lusts carry me away. But, in Christ I am, and I joyfully live in a family of new creatures who abide in Christ.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we remember that we abide in Christ.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more because we all see God and know God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we live as children of God, who understand that we do not sin because we know God and see God.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, I intend to spend some time embracing the fact that we are the spiritual children of God. We abide in Jesus, and we have seen Him and know Him. As children born into the family of God, we do not sin. Will you enjoy today thinking about abiding in Christ without sin?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty Six

## Practices Righteousness Today



Should you be concerned that people are trying to deceive you? John wrote to the family of God. He expressed the concerns of His heavenly Father when he wrote to the little children. John warned the little children that people would try to deceive them. He did not want the little children to be deceived by smooth talking people.

I often come across smooth talking people. They try to persuade me to offer them legal representation. Smooth talkers leave out all the bad things they have done that make their case more difficult. No one lives a righteous life all the time, except God. We all sin, and people need to understand that God demonstrated His love for us while we were still sinners. Christ died for us, the sinners.



If I know the bad things before they come out later from the other side, I can often mitigate the effects of those bad things my clients have done. But if my client tries to deceive me, claiming they have nothing to hide, then that usually means trouble is coming. Sooner or later, those bad things usually surface.

John presented a very simple test to detect deceivers and their lies: Do they practice righteousness. Look at their lives. Look past their words and see if they practice righteousness. Do they do the right thing, the just thing. Do they do the things God wants us to do. If they claim to know God, but act unrighteously, then we should be careful, because they are only trying to deceive the little children. After you have been around deceivers, it becomes easier to spot them. As a child, people often seek to take advantage of you. Jesus guards and keeps His children of all ages. Even so, we must be careful to avoid being deceived.

### ***Deceives You***

1. **Little Children**. Why did John warn young believers not to be deceived? John warned the little children (young believers) so that they would look for righteous lives, and so avoid being deceived by evil people.

2. **Concern**. All mature believers must share this same concern to keep young believers today from being deceived.

3. **Righteousness**. John focused upon the truth of righteousness. Righteousness here means that God's perfection indwells us and we display His sinless perfection. Righteousness always contrasts with deception.

4. **Older Siblings**. Older brothers and sisters have a life-long duty to look after their younger brothers and sisters. As believers, more mature believers should help the younger believers to avoid being deceived.

5. **Look for Righteousness**. Many people deceive others by talking a good game. But their lives tell another story of evil. They do not practice righteousness, and invite others to join them in evil, often using deception. Believers must look beyond flattering speech and look for righteousness.

6. **Righteous Lives**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know righteous people live righteous lives, just like Jesus lives a righteous life. People try to tell us that we should follow evil people, but we see the truth of righteousness.

7. **He Is Righteous**. We rejoice today because we practice righteousness just like Jesus is righteous. Practicing righteousness becomes a way of life for believers. Christ brings His righteousness into our lives. Righteous living means that we have the perfect holiness of God in our lives and a perfect relationship with God.



**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we avoid being deceived by evil people.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we live righteous lives.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we help the little children avoid being deceived and encourage them to live righteous lives, just like Jesus is righteous always.**

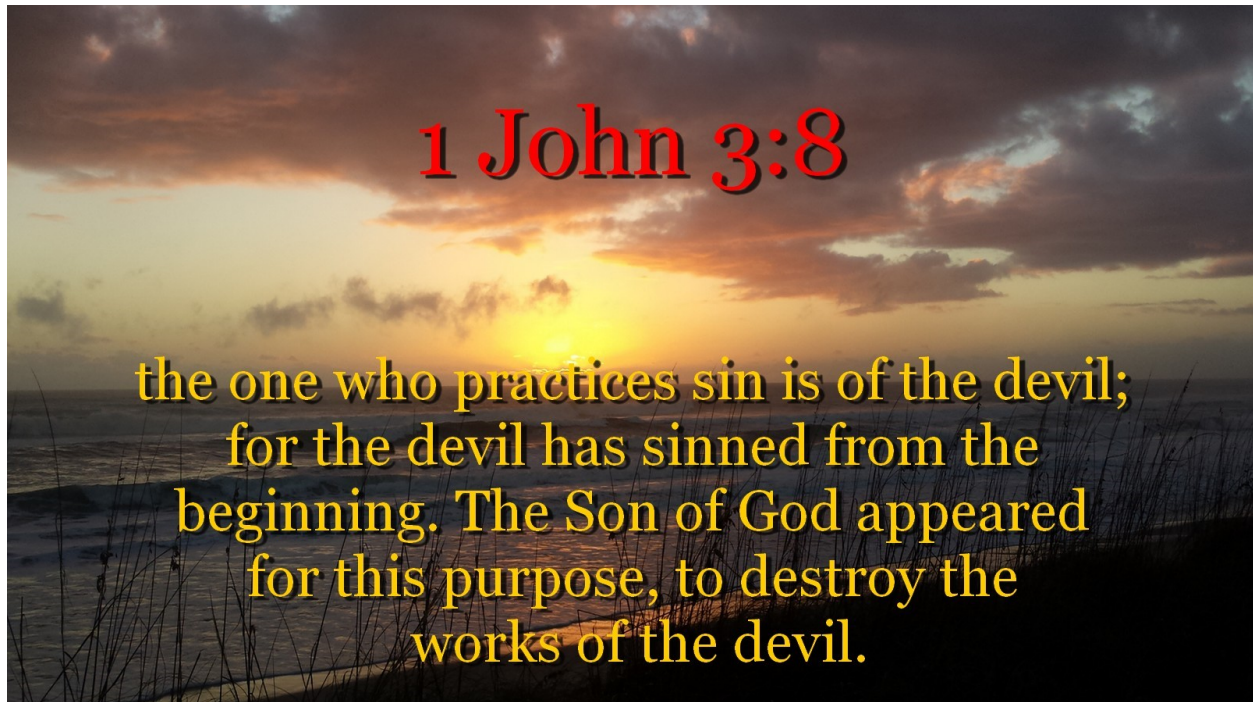
**Application for Today**

Today, we may keep our eyes on little children in the family of God. If they start listening to evil people trying to deceive them, we must look out for them and point them in the right direction. Will you enjoy today by keeping an eye upon the little children?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty Seven

## Practices Sin Today



Why did Jesus come to earth? In the verse today, we will see that Jesus appeared to destroy the works of the devil. Notice the context here. Jesus came for the purpose of destroying the works of the devil, particularly to free believers from the slavery of sin.

John traced back the sinful history of the devil. From the beginning the devil sinned. You may recall that Jesus said the devil was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). We see the phrase “from the beginning” many times in the Book of First John. In this verse, John draws attention to the devil’s sinful acts from the beginning. We know that the devil had already sinned by the time he tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Therefore, because Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, the new creation born of God never practices sin. We no longer live in a perpetual

state of sin because we have been born of God and are the children of God. Jesus destroyed the power of the devil in our lives. We still sin, but Jesus has destroyed the power of sin so that we do not continually sin.

John wanted little children to identify the evil people among them. The ones who were practicing sin were of the devil. Jesus came with a purpose: to destroy the works of the devil. Jesus accomplished his purpose and freed us from the power of sin and destroyed the works of the devil. Therefore, the children of God can be easily identified.

### ***The Purpose of Jesus Today***

**1. Practices Sin.** Why do people practice sin? Because they are of the devil. Jesus made it very plain why people practice sin. John meant the continual practice of sin.

**2. Sinned from the Beginning.** The devil sinned from the beginning. Just as believers are “of God,” so also unbelievers are “of the devil.”

**3. Purpose.** Jesus appeared for the purpose of destroying the works of the devil. Not only did Jesus do the works of God, but God’s plan included destroying the works of the devil.

**4. Cross.** Jesus destroyed the power of the devil at the cross by freeing believers from the bondage of sin. By His blood atonement, Jesus completely satisfied all the requirements of justice, paying the death penalty which all sinners deserve. The devil’s power of the fear of death has been forever destroyed by Jesus dying and rising again.

**5. Destroyed.** John emphasized the totality of destruction. Jesus completely freed believers from the works of the devil. We are no longer the slaves of sin.

**6. Freedom.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we live in freedom from sin. Jesus preached freedom from the bondage of sin and linked it to faith in Him and continuing in His word.

**7. Confidence, No Fear.** We rejoice today because we no longer live in fear of death, because Jesus has destroyed the works of the devil both here on earth and in heaven. The devil has no power to throw anyone into hell; only God does. Therefore, as Jesus proclaimed, fear only God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we know that Jesus destroyed the works of the devil and continues to do so today.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we live just like Jesus, with Godly purpose in our lives.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we encourage our friends to know that God will help us live righteous lives, having been freed from the bondage of sin and the power of sin.**

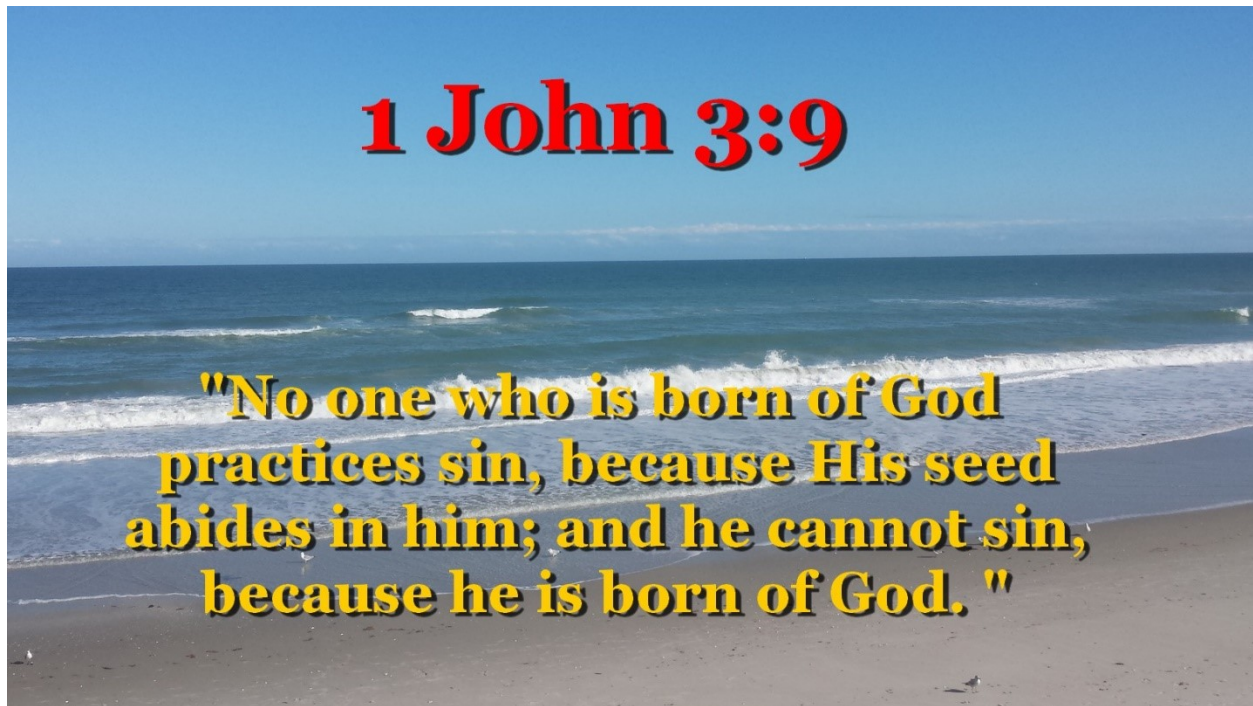
### **Application for Today**

Today, we thank God that Jesus destroyed the works of the devil. We live in the happy freedom with God, as He loves us and leads us. Will you enjoy today living in freedom?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Forty Eight

## Cannot Sin Today



Do you sin each day? Many people think they can not sin. Many people do not recognize their sin. They are the same people. Just because you do not recognize your sin does not mean you do not sin. As you grow up in your Christian faith, you learn more about sin, just as you learn more about love. You may recall that Jesus taught that people who have sinned much and have been forgiven much love Him much.

John explains that because a believer is born of God (born again), that born again creature cannot sin. We need to let that sink in for a minute. The new creature born of God cannot sin. Our old self sins frequently, but that old self died on the cross. All of our passions and desires have been crucified with Christ.

Living joyful lives requires that we learn more about joyful living from the Bible. We need to know what Jesus said to do what Jesus wants. If you neglect to read your Bible, or listen to it regularly, then you will stunt your spiritual growth and inhibit your joy in Christ. Take the time to get into God's Word today.

### ***His Seed Abides in Him Today***

1. **Truth**. What does it mean that the seed of God cannot sin? At the moment of salvation, God's seed sprang up in our lives. As the seed of God abides in our lives, so the new creature born of God cannot sin. John explained the truth very clearly. Sometimes, we have a hard time comprehending simple truths. Therefore, no one who practices sin is born of God.

2. **Born of God**. John consistently described believers as people born of God. On a spiritual level, at the moment of salvation, we are born of the Holy Spirit. We become new creatures in Christ. All the old things passed away; new things have come.

3. **The Seed of God**. The seed of God abides in our lives and grows to full spiritual maturity. We start as spiritual babies and become adults over time, if we continue to be nourished in the Word of God.

4. **Big Family**. Living joyfully in the family of God means we grow up in a really big family, with many other new creatures all at varying stages of spiritual maturity, often unrelated to physical age.

5. **God Cannot Sin**. The new creature, born of the seed of God, cannot sin. We should not be shocked because God cannot sin. Inside of every believer lives the sinless new creature and the sinful old self.

6. **The Seed Abides**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know that the seed of God abides in us. We are born of the seed of God



and we cannot sin. Yet, our old self sins, and we only deceive ourselves if we say we have no sin.

7. **Sinless New Creature**. We live in the new sinless creature. Our lives have truly changed. Yet, we still sin. In truth, we are the new creature and rejoice that we live in the righteousness of God, because we have been born of the seed of God, implanted at the moment of salvation.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we know that we are born of the seed of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we remember that we cannot sin because we have been born of God (our new self).**
- **We strengthen our joy when we live as family, united by the seed of God to be one family of God.**

### **Application for Today**

We live in one big family, born of the seed of God. Within us live new creatures that cannot sin, because they were born of God. We are those new creatures. Will you enjoy today as a new creature?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Forty Nine

## Obvious Today



**1 John 3:10**

**"By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."**

Do you remember the last time you were deceived? Probably not. The nature of deception is that we do not know what is actually happening. We may think we know something, but later we learn we were just deceived.

Consider Eve in the Garden of Eden. The devil came to her and encouraged her to eat of the forbidden fruit. He lied to her and told her she would not die and other lies. She actually believed the devil and ate. She was thoroughly deceived by the devil and suffered the consequences.

At times in our lives, people come to us and claim to be believers. They may be quoting Scripture, reading the Bible, or working in a church. John warned us to be very careful about people. The devil still tries to deceive us. John presented a simple test to uncover deception in people.

John says we can see an obvious difference between the children of God and the children of the devil. The children of God practice righteousness. The children of the devil do not practice righteousness and they do not love the brethren. John assured us of the obvious difference. Notice that word “obvious.” Even believers sin, but we can still see an obvious difference between believers and non-believers.

### ***Not of God Today***

1. **Obvious**. Are the differences between believers and unbelievers obvious? Absolutely. Anyone who does not practice righteousness is obviously a non-believer.

2. **Two Families**. People often do not realize that the world only has two spiritual families: (1) the family of God and (2) the family of the devil. Every human belongs to one family or the other. Everyone in the family of God spent time living in the family of the devil. We should never forget our family history and never cease to be grateful for God's gracious choice to adopt us into His family.

3. **Everyone**. The more we recognize the two families around us, the clearer we see the truth and understand people spiritually. Your friends and human relatives all live in one family or the other.

4. **Grace**. God graciously transferred believers from the family of the devil into the family of God. We rejoice in God and our new family of God daily.

5. **Love**. Believers obviously love believers. You can tell the family by their actions. Righteous people love the family of God. We can tell the members of each family by their actions. Do they live righteously? Do they know God? Do they love their brothers?

6. **Deception.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know the devil deceives people every day, especially young believers.

7. **Practices.** We rejoice today because we practice righteousness. Our lives testify to our new birth into the family of God. Jesus empowers and promotes our love. The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of love in our lives. The Father bestows His love upon us that we should be called children of God, and such we are.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we recognize the obvious differences between the family of God and the family of the devil.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we avoid being deceived by the devil.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we practice righteousness together, and love the family of God.**

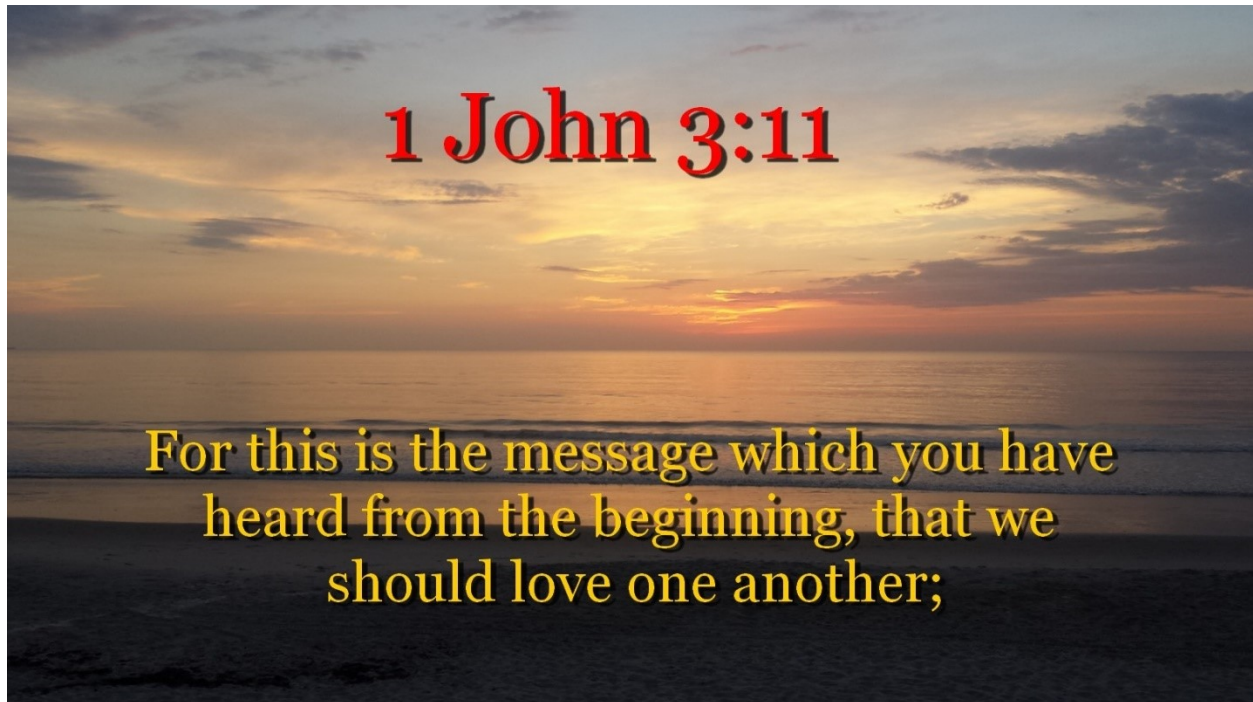
### **Application for Today**

Today, we will practice righteousness, and avoid deception. We can see the obvious differences between believers practicing righteousness and loving the family of God and the rest who do not do so. Will you enjoy today by avoiding deception today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty

## Love One Another Today



Does Jesus love you today? Jesus embodied love. He walked love, talked love, demonstrated love, personified love, continued love, empowered love, gave love, received love, commanded love, provided love, grew love, perfected love, and on and on.

While Jesus set the perfect example of love in all things, so also He commanded His disciples to love one another. In fact, from the creation of the world, God was about love. God also said that He chose us before the foundation of the world and gave Jesus to die for us before the foundation of the world. Before we were, God loved us.

Jesus was well-known for loving sinners. He did not come to call the righteous, but sinners. Jesus was called the friend of sinners and crossed

many social and cultural barriers to reach all kinds of males and female sinners, old sinners and young sinners.

Jesus demonstrated His love to us while we were yet sinners. He died for us, because He loves us. His Father also loves us, just like He loves Jesus. God is love, and everyone born of God loves. So, we should not be surprised that Jesus commands love.

### ***From the Beginning Today***

1. **Command**. John repeats his message: love one another. The plain, simple, elegant message of love.

2. **Families and Love**. Notice that John linked that message of love to the obvious that only two families inhabit the earth: (a) the family of God; and (b) the family of the devil.

3. **From the Beginning**. The message of love means that God has loved the world from the beginning. God has used His servants to proclaim that message of love from the beginning.

4. **Powerful Simplicity**. Sounds simple, easy and clear. Nothing dominates the revelation of the Bible more than the love of God.

5. **Eyewitness Love**. Notice too that John heard the message from the beginning. He was an eyewitness of the love of Jesus, and knew His love well. As believers, we should be passing on the message of love by telling other believers to love another.

6. **Obey the Command**. Living joyfully in the family of the God means that we obey the command of God to love others, and we love doing so. Loving other believers requires you to obey the command of God because you are born of God. Only believers can love other believers with the love of God.

7. **Family Love.** We rejoice today because we love the family of God. Love and joy go together like joy and Jesus. We live in the family of love from God. God intends every member of His family to love you. Likewise, God intends for you to love every family member. Happy day in Jesus.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we remember God loved us from the beginning.**
- **We enjoy the family of God when we obey the command of God to love one another.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we strengthen our love.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may have opportunities to love people, especially the family of God. Do we love people like we want them to love us? Do we love them with God's righteousness? Will you enjoy today loving people with God's righteousness?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Fifty One

## Cain Today



**1 John 3:12**

**"not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous."**

Why did Jesus talk about Cain? Jesus cited Cain from the Garden of Eden to illustrate unrighteous activity. Jesus commanded believers to love one another, but not as Cain acted toward his brother Abel.

Why did Cain kill his brother Abel? Because Abel's deeds were righteous and Cain's deeds were evil. Notice the plural here. Abel did not just do one bad thing in murdering Abel—he did numerous evil deeds.

Even a believer can commit murder. John has already taught us that everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. Therefore, if you have ever hated anyone, then you are a murderer too. Likewise, we all murdered Jesus



on the cross because our sins nailed Him to the cross. He died for our sins. Jesus became sin for us. Because He died, we live.

## ***Deeds Were Evil***

1. **Evil Deeds**. Why did Cain kill Abel? Because Cain's deeds were evil and Abel's deeds were righteous, Cain killed Abel.

2. **Old Testament**. John illustrated New Testament truth with Old Testament truth. John meant that Cain provided an illustration of evil that helps us understand love.

3. **Cain**. We know Cain was a child of the devil and did not practice righteousness.

4. **Murder**. Because Cain was a child of the devil, Cain killed his brother. God also wants us to know why Cain killed his brother. The same lack of love caused murder then and now.

5. **Righteous**. Cain killed his brother because of the spiritual difference between their deeds. Cain's deeds were evil. His brother's deeds were righteous. Evil people will always hate the righteous people for their righteous deeds.

6. **Hate**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we live righteously in the family of God. Members of the family of the devil will always hate us, because our deeds are righteous and theirs are not.

7. **Contrast**. We rejoice today because we understand the contrast between hatred from the family of the devil and love in the family of God. Love lasts for all eternity in the family of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when understand the command to love one another.**
- **We enjoy the family of God when we learn from Old Testament examples of righteousness and evil.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we understand the power of God's love transforming our lives.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may learn important lessons about how the evil ones hate the family of God which practices righteousness. Will you enjoy life today even when evil people hate you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 9

## **Learning To Enjoy Loving the Family of God Today**

I remember learning to ride a bicycle. I had to get used to falling over and being unsteady. I really loved my tricycle until someone backed over it one day. I knew then I had to learn to ride my bike, even with training wheels. Later in life, I learned other things.

In school, I had to learn new things every day. After school, I learned more about surfing, basketball, friends, and all kinds of things. I never really liked school very much, but I really loved surfing.

I learned what being married means. I truly enjoy marriage and love my wife. We have had decades of happy marriage, as a gift from God. I also learned how to get through difficult times in marriage each of us created. God's grace and forgiveness makes marriage even sweeter.

Later in life I had to learn about working and computers. I learned how to use a computer for word processing, instead of typing. I am very grateful that I am not typing on paper right now. I love word processing. I also had to learn about websites and networks. I have run a small business for years, and always maintain my own networks and computers. They can be very challenging for me at times.

Aside from all those things, I learned something infinitely more important. As a child, I learned that Jesus died for my sins and He offered me a free gift of salvation. I accepted that free gift and was born again. I then

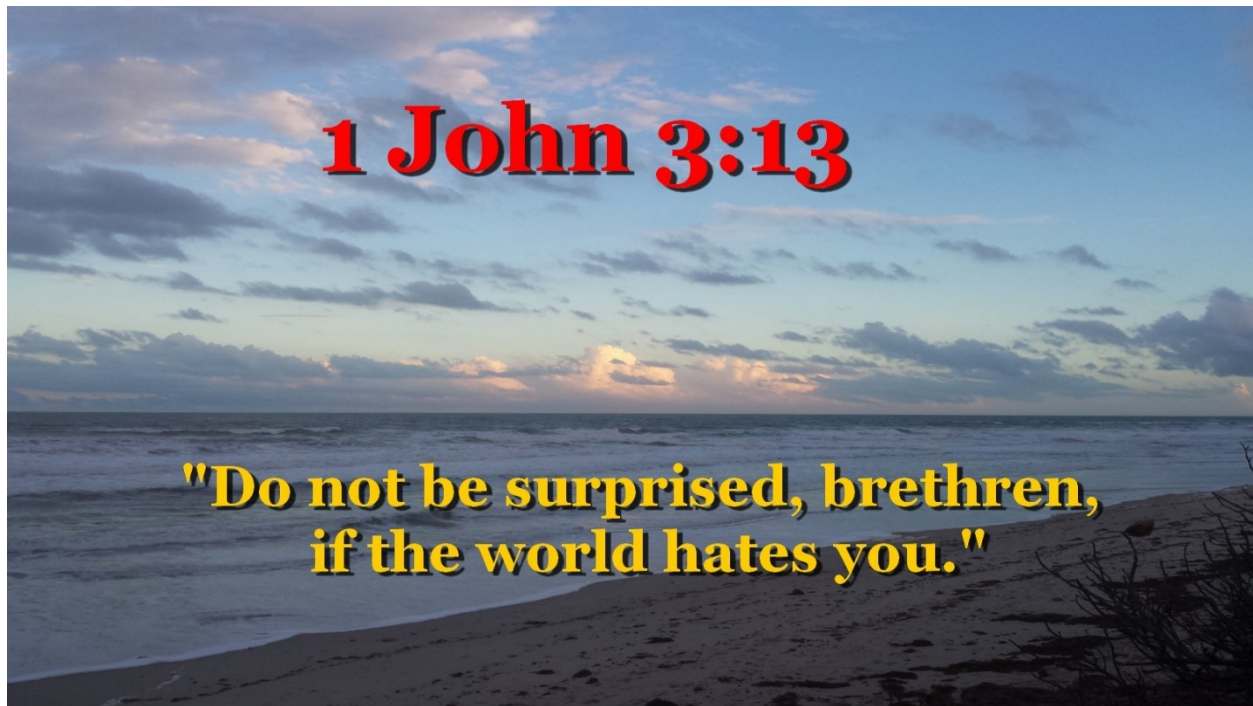
started learning what it means to know God and to love God with all my mind, heart and strength and to love others likewise. I am still learning.

Knowing God means that we learn to love God and the family of God. The children of the devil hate the family of God. Our lives include learning how to love the family of God. We also learn how to enjoy the family of God. Our family does many sinful and weird things, but we remain the one and only family of God. God helps us learn to love the family of God more and more, and to enjoy the family of God more and more.

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Two

## Cain Today



Have you ever found out that someone hated you behind your back? When you were around them, that person pretended to be your friend. But then other people told you that person said really mean things about you behind your back. Only your friends will tell you what other people truly think about you.

John wants us to know that the world really hates you, no matter what your worldly friends say to your face. Like Cain, they are children of the evil one, the devil. They do not practice righteousness and they hate every member of the family of God because we practice righteousness.

John wants to take the surprise factor out of our lives. He specifically does not want us to be surprised by the hatred of the world. As believers, we seek to love people like Jesus loves them. In return, the world hates us like it hated Him. We should never be surprised that the world hates us.

One night on the Texas prairie, I heard a noise behind my trailer, situated in the middle of nowhere. The nearest town was seven miles away. I stepped outside into the bone-chilling north wind and poked my flashlight out in front of me. In pitch black darkness, with fear and trepidation, freezing cold, I turned the last corner. As I rounded the corner, an enormous black face stared back at me. Surprise was all over the black cow's face and mine. The group of cows were nuzzling up against my trailer to get out of the wind. I quickly turned off my flashlight, turned around and went inside. I never bothered to see what was causing the noise and movement of my trailer after that dark night. In retrospect, I do not know who was more surprised—me or the cow.

## ***Hates You***

1. **Obvious**. Should we be surprised that the world hates us? No, because John told us in detail that the world will hate us.
2. **Illustrated**. He has also illustrated that Cain killed his brother because Cain's deeds were evil, but his brother's righteous.
3. **Surprised**. Therefore, we are not to be surprised if the world hates us. We live righteous lives and the world will hate us.
4. **Expect**. When we take John's warning to heart, we expect the world to hate us and it only proves that Jesus always told us the truth, even before we experienced the truth firsthand.
5. **Collision**. As believers, we love people, and we should not be surprised when the family of the devil hates the family of God. The two families are always on a spiritual collision course.
6. **Crucified**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we are not surprised the world hates us, because Jesus forewarned us. God reminds

us not to be surprised. If the world crucified Jesus, and we act like Him, then the world will certainly hate us too.

7. **The World**. We rejoice today because God prepares each believer to go into the world as His child. God knows everything awaiting us. He loves us and joined us to Himself as one family of believers. When hate comes, we remember the warning and joys of Jesus. He overcame the world and by faith we have overcome the hatred of the world in Him.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when know the world hates us and so we are not surprised when they do.**
- **We enjoy the family of God when we remember that the world hates us because our deeds are righteous and loving and theirs are not.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we embrace the loving promises of Jesus and love those who hate us.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, no surprise! The world hates the family of God. How will you deal with that hatred today? Will you enjoy today by returning love for hate?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Fifty Three

## Love the Brethren Today



1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

One day my father listened with his stethoscope to my heart. I had never seen my father worried about anything, but after he listened, his face looked very worried indeed. I knew immediately that something was terribly wrong with my heart. My father practiced medicine for about 52 years. He fought in World War II and virtually nothing worried him. Yet, he now looked worried.

After he stood up and looked at me, he said that I either had serious heart problems or my thyroid gland had problems. We tested my thyroid blood levels and found the problem. I took a radioactive pill, and my problem with fast, intense heart beats resolved itself. That incident happened about twenty-five years ago. In a sense, I passed from death into life. My intense fast heart rate would have been a serious problem if not corrected in time.

John reminds us that eternal life begins on the day of salvation, when we are born-again in Jesus. At that moment, we pass out of death into life. As the world watches us, it not only hates us because of our righteous deeds, but it also knows we have eternal life, and they live in death.

### ***Out of Death into Life Today***

1. **Eternal Life**. How can we know that we have eternal life? We know we have eternal life because we love the brethren. We no longer hate the brethren, but now we love the very people we used to hate. John revealed great truths that warm our hearts before God. Jesus loves to assure us that we have eternal life.

2. **Assurance**. At the moment of salvation, we passed out of death and into eternal life. God gave us eternal life.

3. **Knowledge**. John focused upon what we know. We know that we no longer live in death. As believers, God intends for us to live based upon what we know. If we do not love, then we still abide in death and were never members of the family of God.

4. **Living**. God wants every member of the family of God to live secure in the knowledge that we have eternal life. God wants to assure us that we have passed out of death forever.

5. **Love**. We know we have life because we love the brethren. If we do not love, then we still abide in death.

6. **Growth**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we love people as God loves all of us. As we love people, we grow in the knowledge that we have passed out of death into life.

7. **Pouring.** We rejoice today because love pours out of life for the family of God. As God pours His love through us to others, His love wells up within us. God's love in us for the family of God means that God saved us.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when know that we have passed out of death into life.**
- **We enjoy the family of God when we love the family of God and feel the testimony of God that we have eternal life.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we meditate upon the love of God for the family of God flowing through us.**

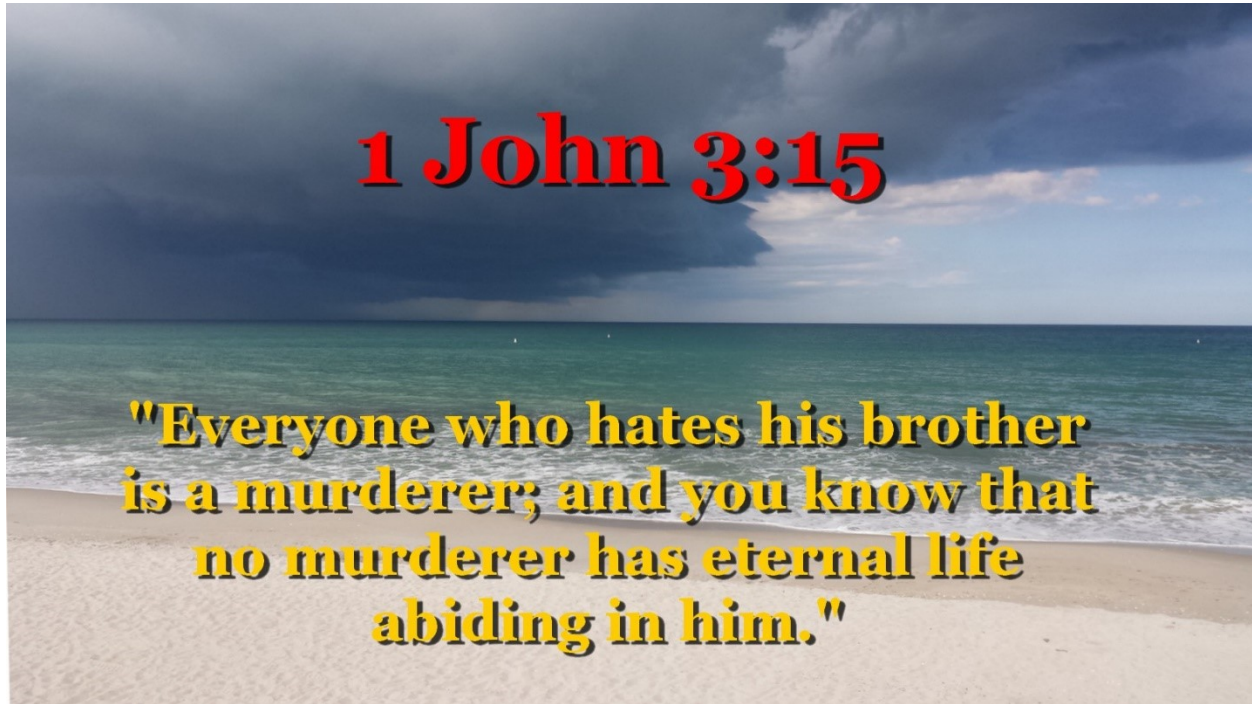
### **Application for Today**

Today, we know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the family of God. Will you enjoy today feeling assurance of salvation because you love the brethren today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Fifty Four**

## **Hates His Brother Today**



Do people hate you today? John discussed the story of Cain and Abel in the Garden of Eden. He said that the family of the devil hates believers. They hate because the family of God does righteous deeds, and the family of the devil does evil deeds. John further explained that Cain murdered Abel out of hatred.

John then explained even further that everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. You may recall that we were all murderers, because our sins nailed Jesus to the cross. John then linked hate with the lack of eternal life. If we hate our brother, then we are murderers, and no murderer has eternal life abiding in them.

If you find that teaching difficult to understand, then remember the context of the two families. If you are of the family of the devil, then you will hate people and you do not have eternal life abiding in you.

If you have been born again, you are a member of the family of God. No one in the family of God is a murderer, although we were all murderers and haters of God before salvation. In Christ, at the moment of salvation, all things changed.

### ***Murderer***

1. **Murderer**. What is the connection between hate and murder? Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. John highlighted the direct connection between hate and murder. As John did so often, the contrast at first challenges us and shocks us.

2. **Believers**. Many believers hate people, and even David expressed the utmost hatred for people rising up against God (Psalm 139:22). So, what does John mean by linking hatred with murder? By the way, David murdered Uriah the Hittite.

3. **Quality**. Let me emphasize the difference between quantity and quality. Quantity in this case means you hate at least one believer. Quality means you hate your brothers as a way of life. The quality of your hate stems from sin in your life because, like Cain, you hate the righteous deeds of your brother. That quality of hate identifies you as an unbeliever.

4. **Siblings**. As believers, must love our siblings in Christ. We love the righteous things they do. We must never hate believers because they act righteously.

5. **Eternal Life.** John also wrote that no murderer has eternal life abiding in them. Believers are not murderers, but new creatures in Christ. Please recall that the new creature in Christ cannot sin, because he is born of God (1 John 3:9).

6. **New Creatures.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know we are not murderers, but new creatures in Christ. So, believers saved by faith alone are not murderers because all things became new at salvation.

7. **No More Hate.** We rejoice today because we may have been murderers before we came to Christ, but now we are born of God, and children of God. Sin works in us all, but no believer is a murderer filled with hate directed at righteousness. We practice righteousness, because we are the children of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we know that we are not murderers.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because there are no murderers in the family of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy because we have eternal life abiding in us, the very proof that we are no longer murderers.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we know that know that no murder has eternal life abiding in them. We do not hate our brothers in Christ, because we have passed out of death into life. Will you enjoy today without hate for anyone in the family of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Fifty Five

## We Know Love Today



**1 John 3:16**

**"We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."**

How can we know real love? We know real love by understanding what Jesus did for us and how He loves us every day.

In our lives, many people question what real love feels like. How many times have we heard the phrase: "If you really love me, then you would do . . . ." People seek love in all the wrong places from all the wrong people. Relatively few people focus upon how they can love other people and demonstrate that love to them.

John wanted us to know that real love involves sacrificing ourselves for other people. Jesus set that example by laying down His life so that we might have eternal life. God wants us to do likewise. We ought to lay down our lives for the family of God. Sometimes we think that only super-Christians lay

down their lives in love. But God commanded all of us to lay down our lives for the family of God.

### ***Lay Down Our Lives Today***

1. **Love**. What does love do? Love lays down life for others. John explained how Jesus set the example of sacrificial love. God then commanded us to do likewise.

2. **Jesus**. Jesus laid down His life for us. Jesus died for us, in our place on the cross, for all our sins. He suffered the cruel death we deserved. By His laying down His life for us, we know what love looks like and acts like. We know love.

3. **True Love**. True love comes from God and demands sacrificial action. Jesus set the perfect example of love and used His entire life to glorify God. Long before the cross, Jesus laid down His life for us.

4. **Ought**. We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren, just as Jesus did. Notice the command there: lay down your life.

5. **Value**. Our lives find true value when we lay them down in the name of Jesus for the brethren.

6. **Tall**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that the more we lay down our lives for the brethren, the taller we stand in the love of Jesus.

7. **Eternity**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that our lives count the most for eternity when we joyfully lay them down for the family of God.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we lay down our lives for the family of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God when we follow the loving example of Jesus.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we lay down our lives to the glory of God.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may demonstrate our love for God by laying down our lives for the family of God. Will you enjoy today by laying down your life for the family of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Six

## The World's Goods Today



1 John 3:17

But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Do you like to travel? As a child, I traveled to Brazil. In Rio de Janeiro, I saw people living in cardboard boxes and others with nothing at all. I had some previous experience with poverty in the United States, but this looked far worse.

As a child, I also took a cruise, which included a stop in Haiti. I saw people there living in great poverty also. They lacked food, clothing, and shelter. I remember seeing poverty in different places as a child.

As a believer, I have spent time with homeless people for years. I know that local places feed the homeless with no questions asked. In the United States, many homeless people actually have daily food to eat. They often find

somewhere to sleep at night. They often consider shelters too dangerous to stay there.

Jesus had a special mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor. He said we would always have the poor among us. Jesus also gave us commandments to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them, and also to use our goods to help them. As we accumulate more goods of this world, we also have a duty to use those goods to the glory of God. We need to have concern and take action to help the poor in the family of God.

### ***Closes His Heart Today***

1. **The Poor**. How do we take care of poor members of the family of God? We open our hearts and share the world's goods we have with them.

2. **Love and the World's Goods**. John applied the love of God to the family of God. He linked the love of God to the love of brothers in need of the world's goods.

3. **Sees**. Often we look, but do not see. We hear and do not understand. John emphasized seeing the poor, and not ignoring them. As we enjoy Thanksgiving Day with friends, do we see some of our friends in Christ without food, clothing, shelter, medicine, or other worldly goods?

4. **Warning**. Jesus warns us about closing our hearts. Notice that we may be unwilling to share worldly goods, things of no eternal value.

5. **No Silver or Gold**. Jesus never accumulated earthly wealth. Peter and John said they had no silver or gold. Yet, some believers have been blessed by working or other means.

6. **Hearts**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we never close our hearts to the needs of the family of God. We share all worldly things God has provided, and yet must remain good stewards of those goods.

7. **Stewards.** We rejoice today because we receive everything from the hand of God. All we have, God has given to us. We must use the world's goods as good stewards to meet the needs of the family of God. If you have an abundance, perhaps you know a member in the family of God in need. The many joys of the love of God fill our lives, especially when God uses us to share our worldly goods to His glory.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we share our worldly goods with the poor members of the family of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we freely give what God has given to us.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we open our hearts to the poor members of the family of God.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may see the poor members of the family of God. We may feel God opening our hearts to help them. Will you enjoy today by sharing your worldly goods with the poor members of the family of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Fifty Seven

## Love in Deed and Truth Today



Do you have little children? Little children learn in many different ways. They often learn by watching and listening, but John expects even little children to learn from the Bible. If parents will spend time every day reading the Bible to their children, and encouraging participation, and stimulating spiritual curiosity about God and His word, then little children will learn directly from God through the Bible, with the anointing of God leading them first to salvation, and then to all truth.

God directs special instructions to little children. He commanded them to learn how to love. They need to understand that God's love includes love with word and tongue, but also in deed and truth. Words and tongues can



certainly do both good and harm, but love in deed and truth makes all the difference.

Mature believers must take care of little children to encourage them by example and teaching them to love not in word or tongue, but in deed and truth. Little children can be remarkably perceptive, and they can spot phoniness and lies over time. They can also grow in truth and love as they watch the example of mature believers.

### ***Word and Tongue***

1. **Little Children**. What is real love about? John knew what little children need most. Godly love. John warns us about false love. False love comes with word or tongue and nothing else.

2. **Politicians**. So many politicians make many campaign promises, but never act on their campaign promises. They have a silver tongue persuading you to vote for them, but once elected, more words but no action.

3. **Deed and Truth**. Christian love comes with two defining characteristics: deed and truth.

4. **Demonstrate**. As believers, we must demonstrate the love of God. God demonstrated His love and Jesus died on the cross for us, while we were yet sinners.

5. **Deception**. As believers, we must love in truth. People deceive people with love, but not God's love. Deceivers love with word or tongue, but not deed and truth.

6. **Family Love**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we love people in deed and truth, with God's love. What we do and the truth that shines through our actions demonstrate the love of God in our lives. We love to love people.

7. **Galaxies of Love**. We rejoice today because love flows from God like galaxies of stars illumine the heavens. As believers, God can use our actions to spread His word to a world already deceived and jaded by people who said, "I love you," but never meant it in word and truth. What a joy to share the love of God with every one, one person at the time.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we love in deed and truth.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we avoid loving only in word and tongue.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we demonstrate the love of God, in deed and truth, to people who often say "I love you," but never back it up in deed and truth.**

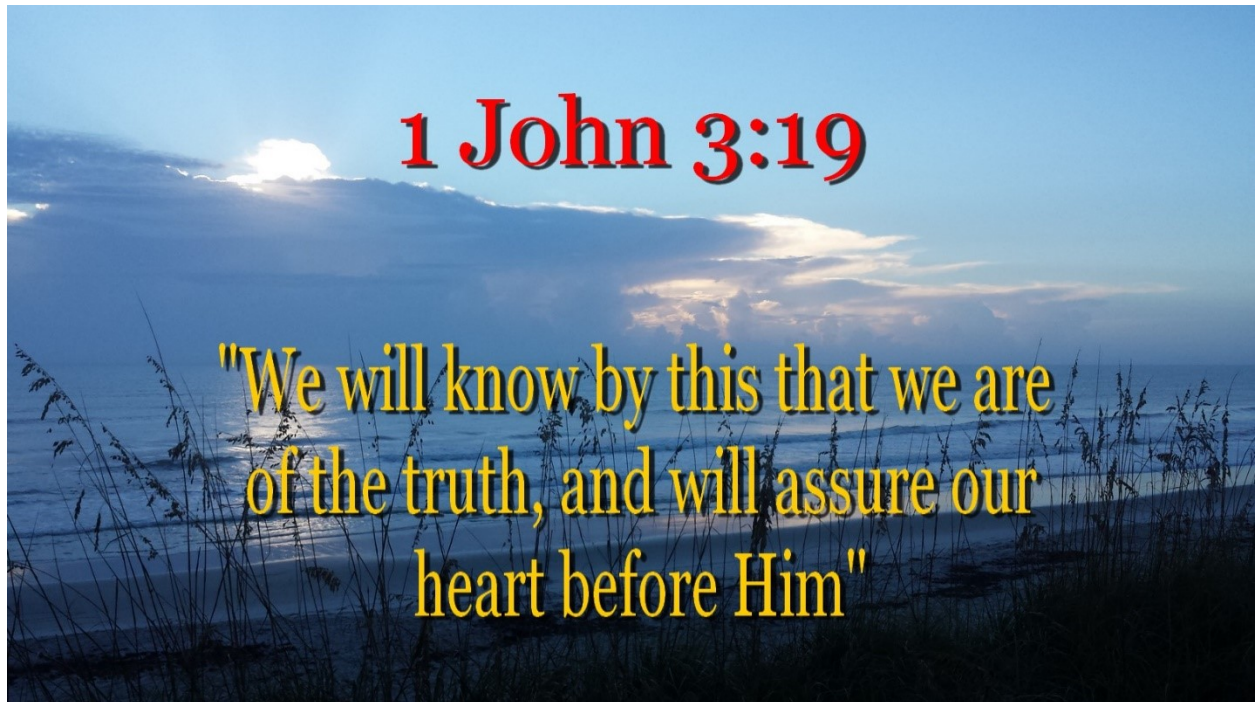
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may love people with God's love, demonstrating that love in deed and truth. God loves us just like we must love other people, especially little children. Who will enjoy today as you love in deed and truth?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Eight

## Of the Truth Today



Can we have assurance that we really are going to heaven? Yes, John provided concrete ways we can know we are going to heaven. Today we will look at assurance of salvation and freedom from condemnation.

How would you like to have absolute assurance before God that things are good between the two of you? God wants our hearts to assure our hearts before Him that we are truly o.k. with Him. We can abide in His love and know it. Assurance comes in many flavors, but we can know we have salvation, eternal life, and freedom from condemnation.

I have met many alcoholics. They often have some tragic event in their life that they cannot get past. They dwell upon that tragedy and cannot find

forgiveness in themselves. They carry self-condemnation like a ball and chain. By the power of Jesus Christ, He died on the cross and took all the condemnation each of us deserves. His death means no more condemnation. We are now cleansed from all sin by grace through faith. Plus, we have confident assurance that God has given us the free gift of eternal life.

Spiritual truth really matters. When we believe the truth revealed to us by God, then our whole life changes. We act like the new creatures we have become by God's grace. We love to learn more about God from the Bible because He talks to us directly from the Bible. He breathed out the Bible so that we would breathe in His grace into our lives each day.

### ***Before Him Today***

1. **Know**. Can we really know the truth? God declared that we will know that we are of the truth. Notice how God sets things up here. As we know the truth revealed by God in the Bible, we live differently. We learn the ways of God, know the ways of God, and live the ways of God. He lives in us and through us.

2. **Born**. John emphasized that we are born of God by faith. Now that we are born again, we obey God. He commanded us to love in deed and truth. As we love the family of God in deed and truth, then something else happens inside us.

3. **Assure**. As we learn the ways of God from the Bible, then our hearts assure us. Notice that God used the present tense for Assure. We live in continual assurance before God that He adopted us into His family.

4. **Before Him**. God wants us to remember that we live before Him every day. A common expression in the Old Testament means we live before the face of God. He has His eyes upon us all the time, and loves us all the time.

5. **Of the Truth**. People will stand before Jesus and seek entrance into heaven. They will recite all the great works they have done for Him, even miracles on earth. Yet, good works never get anyone into heaven. None of those people claim to have saving faith, but they rely upon their good works to get into heaven. Jesus told those people without faith to depart from Him. They never knew the truth, but lived lies.

6. **Assurance of Truth**. Living Joyfully in the family of God means that we have assurance based upon the word of God. As we love and live the truth, we have assurance before Him.

7. **Hearts**. We rejoice today because God cares about our hearts. He wants them to be full of assurance that we have eternal life and that we are truly His children.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we live in assurance before Him.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we know the truth because the truth brings more assurance before God.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we demonstrate the love of God, in deed and truth, to people who often say “I love you,” but never back it up in deed and truth.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live in assurance before God, as we practice the truth in love for the family of God. Will you enjoy today by living in assurance?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Fifty Nine

## Our Hearts Today



Do people hold things you said against you? At times, we disclose things to people and they never forget it. Other times they learn things about us to use as leverage against us. Some people just like to gossip about other people, and tear friendships and lives apart. What people know about us can really have a big impact upon our relationships.

God is greater than our hearts. God knows everything about us. He also knows everything about everyone. No secrets of any type from God. For us, the more we know about most people, the less attractive they may appear. We have all done things in our lives that corrupt other people and obscure our testimony of salvation.



The love of God penetrates every crevice of our minds. Where we hide memories, he brings forgiveness. Where we cringe alone in darkness, He shines His brilliant presence. Where we try run away from Him, He waits for us there, because He is everywhere, always, with loving arms outstretched for us.

Condemnation comes in two main forms. Condemnation from others and from ourselves. Sin brings the wages of death and condemnation. As sinners, we deserve for God to condemn us for our sins. We deserve eternal death and suffering, away from the presence of God.

By grace, God has forgiven each member of the family of God. By faith, we received eternal life and life in righteousness before Him. God has taken all of our sin and the condemnation we deserve and laid it upon Jesus at the cross. He fully experienced the condemnation we deserve.

God does not impose double jeopardy. Jesus became sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. He died so we live without guilt, shame and condemnation. But we must know that truth and live that truth each day. He does not punish two people for the same act. He will never punish you for your sins because Jesus already received all the condemnation your sins deserve.

### **Knows All Things Today**

1. **Warning**. Why did John warn us about our hearts? John warned us that our heart would condemn us from time to time. When we sin, or fail to love in deed and truth, we may feel our hearts condemning us.



2. **Overcoming**. How can we overcome the condemnation of our own hearts? By knowing that we are in the family of God and that God knows all things.

3. **No Love**. If you never love in deed or truth, then you have a problem in your spiritual life.

4. **Accuser**. The devil loves to accuse me before God and tries to poison my heart with condemnation.

5. **Omniscience**. God knows all things, especially all things about me. He said He is greater than my heart.

6. **No Condemnation**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we never live with our hearts condemning us every day. We know that God knows all the reasons He should condemn us, but Jesus took all the condemnation we deserve at the cross. Therefore, no condemnation remains for us today.

7. **The Dark Well**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we never live under condemnation. God is greater than our heart. When we listen to God, by His power, we never fall into the dark well of condemnation.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we live without condemnation.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we know God is greater than all things and He loves us without condemnation.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we help people in the family of God to escape the deep well of condemnation.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live without condemnation before God who knows all things, even things we would never mention to others. Will you enjoy today without condemnation?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty

## Confidence Today



Do you have confidence today? I gained confidence in surfing wave over time. I really enjoyed surfing in my early years. I remember pretty clearly the first time I actually started to maneuver my surfboard, instead of just going in a straight line across the wave. I turned my board and moved up the face of the wave. I gained confidence that I would not fall off when I shifted my weight on the board to make it turn where I wanted to go. I was about eleven years old and it was a great day. I loved my blue, seven foot, Bing surfboard and the year was 1967.

In our lives, we have to shift our weight at times. We need to move in a different direction. The old way of doing things holds us back. In order to change, we need to have confidence.

In surfing, I gained confidence by trial and error. I started doing more maneuvers on bigger waves. I did bottom turns, roller coasters, reentries, cutbacks and many other things. I gained confidence and it changed everything.

In life, I never want to place my confidence in me, but in God. In contrast to what so many groups teach today, we do not need self-confidence. Our self-image should not be all about us. Our lives change as we start to have confidence that God told us the truth in the Bible. When we live according to His ways, we gain confidence in God. He takes control of our lives and we start surfing through life as He controls the surfboard we ride. He turns our lives, drives us through barrels of water, and we have fun, even if we wipe out at times. God never condemns us for falling off, missing the wave, or tiring out. He loves us and never condemns us. Our hearts may try to condemn us, but we never place our confidence in our hearts, but in God alone. We ride the board He provides, but He does all the surfing through us.

### ***Our Hearts Today***

1. **Confidence**. How can we have confidence before God? John spent time describing how we can have assurance in our hearts and confidence before God. We can rely upon God because He knows all things and He does not condemn believers.

2. **Our Hearts**. God then revealed that if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God. Notice the deep concern of God about our assurance and confidence before Him.

3. **All Sin**. John told all believers that we sin, but we do not live in condemnation. Confession of sin (washing my greasy hands) means that God cleanses me from all sin.

4. **Freedom**. You can be free of all condemnation today, right now. If you believe that Jesus took all the condemnation you deserve for your lifetime of sins, then by faith you have been set free permanently from a heart of condemnation.

5. **Regurgitation**. Imagine your life without your heart regurgitating words like "awful," "worthless," "hopeless," and "stupid" to remind you of your sin, failures, and imperfections.

6. **Before God**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that I do not live with condemnation in my heart, but with confidence and assurance before God.

7. **Beloved**. God loves all His children. As God, Jesus really wants us to be confident as we talk to Him, walk with Him, and live with Him each day. Today, we can live as beloved children, without condemnation. He promised believers abundant lives without any condemnation from God.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we live with confidence.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we live as His beloved children.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we do not let our hearts condemn us.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may live as beloved children of God, with confidence before God. Condemnation no longer plays a role in our lives. Will we enjoy today by living in confidence before Him?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty One

## We Receive Today



1 John 3:22

"and whatever we ask, we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight."

Do you ask God to give you things? People often ask God for many things. In times of trouble, they pray foxhole prayers, making deals with God. If God will do this, then they will do that. Other people want something so badly they will also promise God that they will be very good if God will give them just one thing. These prayers often have one thing in common. We are trying to induce God to do our will.

Prayer centers upon doing God's will. If our lives center upon doing our will, then our prayers will reflect the center of our lives. God loves His children, but He expects His children to live in obedience to Him. So, long before we pray for a specific thing, we should be living to please Him. We should be keeping His commandments.



As we live to please God each day, we enjoy God. He makes us happy as we walk in the Holy Spirit. As we walk in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit helps us to pray as we should, because we do not know how to pray without His help. As we pray in the Holy Spirit, we ask for the things that God wants to glorify Himself. Our wills do not align with God's will unless we walk in the Holy Spirit and pray in the Holy Spirit. Because all believers do not have the Spiritual Gift of Tongues, praying in the Holy Spirit does not mean we pray in tongues. Instead, praying in the Holy Spirit means that the Holy Spirit controls our tongues, minds, and spirit as we pray, just as He controls our entire lives as we walk in the Holy Spirit.

As we pray in the Holy Spirit, we receive today because we keep the commandments of God before we pray. We cannot live to please God without first submitting our wills to God, so that He does His will in our lives. As we live out the will of God in our lives, we live with great joy in the family of God, living obediently as He takes over our lives and uses them to His glory. We use our spiritual gifts each day to minister to all kinds of people in all different kinds of ways. The ways of God become manifest in our lives.

### ***Pleasing in His Sight Today***

1. **Pleasing**. Can we please God today? Yes, we can please God today as we live in Him and keep His commandments.
2. **Praying**. John explained why we have confidence before God, and then linked that confidence to praying with confidence.
3. **Asking**. Whatever we ask from God sounds like we could ask for anything and God would give it to us. Notice, however, the rest of the verse.

4. **Keeping**. When we keep His commandments, then we will be asking for things He has commanded.

5. **Doing**. When we do the things pleasing in His sight, then we will be asking for things pleasing in His sight.

6. **Perfect Gifts**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that how we live with God influences the things we ask from God. God never promised to give us bad gifts, but rather perfect gifts.

7. **His Sight**. We rejoice today because we may live pleasing in the sight of God today, by keeping His commandments and receiving whatever we ask of Him.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we keep His commandments.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we do the things pleasing in His sight.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we receive whatever we ask from Him.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may ask whatever we want and receive it from God, as we keep His commandments today. Will you enjoy today by asking and receiving from God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Sixty Two**

## **Believe Today**



Do you believe in Jesus? Jesus commanded us to believe in Him. As we consider His commandments, we must keep in mind that Jesus commanded us to believe in Him. Jesus gives us faith, and expect us to use that faith to trust Him in all things, and particularly, to trust His forgiveness so that we no longer live in condemnation.

Jesus also commanded us to love one another. You might hear people say that you either love someone or you do not. Jesus orders us to love people, and will empower us with His love to love them.

As we consider the commandments of Jesus, He focused upon believing Him and loving other believers. We should no longer live in doubts and condemnation, but believing Jesus and loving other believers with His love. As we do those two things, we keep His commandments.

### ***Loving One Another***

1. **Command**. Does God command us to believe Him? God commands faith. Specifically, the Father commands us to believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ.

2. **Obedience**. You may think you have no control over faith. God says otherwise. Because God commands faith, we must choose to obey or not. We must choose to believe God or not.

3. **Faith**. Living in faith requires a decision to believe all the time. We live joyfully in the family of God by keeping the commandments of Jesus. He commanded us to believe Him.

4. **The Name**. The "name" has special meaning in this verse. Believing in the name of Jesus Christ means we have faith in the person, character, attributes, and love of Jesus Christ. Just like we pray in the name of Jesus, so we also believe in the name the Son of God, Jesus Christ. You may recall that one of the ten commandments said we should never take the name of Yahweh in vain.

5. **Love**. God also commanded us to love other believers. We are all in the family of God as born-again believers, but God still commands us to love all the other believers. We love other believers, just like He loves us and commanded us.

6. **Believe and Love.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we love the simple words of John: “believe” and “love” as commands from God. Simple words, precious truths from God.

7. **Fellowship.** We rejoice today because God commanded every believer to believe in the name of Jesus and to love other believers, just as He commanded us.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we follow His commands to believe and to love.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and love other believers, just as He commanded us.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we reflect our loving obedience to God by believing Him and loving the family of God.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we will make choices all day about believing in the name of Jesus and loving other believers, just as He commanded us. Will you enjoy today with obedience in faith and love?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty Three

## Keep His Commandments Today



Do you abide in Jesus? As we keep the commandments of God, we abide in Him and He in us. We know His abiding presence by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. God gave the Holy Spirit to us and He indwells us. The Holy Spirit works continually in our lives. He also testifies that God abides in us. At times, we may esteem too lightly the presence in our lives of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit performs a variety of ministries in our lives. One of His ministries focuses upon making known to us the abiding presence of God in our lives. God wants us to know and understand what it means to have the living God living and working in our lives.



The Holy Spirit helps us pray, love other people, keep the commandments of God, lifts us emotionally, and fills us with joy. The Holy Spirit produces His fruit in our lives daily.

The Holy Spirit indwells the entire family of God and builds unity. Because the same Holy Spirit indwells all the members of the family of God, He builds us into one spiritual temple for worship, praise and service to God.

### ***The Spirit Today***

1. **Commandments.** Can we enjoy God telling us what to do? Absolutely. The more we love God directing our lives, so that our lives become His life, the more we enjoy God and His presence in our lives.

2. **Dislike.** Many people dislike anyone telling them what to do. Believers, however, gladly follow the commands of God. We enjoy following God as He leads us from within.

3. **Abiding.** When believers keep the commandments of God, then we abide in Christ. Christ also abides in us. We live in spiritual unity with Jesus.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** Jesus wants us to know that He abides in us. The Holy Spirit came into our lives at the moment of salvation by receiving the free gift of eternal life by faith alone. When Jesus came into our lives, He baptized us in the Holy Spirit and He indwells us continually.

5. **Assurance.** Because the Holy Spirit lives within us, and we know Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us keep the commandments of God. Because we keep the commandments of God, we have more proof that Jesus lives in us and we in Him.

6. **Given to Us.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we have received the Holy Spirit as a free gift from God. His presence helps us



keep the commandments of God and testifies to the presence of God abiding in us and we in Him.

7. **Presence**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit bears fruit in our lives today. As God within us, the Holy Spirit always abides in us, bringing us great joy.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we keep His commandments.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as the Holy Spirit testifies that God abides in us and we abide in Him.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we meditate upon the abiding presence of the living God in our lives.**

### **Application for Today**

Today we may experience the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit given to us. We will see His work, enjoy the fruit He bears in our lives, and know that we abide in God and He in us. Will you enjoy today by seeing the work of the Holy Spirit?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 10

## **Learning To Enjoy Overcoming the World Today**

Test every spirit! Jesus commanded us to take no one for granted. We must be careful because many false prophets have gone out into the world. The spirit of anti-Christ indwells them and they oppose all righteousness. People you know are false prophets. You see them on television and the internet every day. They promote lies and contradict the Bible. They often pay lip service to God, but then promote all forms of immorality. They glorify self-indulgence of all types. They seek the glory of man.

The false prophets deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. The spirit of anti-Christ will never confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. Some false prophets teach that Jesus was a great man, but deny God took flesh and dwelt among us, living as both God and man at the same time.

The false prophets have existed for millennia and spread their hatred for Jesus far and wide. They disdain His teachings and disobey His commandments. They often hold positions of great authority in many denominations, and lead people astray as pope, priest, bishop, cardinal, prelate, pastor, deacon or elder. They love titles like senior pastor, chief elder, reverend, doctor, bishop, apostle, and so on. They construct buildings that focus all the attention of the people inside on one pulpit and the ministry of one person. As the congregation of that group swells listening to one person deliver ear-tickling talks, they leave feeling better because the false prophet speaking to them never told them the truth about Jesus. Jesus took real human flesh and lived as God in the flesh, one with God and equal to God

and He was God. One God existing in the three divine Persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. The Son of God took flesh to seek and to save sinners. He accomplished salvation by laying down in life as a the perfect, sufficient, blood sacrifice for the sins of the world. He was raised for our justification. He is the only Savior of mankind, offering eternal life by grace through faith to all sinners who will receive Him. In many churches today, people are never told to use their spiritual gifts, so that people turn to Jesus as Savior, and they must make disciples in the name of Jesus. Instead of one pulpit ministry, the church must hear from many ministers, using many spiritual gifts, performing many ministries, and seeing a variety of effects. Only then will the Body of Christ grow into full maturity, and avoid being blown about by every breath of anti-Christ and seduced by evil of all kinds.

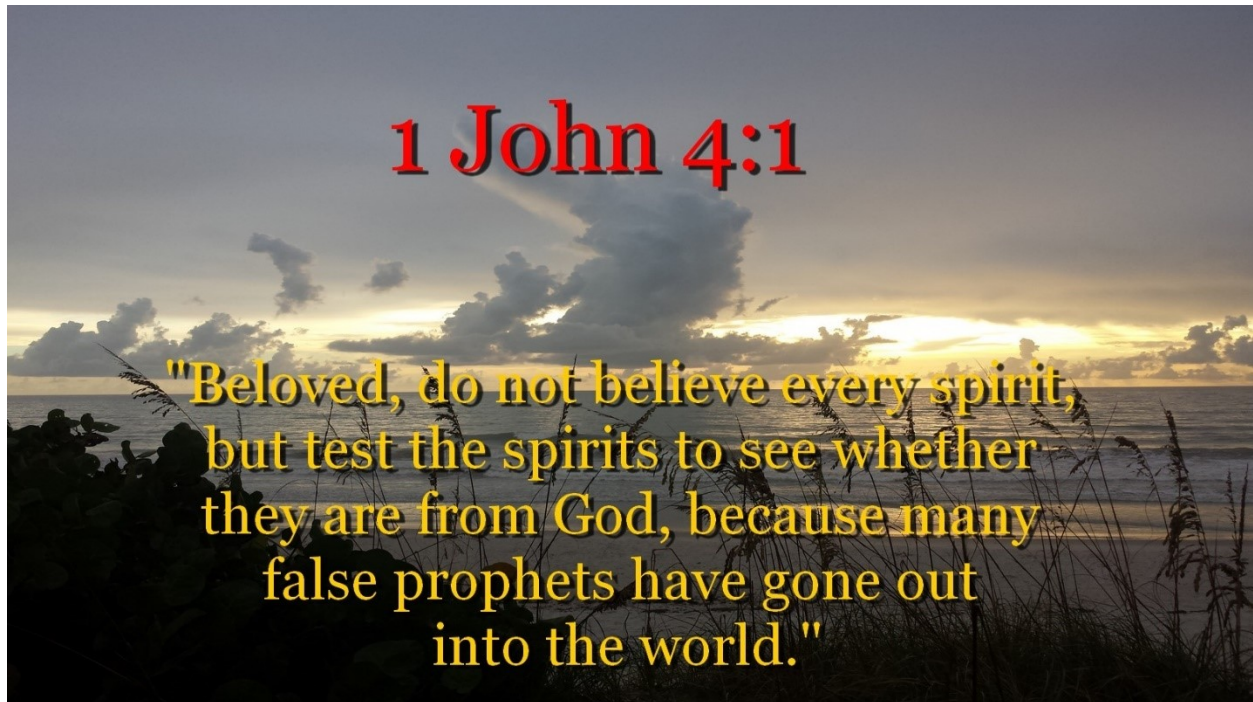
The little children of Jesus have overcome the false prophets by the power of Jesus in them. The false prophets and the spirit of anti-Christ can never overcome the power of Jesus, and His indwelling presence in the lives of His little children. As believers, we must learn to enjoy overcoming the world, not living in fear of false prophets and the spirit of anti-Christ. We can easily identify the false prophets and show everyone how to overcome them in the power of Jesus Christ. We live in joy because of Jesus, the Victor and Advocate, in our lives.

We understand that the false prophets are from the world. They will speak to the world on podcasts, internet sites, television, radio, and public communications of all types. The world will listen to them.

John and the other eye-witness apostles were of God. People who know God listen to the words of eyewitness apostles recorded in the Bible. Everyone who is not of God will not listen to the eye-witness apostles, nor anyone teaching the Bible today. They hate the Bible and all it stands for. We can distinguish the spirit of truth from the spirit of error: do they listen to the Bible and practice the commandments of God given there?

# Day Sixty Four

## Test the Spirits Today



Do evil spirits deceive you? One day I met a man at the beach. A friend of mine introduced me to the new man. My friend had high regard for the new man. After talking with the new man for a few minutes, I learned he did not believe in the one God in three persons. He believed God is only one person, appearing in different forms at different times. According to the new man, God may appear as Jesus, or the Father, or the Holy Spirit; but God cannot appear simultaneously as the Father and the Son. The new man was not a believer, because Jesus is not the same person as the Father. Jesus and the Father are both one God, but Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river while His Father watched from heaven and the Holy Spirit descended from heaven and landed upon Jesus. Three divine persons, one God.

My friend was a little child in the faith. He could not grasp that his friend was not even a believer. His friend taught people lies about Jesus. His friend was a false prophet, pretending to be a believer. Many people in the Oneness Pentecostal heresy deny the Trinity, insisting that God is only one person. According to those heretics, God manifests Himself as different persons at different times, but He can only exist as one person at a time.

As believers, we must test the spirits because many false prophets have gone out into the world. They may be very nice to us, but they do not believe that Christ has come in the flesh. We must be very careful to test the spirits by listening to what they say about Jesus. Many false prophets have gone out into the world and they are all around us.

### ***False Prophets Today***

1. **Little Children**. Why did John warn the little children about false prophets? Because many false prophets had already gone out into the world.

2. **Careful**. After revealing how we can have assurance of salvation, John warned us to be careful to test the spirits. Many false prophets have gone out into the world and seek to deceive us.

3. **Testing the spirits**. God gave us a test to see whether the spirits are from God. We must identify false prophets by testing them. We can identify false prophets, and keep them away from the family of God.

4. **Vigilant**. God commanded us to test the spirits. Because many false prophets have gone out into the world, we must be vigilant and obedient. We must be on guard against false prophets by testing the spirits.

5. **Identifying**. We encounter false prophets, but they do not wear signs identifying themselves as false prophets. They may wear clerical collars

or work in a church. In order to identify false prophets, we must test the spirits.

6. **Expose**. Living Godly in the family of God means that we expose false spirits by testing them. We do not accept all people at face value. Even false prophets may appear as angels of light.

7. **Avoiding**. We rejoice today because God wants us to know we are not false prophets, but we are members of the family of God. He commanded us to test the spirits, and so we may avoid their lies and their deceptions. We are born of God, and so live today as children in the family of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we test the spirits.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we protect the little children from false prophets.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we live as beloved children of God, without being deceived by false prophets.**

### **Application for Today**

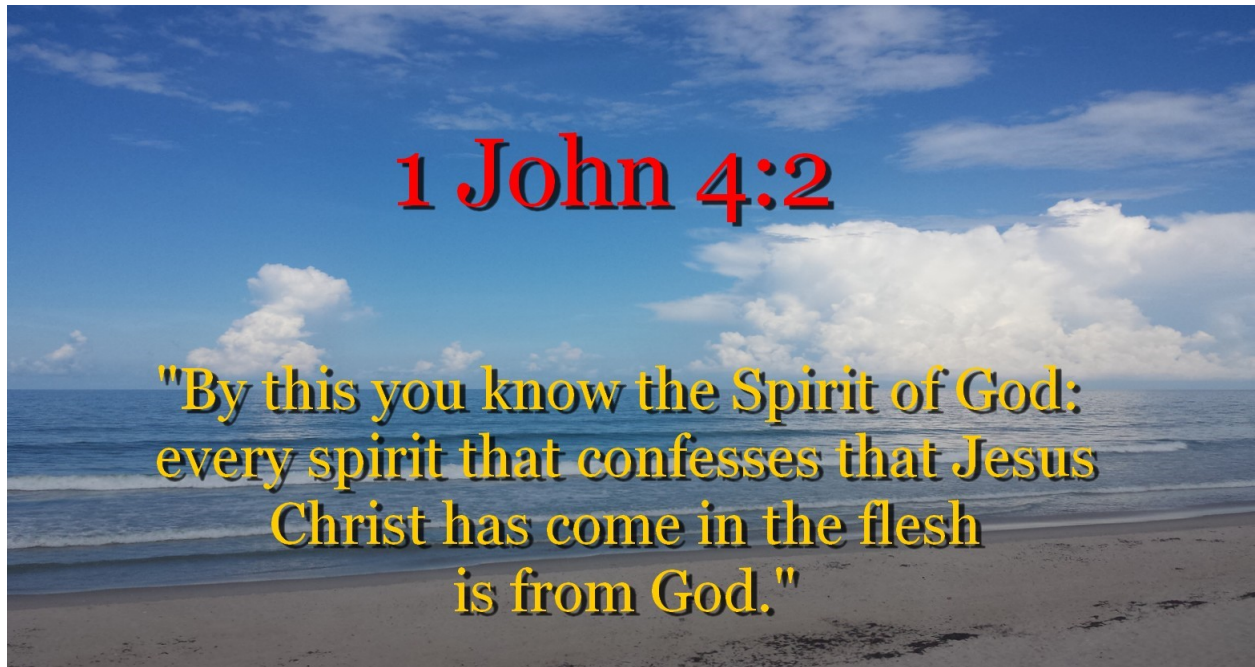
Today, we may encounter false prophets on the internet, in our neighborhood, at meetings or at work. Many false prophets have gone out into the world. Will you enjoy today by testing the spirits?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# **Day Sixty Five**

## **Has Come in the Flesh Today**



How can we identify the spirit within a person? We test the spirit within people by seeing if they confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. Therefore, we have a very simple, clear test for each spirit.

Because many false prophets has gone out into the world, the family of God needs to test all the spirits. In the spiritual world, our physical senses do not provide all the help we need to identify the spirit within a person. If we overlook the spirit within a person, then we may be in great spiritual jeopardy.



Consider for a moment someone you turn to for advice or counseling. If that person is not a member of the family of God, then that person will be controlled by the spirit within them. The spirit controlling people not in the family of God is the spirit of anti-Christ. I often hear of people paying other people living in the spirit of anti-Christ to provide psychological guidance for them. Jesus taught that you must always test the spirits, to identify the spirit of anti-Christ at work in them. Never let people controlled by the spirit of anti-Christ provide spiritual direction for your life. All counseling includes spiritual direction.

### ***The Spirit of God Today***

1. **Testing.** How do we test the spirits today? We test the spirits by seeing if they confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.
2. **Mandatory.** Jesus commanded us to test the spirits. He put the command in the imperative mood. If we ignore that command to test the spirits, we grieve the Holy Spirit and open ourselves to serious spiritual attack and deception.
3. **Denial.** Some evil people teach the lie that Jesus did not have real flesh and blood like a real human. They deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Other people deny that Jesus was really the Christ, God in the flesh.
4. **Doctrine.** Every time you think that Christian doctrine bores you, then remember Jesus commanding you to test people about the doctrinal confession of Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded us to test the spirits by asking them about their doctrine of Christ.
5. **Confession.** What you confess in faith about Jesus Christ determines your eternal destiny. You must confess in faith that Jesus Christ

has come in the flesh. We live because He sacrificed that perfect body of flesh on the cross to save sinners. He came to save me and you.

6. **Deceived**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we must test all the spirits and identify false prophets. We can avoid their schemes and lies by knowing what they confess about Christ.

7. **Clarity**. We rejoice today because the Spirit of God provides spiritual clarity in our lives. He moves us to test the spirits, identify the spirit of anti-Christ working in people, and so avoid sinful deception.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we see the Spirit of God working in us.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as the Spirit of God confesses that Jesus Christ came in the flesh.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we avoid the spirit of anti-Christ deceiving the family of God.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, the spirit of God confesses that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. Every spirit that denies that Jesus Christ came in the flesh is anti-Christ. Will you enjoy today by listening to the spirits?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## Day Sixty Six

### The Spirit of anti-Christ Today



Do you think about the spiritual world? Many Christians do not think about the spiritual world. In fact, life involves struggles with spirits every day. Just because you may not think about those spirits attacking you does not mean those attacks do not exist.

Until you learn to test the spirits, identify the spirit of anti-Christ, and walk in the Holy Spirit, your spiritual life will suffer. The devil prowls about, seeking whom he may devour. You are on his menu today and he is hungry.

As believers, we do not fear anyone or anything except God. In Christ, we overcome the world and the spirit of anti-Christ. So many believers have

been deceived about the spiritual life. They imagine if they do not focus upon the spiritual activity around them, it does not exist.

The devil loves to deceive believers. You know you have been deceived when you have no awareness of anti-Christ around you. You have lowered your defenses, you walk blindly, and stumble without even knowing it. John warned us to test the spirits. He warned us the spirit of anti-Christ is coming, and now is in the world.

### ***Not from God Today***

1. **False Prophets**. Why must we test the spirits every day? John has commanded believers to test the spirits, because false prophets have gone out into the world.

2. **The Spirit of anti-Christ**. The spirit of anti-Christ has come into the world and resides in the false prophets and elsewhere.

3. **Not from God**. Jesus is from God and He abides in us. The spirit of anti-Christ is not from God, and abides in false prophets.

4. **Confess Jesus**. We test the spirits by seeing if they confess that Jesus is from God. Confess here means to say the same words that God says about Jesus. Confessing that Jesus is from God means you believe He is God in the flesh, the only Savior for all people, sent from God.

5. **Already**. John wrote that anti-Christ is already in the world. He opposes all the works of Christ.

6. **Test**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we test the spirits in people. We learn to recognize the spirit of anti-Christ at work in people. The spirit of anti-Christ does not confess Jesus is from God.

7. **Confess.** We rejoice today because we confess that Jesus is from God and He lives within us.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we heed His warning of anti-Christ in the world.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more we confess that Jesus is from God and warn others about the spirit of anti-Christ.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we test the spirits.**

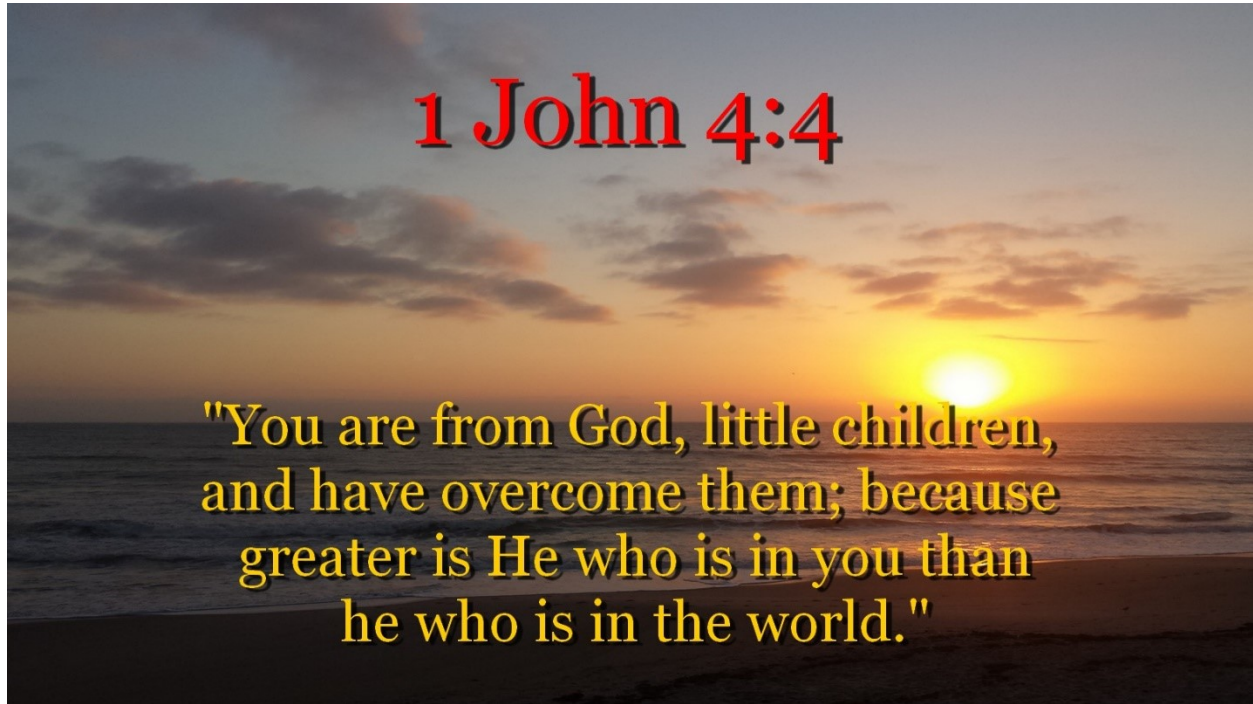
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live in spiritual awareness. We may see what spirits will confess that Jesus is from God. Will you enjoy today by examining the spirits around you today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty Seven

## Overcome Them Today



Did you know you are from God? As believers, we are indeed children of God and live in the family of God. At the moment of saving faith, God adopted us into His family and created us all new.

We tend to overlook the power of God in our lives. Because we are of God, we have overcome the false prophets and the spirit of anti-Christ. God lives in us and He is greater than the devil who rules the world. We must identify the spirit of anti-Christ, and count upon God using His supreme power within us to craft our lives every day.

When we grasp by faith the power of God within us, we begin to understand that we have joy in overcoming the world. The spirit of anti-



Christ does no longer controls us or deceives us. We no longer live in such bondage to sin. We no longer glory in sin or carry the crushing weight of condemnation. We have peace with God living within us. We are the family of God.

## ***Greater Is He Today***

1. **Little Children**. How can we overcome anti-Christ? Because we are from God, God resides in us and so we have overcome anti-Christ by the power of God. John wrote a lot about little children. He meant believers young in their faith. As a father, he loved them dearly. He revealed God the Father's love for us, the little children of God.

2. **Overcome**. Even the little children have overcome the antichrists who have come into the world. God emphasized that we have overcome in the past, and we continue to overcome today.

3. **Only God**. Believers have overcome the anti-Christ because of God living in us. Only He has the power to overcome the antichrists.

4. **Supreme Greatness**. God is greater than everyone and everything. We must focus upon the greatness and power of God. We must trust the loving power of God to work in our lives.

5. **The devil**. While the devil is in the world, God lives in us as believers. No power in the world can overcome us, because we are of God and He is in us and we in Him.

6. **Victory**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that every believer has overcome the antichrists.

7. **Tyranny Abolished**. We rejoice today we have overcome the anti-Christ holding the world in his power; we happily enjoy the love of Jesus powerfully overcoming all anti-Christ arrayed against us. Our faith has overcome the world.



**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we live as the overcomers we truly are because we are of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more we see ourselves as the children of God, the overcomers born of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we praise God for His supreme power within us.**

**Application for Today**

Today we are all overcomers in Jesus. We are no longer of the world; we are of God. Will you enjoy today by living as an overcomer today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Sixty Eight**

## **From the World Today**



**1 John 4:5**

**"They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them."**

Do you watch things on television that offend God? Most Christians, including myself, have watched things on television and the internet we should have never seen. I had a friend that loved Saturday Night Live and George Carlin. He loved all the vulgarity and lawless things portrayed on television. He loved listening to those programs. He could not understand why I found so many things on television distasteful and lawless. My friend was not born-again. He was of the world and the devil was his father and ruler. He listened to false prophets and enjoyed it.

Many false prophets have gone out into the world. The spirit of anti-Christ operates within them. Those false prophets are from the world. Therefore, they speak as a person from the world. The world does not confess Jesus is the Christ. The devil rules the world and people of the world listen to the false prophets.

Some of my friends come to the beach and tell me about their latest and greatest discovery of some Bible preacher. Many times the person they listen too opposes Jesus and does not confess Him as coming in the flesh. People of the world listen to false prophets all the time. Even some born-again people can be deceived, because they have not had their senses trained to test the spirits and discern good from evil.

If you share your faith with anyone, only believers walking with Jesus will understand what you are doing. Unbelievers can only understand and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ as God reveals Jesus to them. God saves people by His grace and power, not us. So we should never be amazed or discouraged when people pay close attention to false prophets, but ignore the word of Christ Jesus our Lord.

John wanted us to understand how vastly different believers born of God are from unbelievers of the world. We are new creatures who walk in the light and love God. All other people are of the world, and do the things of the world.

### ***Listens to Them Today***

1. **Many Anti-Christs**. Why do people listen to the lies of false prophets instead the truth of Jesus Christ? Because unsaved people are of

the world and so they listen to false prophets, who are also of the world. We must test the spirits.

2. **The Devil**. The little children are from God. They have overcome the world. God is greater than the devil who is in the world.

3. **Life and Words**. John linked your origin to your life and words. Where are you from? You are either: (1) born again and from God; or (2) born only once in sin and from the world.

4. **From the World**. John explained why people listen to other people from the world. People of the world listen to the false prophets of the world. They listen to each other because they have the same spiritual father, the devil. Do not be surprised that your unsaved friends love to listen to people from the world.

5. **Popular**. You have probably noticed that some people say very popular things, but they promote antichristian things like immorality, lust for money, and universal salvation no matter what you believe.

6. **Listen to God**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we are of God and listen to God, not to people talking from the world. Unbelievers listen to people from the world, but we listen to God, and love to hear His voice.

7. **Spirits**. We rejoice today because we listen to the voice God speaking to us. We know His voice and we test the spirits. We are not of the world and so do not listen to false prophets, speaking with the spirit of anti-Christ. We hear Jesus today. Will you hear and test the spirits today?

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we listen to Jesus, and not the false prophets and people of the world.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we test the spirits to see if the spirits confess Christ and are of the God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we overcome the world by our faith in Christ.**

### **Application for Today**

Today spirits will speak to us. As we test the spirits, we can clearly identify the false prophets, because they speak the things of the world and the world receives their words. We may be surprised that the world will not listen to the words of Christ, because they love the things of this world. Will you enjoy today even though people you love still love the world today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Sixty Nine

## The Spirit of Truth Today



1 John 4:6

"We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

How can we distinguish between truth and error? By seeing who listens to what the apostles of Jesus Christ wrote in the New Testament. People today do not seem very concerned about truth and error. In fact, more and more people are calling error the truth. Jesus said spirits are behind the truth and error.

People speak according to the spirits in them. Either the spirit of truth speaks through them or the spirit of error. In fact, the spirit of error tries to deceive us.

The children of God listen to the spirit of truth. They want to know what God wrote in the New Testament (and the Old Testament). The children of God know God, and so listen to God. God spoke through the authors of the New Testament. John testified that he was an eyewitness of the things he wrote about. He wrote that we might have the joy of God fulfilled in us.

### ***By This We Know***

1. **How To Test The Spirits.** John revealed a specific test to discern the spirits of the people we meet.

2. **The Test.** The test is fairly simple: do they listen to teachings of the apostles and Christ recorded in the New Testament?

3. **Who Listens?** If they listen and obey the teachings of the apostles and Christ, then we know that spirit is of the truth. If not, then we know the spirit of error.

4. **Children of God.** We must test the spirits of people to know if they are from God. Every one born again by faith in Christ listens to the apostles and Christ. They believe God inspired every word of the Bible.

5. **The Spirit of Error.** People outside the family of God do not listen to the apostles and Christ and they are not from God. They spread error, because they have the spirit of error. The spirit of error masquerades as the spirit of truth and tries to deceive us.

6. **The Spirit of Truth.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. We can tell who is from God and who is not from God, because we are born of God and listen to the apostles of Jesus.



7. **We Listen**. We rejoice today in Jesus because we know the difference between people from God and people not from God. We are from God, and we listen to the apostles and Christ by reading, believing, and living in obedience to the Word of God. We have the brightest of futures living in the spirit of truth, because we listen to God and are from God, by faith alone.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we listen to the word of God and follow Jesus.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we listen together to the word of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we identify people who are not from God and do not listen to the word of God.**

### **Application for Today**

Today we will listen to the word of God. We have been born of God and know God. We know the difference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Will you enjoy today as you discern the spirits today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 11

## Learning To Enjoy God's Love Today

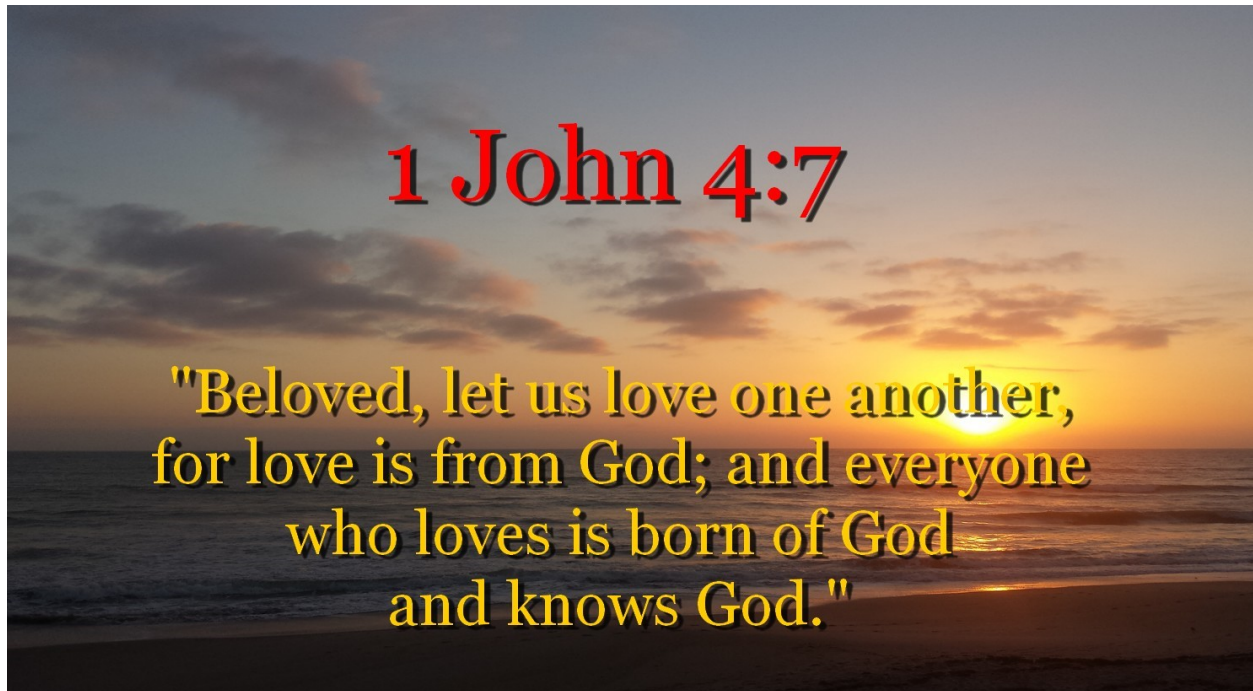
Jesus wants us to know about God's love in our lives and how to enjoy it each day. So far, we have seen how we enjoy that love by walking in the light with Jesus, enjoying His advocacy for us, enjoying obedience to God, enjoying eternal life, enjoying the anointing of God, enjoying the children of God, enjoying the family of God, enjoying the power of faith to overcome the world, and enjoying God's love for us.

Despite the many evil beings attacking us and trying to deceive us each day, we live in fellowship with God and enjoy His loving power at work in our lives. By His power and love, He uses our faith to overcome the world.

Will you enjoy God's love today?

# Day Seventy

## Love Is From God Today



Did your mother really love you? Most I have met would answer that question with a “yes” and never give it a second thought. Jesus said think again.

Writing under the inspiration of God, John wrote that love is from God. He explained further that everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Therefore, only people in the family of God love people with the love God produces in them.

Your mother may have loved you with human love, that rises and falls with the tides of life. If your mother was not born-again, then she lacked the capacity to share God’s love with you, because she did not know God and was not born of God.

God bestowed His love upon us, so that we became the children of God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We received eternal life and the Holy Spirit came into our lives to stay permanently. Jesus and the Father abide in us. On the day we received the free gift of salvation by grace through faith, the love of God came into our lives with God Himself. We are the temple of God and He abides in us. We have been born of God and we know God.

Now we must not only love the children of God, but we must learn to enjoy loving the children of God. Only born-again believers can truly share the love of God, because only we have been born of God and know God. Everyone else shares human love, not God's love.

### ***Born of God and Knows God***

1. **Agape Love from God**. Who really loves us? Only the people who know God and are born of God truly love us. John taught us something we should always remember. Love is from God. John limited that agape love as coming only from God. John spoke of agape love from God. At times, God spoke of unbelievers having agape love (Luke 6:32; Luke 11:43; 1 John 2:15). So we must keep the focus upon the special agape love that God gives to His children, who have been born of Him and know Him.

2. **Your Mom**. Unless your mom was born again from God and knew God, she did not love you. Unless your spouse is born again from God, your spouse does not love you. Do I have your attention with such strange statements?

3. **Revelation of Love**. John revealed that true love is from God. John meant that true love only comes from God.

4. **Born of God**. John revealed that everyone who loves is born of God. Ponder that truth for a moment. Unless you are born of God (born again), then you do not love. John said it plainly and simply.

5. **Love and the Family of God**. Back to your mother and spouse. Because only believers born of God love, we recognize that only members of the family of God can truly love us.

6. **The Liars**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know that everyone who truly loves knows God. What a wonderful truth. Knowing God personally means that God's love flows through me. Only people who know God truly love people. All the rest are liars.

7. **Only the Family of God**. We rejoice today because we love people inside and outside the family of God, just like God does. Only people in the family of God can truly love us, because each of them has been born of God and knows God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we understand that only people born and who know God truly love us.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we understand only God and the family of God truly loves us.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we truly love other people.**

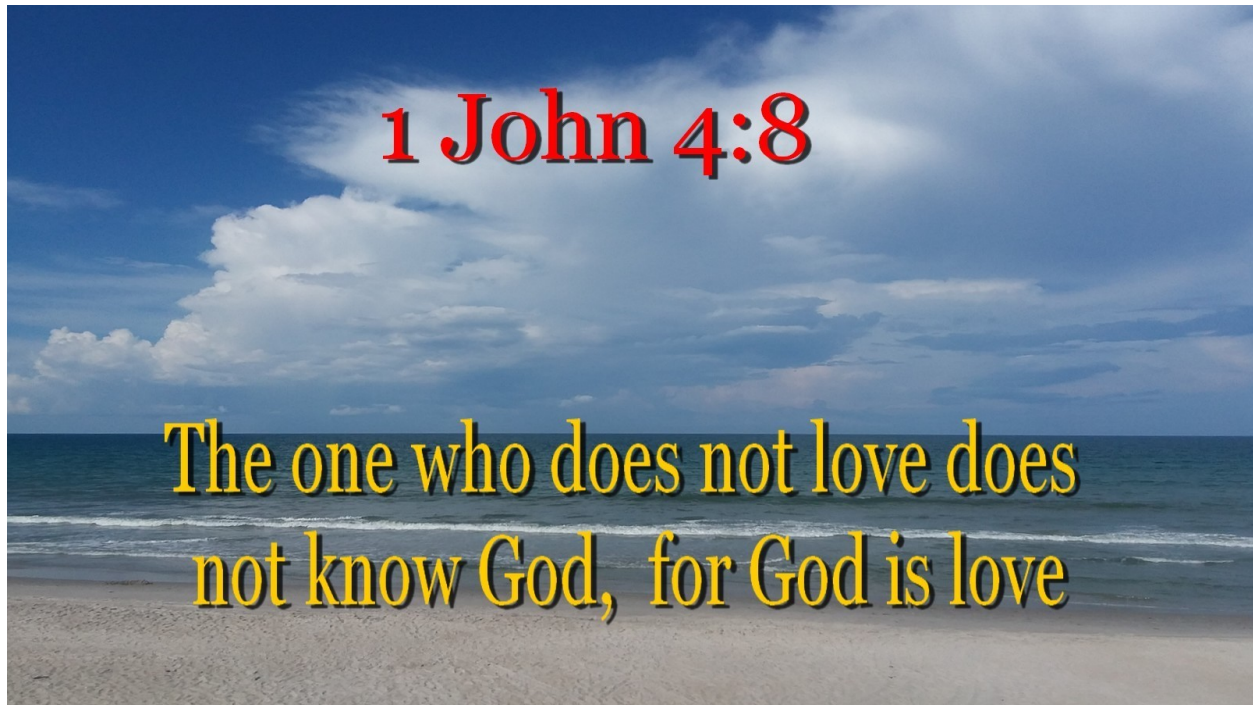
**Application for Today**

Today we will truly love people because we have been born of God and know God. Will you enjoy today by letting people know that you truly love them?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy One

## God Is Love



Who loves you? When I was a young child, my father asked me that question from time to time. He wanted to remind me that he loved me very much. At times, I ask my wife that question, and she knows the background. My wife and I exchange “I love you” words on a daily basis. We have been married for more than forty years. We know our love comes from God.

Virtually every day I thank the Lord Jesus for my wife and her love for me. I enjoy her love and she enjoys mine. We both know that our love is from God. We count upon Him to provide our love for Him and for each other. Without Him, we would not know love or have love.

Some people have never known love and they have never loved anyone. God said that if you do not love, then you do not know God. We should take



some serious time to think about people in our lives that appear to love no one. They would benefit from knowing that God loves them.

God wants us to love Him and to love our neighbors like we love ourselves. Jesus fills our lives with His divine love. We need to look for ways to share that love with other people, especially people in the family of God.

### ***Does Not Love***

1. **Love Test**. Why do some people have no love for anyone? Because they are not born of God. If they have been born of God, then they would love people, because God is love.

2. **God Is Love**. John explained that only people born of God love people. So, although some people displayed human love for us, if they were not born again, then they never loved us with God's love, the only true love.

3. **Know God, Know Love**. Every born-again believer loves, because God is love. To know God is to love God and His love will flow out of you.

4. **Now Love**. As a child of God, you now love people. For the first time in your life, God lives in you and you actually love people.

5. **Enjoying Love**. Nothing in the universe compares to the joys, riches, wonders, fulfillment, and more we experience in God's love every day.

6. **Only Love**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that God's love in us brings us great joy, like a well of joy filling our lives daily.

7. **Sharing Love**. We rejoice today because God really loves us, and wants us to rejoice in His love. Loving people makes God happy and loving God makes us all happy.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we love God with God's love.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more we love people with God's love.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we truly love God with all our hearts, minds and souls.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may rejoice in the love of God, as we feel Him sharing His love with us and we pass it along to others. Will you enjoy today the love of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Two

## Might Live



1 John 4:9

By this the love of God was manifested  
in us, that God has sent His only  
begotten Son into the world so  
that we might live through Him.

Covid-19 has changed the world. Businesses have closed, workers laid off, and the economy has taken a major hit. Evictions, foreclosures, and defaults on credit cards all manifest the business problems in our economy.

Covid-19 has also changed medicine. Many people are searching for cures, treatments, and vaccines. Billions of dollars have been poured into accelerated research and treatment. As we wait for medical breakthroughs, the world population suffers the effects of the virus.

Covid-19 has not changed evil behavior. I am not seeing signs of true repentance for all kinds of evil behavior. Countries continue to suppress the freedom to worship when and where people would like to worship. Businesses still promote greed at all costs. Individuals still kill babies inside

and outside the womb. People still lust and have sex outside of marriage between one male and one female. Schools still teach that all sexual orientations are equally acceptable, no matter what God commands. People do not love their neighbors and wear masks to reduce transmission rates. Racial strife increases as people deteriorate in their rebellion against God and His ways.

In this bleak spiritual climate across the world, people need to repent of their evil ways and have faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. The love of God has been manifested in that God manifested His love for the world, by sending Jesus, His one and only Son into the world, so that the world may be saved through Him. The greatest tragedy of Covid-19 lies in the world rejecting God and His salvation through Jesus Christ. Based upon the prophecies of the Book of Revelation, much worse times are coming upon this earth. The judgment of God will be swift and sure, but He offers salvation today through Jesus Christ. As believers, we need to judge the times and share our faith in Jesus and His great love for a suffering world. Always, today is the day for the family of God to step forward and witness to the love of God manifested in Jesus Christ. We must act both in word and in deed.

### ***Manifested in Us***

1. **In Us**. Where do we see the love of God manifested today? God said the love of God is manifested in all believers. John wrote about the love of God appearing in us. Notice those last two words "in us."

2. **Born Again**. Because we have been born of God and know God, God manifests (causes to appear) His love in our lives.

3. **Every Member**. God manifests His love in every member of the family of God. Each of us has a ministry of sharing the love of God in Jesus Christ with other people.

4. **Live Through Him**. God sent His only begotten (unique and first born from the dead) Son into the world so that might live through Him.

5. **The World**. The family of God has a message of eternal life in Jesus Christ to proclaim to the world. As things go from bad to worse, the testimony of the family of God lights the path to peace with God.

6. **The Love of God**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know God chose to manifest His great love for the world through the lives of the family of God. We need to share His love with our words and our deeds.

7. **Through Him**. We rejoice today because we live through Jesus Christ. Only because of God's great love shown by sending Jesus to die do we know the love of God and share the love of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we demonstrate the love of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we join other members of the family of God in demonstrating the love of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we demonstrate the love of God to our neighbors.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may demonstrate the love of God to many people, or to one person at a time. Either way, we may demonstrate that we God loves the

world and sent Jesus that we might have life in Him. Will you enjoy today by demonstrating the love of God for the world?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Seventy Three

## He Loved Us



Have you ever tried to define love? How about trying to define God's love? God said that His love is not primarily about us loving Him. He said His love is about God sending His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God used some big words in the Bible, and He wants us to learn them. Propitiation means that God took away anger. Specifically, God took away His own anger for our sins by having Jesus die for our sins. Jesus paid the death penalty for our sins so that we could live in the love of God forever. Therefore, Jesus is the propitiation for our sins, because His death for our sins removed God's anger from us and placed it upon Jesus on the cross. On the cross, Jesus took the full righteous indignation of God against us.



God said that we should remember His love that sent all the wrath of God against His only Son because He loved us. The Father also loved His only Son, but still sacrificed His Son just for us. Love means we sacrifice things we love for the benefit of God and other people, as He alone directs our sacrifices. We have a wonderful, loving God. We love Him, but His love is really about God loving sinners like us, and sending Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins.

### ***Propitiation for Our Sins***

1. **The Love of God**. What is the love of God? The love of God centers upon God sending Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins. John has carefully developed the theme of God's love.

2. **God Loves Us**. John described the true love of God as His love for us, and not our love for Him.

3. **Sinful**. John emphasized that our love for God does not truly explain love. We are sinful, God forgave us, and we should be grateful and full of love for God.

4. **Death Mission**. In contrast, God has always treated us perfectly, and sent His Son on a death mission for us sinners. Jesus did not commit suicide, because we killed Him. God has reason to hate us, the people who sinned, and bound ourselves to eternal death through our sins.

5. **Satisfaction of Sin**. In wonder we now understand that Jesus, the only Son of God, died for us to satisfy the righteous anger of God directed toward our sins.

6. **Propitiation**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that Jesus propitiated (took away the anger) God Who reconciled us to Himself, not counting our trespasses against us.

7. **No Anger**. We rejoice today because Jesus propitiated the anger of God and now we live in the love of God for eternity as members of the family of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we understand His love for us.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we remind each other about propitiation and the love of God for us.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we love others with sacrificial love, as God leads us.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may meditate upon propitiation and enjoy the love of God. As we meditate, we understand the price God paid for us to members of His family. Will you enjoy today by meditating upon the saving work of Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Four

## God So Loved Us



Where does love start? Love starts with God and comes from God. God is love. John wanted us to know all about love. God could have just commanded us to love Him and love one another. As a demonstration of His love, God moved John to write how living joyfully involves the love of God and love from God.

Writing under the inspiration of God, John told us that only people born of God really love with God's love. At the moment of salvation, we were born again and became members of God's family. When God came into our lives, for the first time ever, we can now really love God and our neighbors.

How do we love people? John emphasized that we should focus upon how God loved us to learn how to love other people. We should follow the example of the Father sending His beloved Son, Jesus, to be the propitiation

for our sins. Jesus had to give His life that we might love. God said that He is the best example of love, and we should give careful thought to His love for us. As we understand what He did for us, we can begin to understand how we can love other people.

Never forget that God commands us to love Him and our neighbors. God never issues commands without giving us the power to fulfill those commands. Comprehend the power of God using the love from God in our lives to love other people with sacrificial love. People may be blown away when they see such love in action.

### ***Love One Another***

1. **Details of Love**. Why did John reveal so many details about love? John revealed many details concerning the love of God for our benefit.

2. **Sacrificial Love**. John described the love of God as manifested in Jesus, Who died as a propitiation for our sins.

3. **Absolute Love**. Because God loved us with absolute love, not sparing His own Son, we must follow the lead of God and love without sparing anything or anyone, not even ourselves.

4. **Example of Love**. God set the perfect example of perfect love in every respect and commanded us to follow His example.

5. **Joyful Love**. Joyful love means that it makes me happy to love all people, even unbelievers, as God loves them.

6. **Nothing Back**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that I love people exactly like God loves me, holding nothing back.

7. **Abiding Love**. We rejoice today because through the power and joy of the Holy Spirit, we can love one another (believers) as God loves us. Imperfect as we are in the flesh, God uses us to love people as He loves them, so that we abide in His love and others join us in that love, just as Jesus abides in the Father's love.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we follow His example of love.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we love one another with sacrificial love.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we follow the example of laying down our lives for other people.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may follow the example of the Father loving us and sending His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Jesus propitiated the wrath of God for our sin and we love people every day with the joy of sins forgiven. Will you enjoy today by letting your love shine?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Five

## Love Is Perfected



How can we know that God abides in us if we have never seen God? We know God abides in us because we love one another and God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. Let us dwell upon each of those aspects of love.

We love one another. As saints, we love other saints and we love the world of people God created. Here, however, the focus remains upon one saint loving another saint. God calls every born-again believer in Christ a saint. So, we know God abides in us because of our love for other saints.

God abides in us. At the moment God made us a saint by faith alone, God took up residence in our lives. We were born again. The Father, Son and



Holy Spirit all took up permanent residence in our lives. Our bodies became the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because the Spirit of God testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, we know God abides in us.

Love is perfected. You may love the saints today, but God intends for you to love them more tomorrow. You may show some people love, but others you may have more trouble loving. God intends for you to love everyone with the love He has for you. He loves every saint like He loves Jesus His Son.

We have many good reasons to rest assured that God abides in us. We feel His love and His love flows through us to the saints and other people. We also love God.

### ***Abides in Us***

1. **Seeing God?** How can we know God abides in us if we have never seen Him? John revealed the God no one has seen at any time. John meant that God is spirit, and like the wind, we cannot see Him. Of course, in Jesus the disciples saw the Father. The Father reveals Jesus to us, and then Jesus reveals the Father to us. Some people argue that if we cannot see God, but people saw Jesus, then Jesus must not be God. Those people forget that they saw God in the flesh, Jesus, Who was both God and Man. Therefore, they saw Jesus the Man, but they were not seeing God, Who is Spirit. On a spiritual level, Jesus said to Him, you also see the Father, because the Father is in Jesus and Jesus does the works of the Father and manifests the Father's glory.

2. **God's Love Present.** In this verse, John linked the love of God to His presence in our lives. So often we rely upon what we see with our eyes to know things. Seeing is believing.



3. **Abiding Presence**. John emphasized that we know God by His abiding presence in our lives, which we experience as the love of God in our lives.

4. **Perfected Love**. The love of God is perfected in our lives. God emphasized that His love came into our lives, remains active in our lives, and matures in our lives. Love includes a daily process of perfecting the love of God in us.

5. **Perceived Love**. We perceive the love of God in our lives. Therefore, I know that God abides in my life, even though I cannot see Him with my eyes.

6. **One Another Love**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we see His love in the lives of other saints and we discern His abiding presence in us. Together we love and live in God.

7. **Sighting Love**. We rejoice today because we know the love of God, and we have experienced His love in our lives because we abide in God.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we see His love in our lives.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as He perfects His love in us.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we see our love perfected day by day.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we may see the love of God in our lives, which testifies to the abiding presence of God in our lives. God perfects our love over time. Will you enjoy today by seeing God's love perfected in you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Six

## His Spirit



Again we ask, “How can we know that we abide in God and He abides in us?” We have already seen that we know He abides in us because we love Him and one another. John also provides another way we know that God abides in us and we in Him.

We know we abide in God and He in us because of His Spirit. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three Divine Persons, are one God. They all live in every saint. If you have been born again, then they all live in you.

The Holy Spirit comes into our lives as a free gift. He seals us, sanctifies us, and fills us, and keeps us. He produces all kinds of spiritual fruit in our lives, such as love, joy, peace and the list goes on.

John intends for us to know that God abides in us and we in Him because God has given us of His Spirit. We have become partakers of the divine nature, and now the Holy Spirit lives in us. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit empowered people and was with people. After Pentecost in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit came to indwell saints and God distributed spiritual gifts to saints. Every saint has at least one spiritual gift and we should use them every day to His glory.

### ***Abides in Us***

1. **Abiding**. John proclaimed that we actually know we abide in God and God abides in us.

2. **Assurance**. One way we have assurance that God abides in us and we in Him arises from the gift of the Father's Spirit in our lives. Reasonable people could interpret "His Spirit" to be a reference to the Holy Spirit.

3. **His Presence**. As we observed in the preceding verse, no one has seen God, yet we can know He abides in us.

4. **Assurance**. God intended for us to rest in blessed assurance that the Father's Spirit abides in us, and we abide in Him.

5. **Knowledge**. Even as we ponder the presence of the God's Spirit in our lives, we know His abiding presence guides us to understand this important truth and take daily strength and confidence from Him.

6. **Not by Sight**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we have assurance that God abides in us and we in Him, even without physical sight. We know that the Living God, Holy Father, Eternal of Days, Mighty

God, has come into our lives to remain with us forever. When we meditate upon such knowledge, it exceeds our comprehension, but we love that truth.

7. **Of His Spirit**. The Father gave us of His Spirit. God is indivisible, but totally omnipresent (present everywhere right now) and immanent (nearby me, not far away). The Father's Spirit in us testifies that He came to live in us when we were born of God. We received our spiritual birth (born again) and simultaneously received a gift out of the Father, namely, we received His Spirit into our lives. Are you growing in assurance that you abide in God and He in you? He intends for His entire family to live joyfully in that truth every day.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we see His abiding Spirit in our lives.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we live in assurance that we abide in God and He in us.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we know the Spirit of God abides in us.**

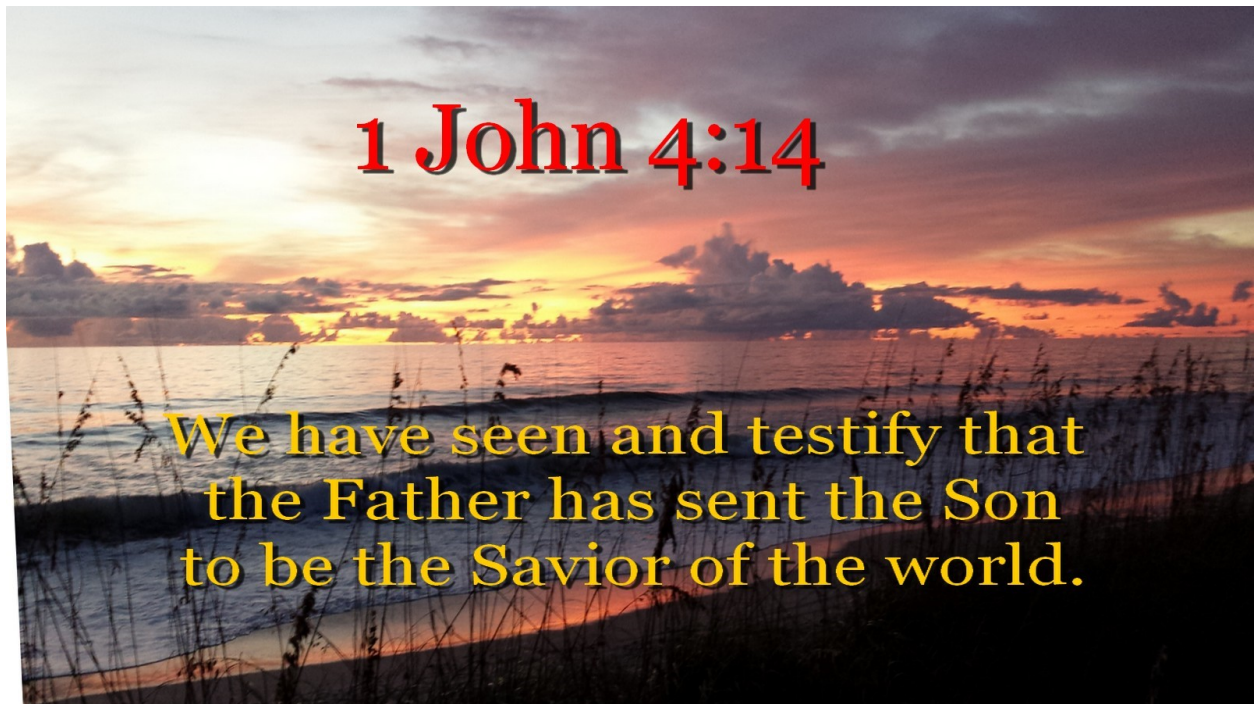
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live in confidence that God abides in us and we in Him. God wants us to know His Spirit came into our lives from God as a free gift. We live in the power of the Holy Spirit today. We you enjoy today fully assured that God abides in you and you in Him?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Seventy Six**

## **Savior of the World**



Christianity rests upon eyewitness testimony from reliable sources. John, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, provided his personal testimony to the things the disciples heard and saw. They wrote down that testimony for our benefit. We must not neglect the treasure provided to us in the Bible and those men spoke about what they saw as the Holy Spirit moved them to speak and to write. God breathed out His revelation through the authors of the New Testament.

Many imposters arose after Jesus ascended to heaven and wrote other books claiming to be from Thomas or other disciples. Books inspired by God



became part of the New Testament collection of inspired books. The books of the New Testament did not become inspired because the early church recognized them as inspired. The New Testament books were inspired at the moment they author wrote for God. Books not in the New Testament were identified as not-inspired works. We should be very careful to distinguish the New Testament books from other books. Only the New Testament books have the seal of approval from God, because He wrote them.

So, today we have the pleasure of reading the Bible, the word of God, and hearing God speak directly to us, without error, in the Bible. We can read about John bearing personal testimony to what He saw regarding Jesus, the Savior of the World.

### ***Seen and Testify***

1. **No One Has Seen God**. If John said no one had seen God at any time, then why did John write that he saw Jesus? Although John declared that no one has seen God, he proclaimed that he and the other apostles had seen that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

2. **Jesus in the Flesh**. They saw Jesus in the flesh; Jesus was fully God and fully man. To see Jesus was to see the Father.

3. **We Testify**. Although we are not inspired by God like the authors of the New Testament, we also know and testify that God sent Jesus, God with us, to be the Savior of the world. For all who believe, He will save them. For all who disbelieve, He remains their only hope of salvation, and by unbelief they reject Him and His salvation from eternal wrath.

4. **Only Jesus**. John also declared that the apostles "testify" to the Savior. Only Jesus provides salvation. John testified about Jesus because He alone is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Jesus, the one and only Savior sent into the world.



5. **Presence**. The abiding spiritual presence of Jesus in our lives testifies to the Father's presence in our lives. The Holy Spirit also abides with us.

6. **Testimony**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we testify about Jesus based upon: (a) the eyewitness testimony of the apostles; and (b) His spiritual, transforming power and presence in our lives.

7. **Jesus, Savior of the World**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we have accepted the wonderful testimony that Jesus truly is the only Savior, and by faith in Him we have eternal life and great joy.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we see learn more about the testimony about Jesus in the Bible.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we testify to people about Jesus, our Savior, and the only Savior of the world.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we read the eyewitness testimony about Jesus in the Bible and live accordingly.**

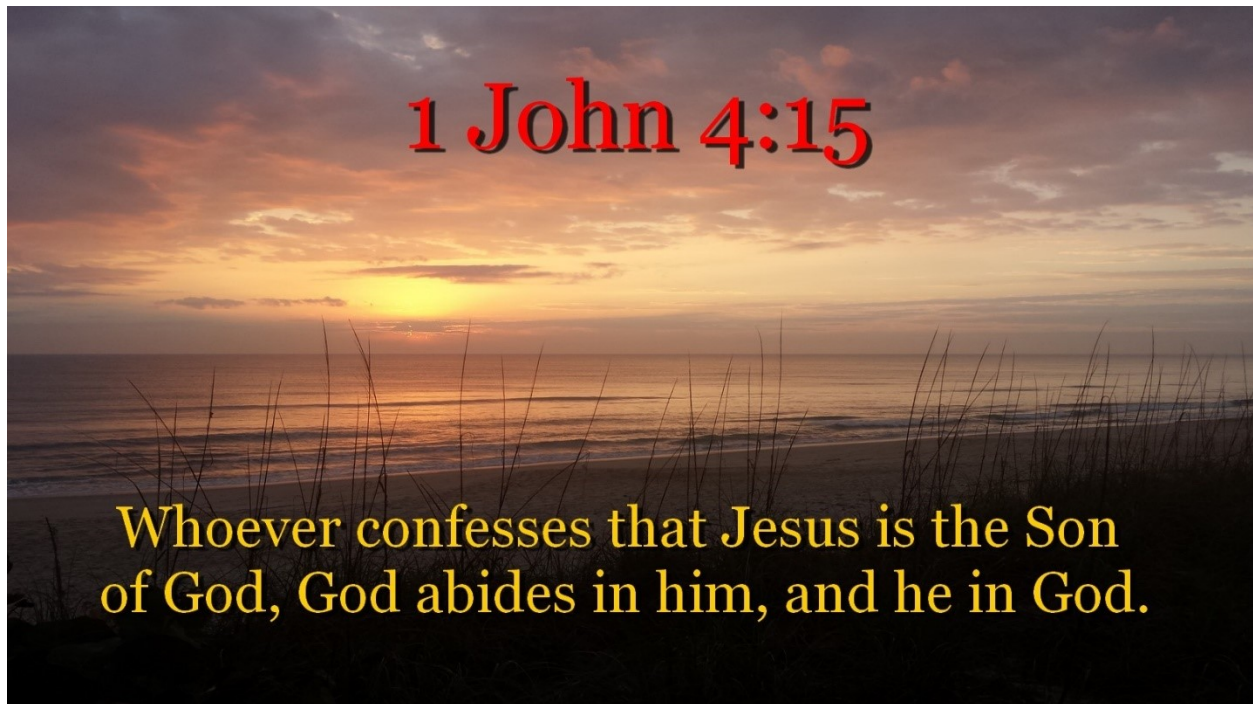
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may read about Jesus and testify about Jesus as the only Savior of the world. We love our friends and relatives and want to be sure they hear the Good News about Jesus and receive Him as Savior. Will you enjoy today by testifying about Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH**

# Day Seventy Seven

## Son of God



Why do people deny Jesus? Peter travelled with Jesus for years and confessed Him before many men. He watched Jesus perform many miracles and watched Jesus transfigured before his eyes. Peter even walked on water. If anyone saw the power of Jesus at work in His life, then it must have been Peter.

When Jesus was arrested, Peter drew His sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, the slave of the high priest. Peter was ready to fight for Jesus and oppose His arrest with violence. Peter had already declared he would lay down his soul for Jesus.

Even so, Peter denied Jesus three times in one night. How fast things change. After the arrest of Jesus, Peter followed him to the court of the high priest. There, as he warmed himself around a fire, surrounded by people, he denied he was a disciple of Jesus. Peter proves that virtually anyone can deny Jesus.

Was John talking about the denials of Peter? No, John was talking about people who never believed in Jesus, and not believers like Peter who had a momentary lapse of courage. John described people and spirits that have always denied Jesus and have never been born again.

### ***He Is God***

1. **Confession**. What does it mean to confess Jesus? Confession means to say the same words. In this case, we say the same words that God said about Jesus, His Son, God in the Flesh. Jesus is the Son of God.

2. **Public**. To confess Jesus means we publicly and truthfully, without mental reservation, proclaim our faith that Jesus is the Son of God.

3. **Common Confession**. As members of the family of God, we share a common confession of faith with joyful hearts: Jesus is the Son of God.

4. **Abides in Us**. Because of our faithful confession of Christ, God abides in us. We proclaim because God abides in us. We are confessing spiritual truth for all to hear and receive.

5. **Abides in God**. The believer also abides in God. This spiritual union with the Spirit of God binds us to Him.

6. **Proof**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we delight in confessing Jesus is our God. Our confession provides proof that God lives in us and assurance. Yet, every believer will happily confess that Jesus is the Son of God, even Peter.

7. **Love Jesus**. We rejoice today because we love Jesus, and He abides in us and we abide in Him. With joy we confess that Jesus is the Son of God. We love to confess Jesus before men.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we confess that Jesus is God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we confess Jesus to other people.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we confess Jesus with faith and courage, knowing that He loves us.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may confess Jesus as the Son of God and that He is God. Confessing Jesus testifies to God abiding in us and that we abide in God. Will you enjoy today by confessing Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Seventy Eight

## God Is Love



1 John 4:16

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

God is love. Simple truth always makes me happy. I love simple truth. John points back and says our lives prove that God has love for us. So many people do not feel loved today, but God loves them.

John emphasized that saints have come to know and believe. Knowing something is not the same as believing something. I can know the chair is strong and can support my weight. It is another thing to walk over and sit in the chair. Only when I sit in the chair do I express my faith that the chair will actually support me.

We believe that God is love and we abide in God's love. His love dominates our lives. As we love other people, we see the love of God flowing through our lives. As we abide in love, we abide in God, and God abides in us. We all love the simple truth that God is love.

### ***Abides in Love***

1. **We Know**. How many times have you pondered what you know? John wrote that we have come to know the love which God has for us.

2. **We Believe**. John also wrote that we believe the love which God has for us.

3. **God is Love**. God has love for us, and we can know it and believe it, because God is love.

4. **Abide in Love**. As we abide in love, we abide in God.

5. **God Abides in us**. As we abide in God, we have come to know and believe the love which God has for us.

6. **All about Love**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know and believe the love which God has for us.

7. **Personal Love**. We rejoice today because we abide in love and God abides in us and we abide in God.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we know and believe the love which God has for us.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we abide in love together.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we abide in God, for God is love.**

**Application for Today**

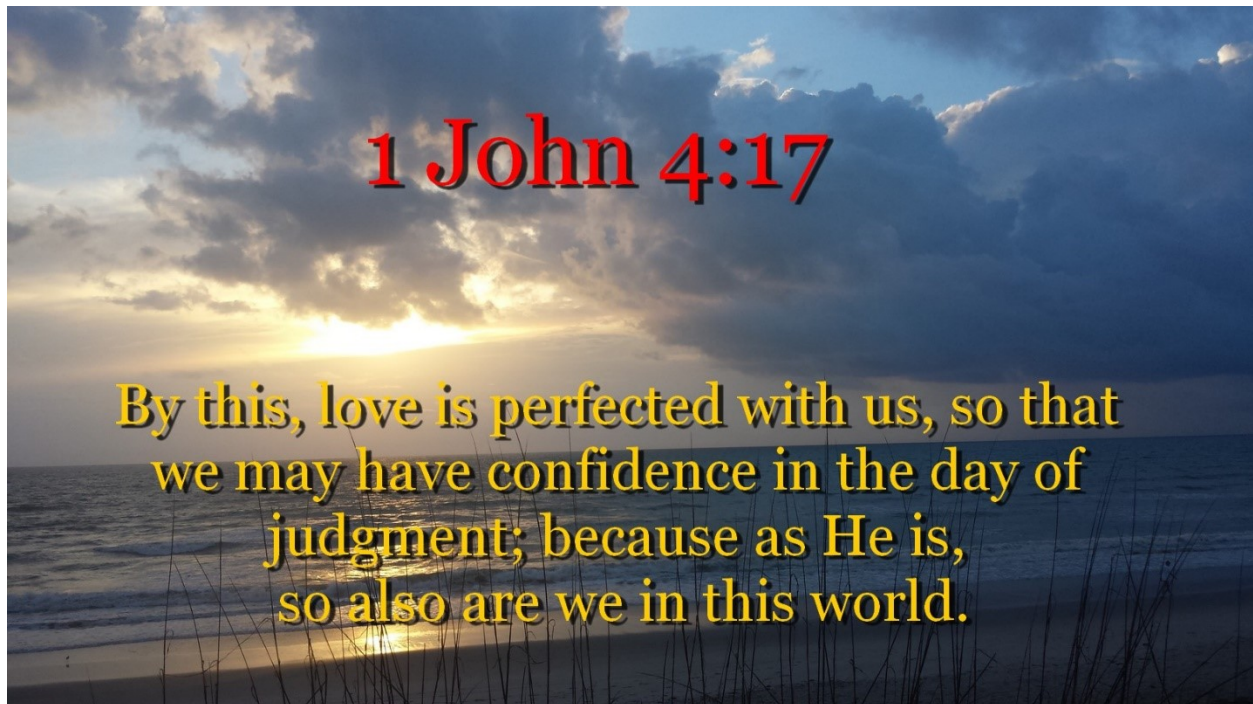
Today we may enjoy the love of God, for God is love. We abide in His love and God abides in us. Will you enjoy today by abiding in the love of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Seventy Nine

## Love Is Perfected



How is love perfected? John said that love is perfected by confessing Jesus as God and Savior of the world. As we maintain that confession, God perfects our love. We also may have confidence in the day of the judgment. As Jesus said, we have passed out of judgment concerning salvation at the moment we were born again. We rest assured that Jesus keeps His promises. So what judgment was John writing about?

The day of judgment for believers comes when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, distinct from the Great White Throne Judgment. Believers stand before the Judgment seat of Christ; unbelievers stand before the Great White Throne. The works of believers are tested by fire and then

rewarded for the works surviving the fire. Unbelievers are judged according to their deeds. Everyone, great and small, appearing before the Great White Throne for judgment will be cast into the Lake of Fire. They will suffer there according to the knowledge they possessed and the deeds they performed.

Have you ever had anyone try to boost your confidence? John wants to boost our confidence about facing the Day of Judgment. John does not want us to be concerned about the Day of Judgment. You may recall that He said that we all sin, even after we have been born again. We still do not have to worry because we can rest assured that just as Jesus will be the judge in that day, we will be with Him and He will be abiding in us. We have nothing to fear, because even if all our works are burned up, we will still be saved, as if through fire. (1 Corinthians 3; 2 Corinthians 5).

God intends to perfect our love. We start with the knowledge that God loves us, and gave His son to die in our place. God builds upon that knowledge as we learn day by day what it means to love God and everyone else. Just as Jesus is, so also are we in this world. Jesus sent us and we live His life in this world.

### ***Confidence in the Day of Judgment***

1. **Love of God.** John revealed how the love of God works in our lives as believers.

2. **Love Is Perfected.** Love is perfected (brought to maturity and fullness) when we know and believe the love God has for us, and how believers abide in love, because God is love, and He abides in us.

3. **With Us.** Notice the phrase “with us.” God emphasized here that love works in and among believers, particularly in how we interact with other people.

4. **Love Abides**. The love of God abides in every believer. It also means we corporately abide in the love of God. The abiding presence and love of God works constantly among us.

5. **Confidence**. The love of God is perfected with us. Perfected love brings confidence in the Day of Judgment.

6. **Assurance**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we live with confidence in this world, because just as Jesus is, so also are we in this world.

7. **So Are We**. We rejoice today because just as Jesus is, so also are we in the world. Jesus abides in us, the Father abides in us, the Holy Spirit abides in us. The love of God abides in us and is perfected in us.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as His love is perfected in us.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we live together in confidence that just as Jesus is, so also are we in the world.**
- **We strengthen our joy when we live in confidence about the Day of Judgment.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, God's love will be perfected with us. As Jesus is, so also we are in this world, because Jesus and His love abide in us. Will you enjoy today by living in confidence?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty

## No Fear in Love



Does love include fear? God said the beginning of wisdom is to fear God. So, if we love God, we must also fear God. Yet, John told us that perfect love casts out fear. In this context, John was teaching us about confidence in the Day of Judgment. The fear at issue in our verse today concerns fear of punishment. If we fear punishment from God, then we our love has not been perfected.

As a teen-ager, I loved to surf. I surfed almost every day, all year. I usually rode my bicycle to the beach. Over time, I developed some fears about surfing, based on experience. I received a wound requiring a few stitches in my head, I had watches blown off my wrist by the power of waves, and I received many bumps and bruises surfing. In fact, more than once I almost

drowned from being held under for a long time. I also had some fear of sharks, but I saw so many sharks, I did not care about them unless they were really large or too close. I always tried to avoid all bait pods because I knew sharks targeted them.

One day I was surfing some chest-high shorebreak with a friend of mine. He would take off on any wave and never cared about the consequences of hitting the sandy bottom. I watched him catch a wave and get slammed straight down the wave as it fell out beneath him. He was pitched with the lip of the wave and driven down. My friend came up and complained about his neck. He could still move, but his neck hurt and he went in to shore. That neck injury from a single wipe out in fairly small waves plagued him for years to come. I learned that even small waves can carry large consequences. I still loved surfing, but my love came with fears.

John told us that we should have confidence before God as we pray, and confidence regarding the Day of Judgment. Our hearts should not condemn us nor should we worry about punishment in the Day of Judgment. If we worry about condemnation now or later, then we have imperfect love. God alone has promised that all the punishment we deserve was poured out upon Jesus at the cross. Because He suffered our punishment, we walk free. We must understand the love of God and the justice of God. Because Jesus satisfied the justice of God, no punishment remains for me. The love of God told me so. As I more and more believe what God told me about His love, God perfects my love until all fear of punishment has been removed.

### ***Perfected Love***

1. **Love.** What is the relationship between love and fear? John revealed the relationship between the emotion of fear in humans and love. Perfect love means we have no fear of punishment. God wants us to live in love without fear of punishment.



2. **Perfect Love**. All believers should seek the perfection (bringing to maturity) of love in their lives. Please recall that only believers love, because they alone know God and are born of God.

3. **No Fear**. Notice that there is no fear in love. As we enjoy the love of God in our lives, and share His love with others, we must have no fear in love.

4. **Maturity**. When we combine the truths of: (a) no fear in love with (b) perfect love casts out fear, we know that love includes a process of growth, which removes fear from our lives as believers.

5. **No Condemnation**. Because we have peace with God, bought by the blood of Jesus Christ, we have no fear of condemnation from God. As a just judge, God requires the death penalty of all sinners. We have all sinned and we all deserve the death penalty.

6. **No Punishment**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know Jesus suffered the death penalty we deserved and so transferred to Himself the punishment for sin we deserved. Because Jesus took the punishment for us, we have no fear of punishment from God. As we abide in the love of God, we have no fear. If we fear punishment, then we have not yet been perfected in love.

7. **Perfect Love Casts out Fear**. We rejoice today because we live together in love without fear. Perfect love casts fear out of our lives. As we love God more, we appreciate more the price Jesus paid to remove all fear from our lives. What a Savior !

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as perfect love casts out fear.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we live knowing that we have no fear of punishment.**
- **We strengthen our joy as love removes all fear of punishment from our lives.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, love casts fear out of our lives. No more fear of punishment, but joy in Jesus who loves us and took the punishment we all deserved. Will you enjoy today by watching God's love cast fear of punishment out your life?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Eighty One

## He First Loved Us



Have you wondered why saints love other people? Writing under the inspiration of God, John revealed that we love because God first loved us. John has already told us that God abides in us and we abide in God. At the moment of salvation, when by grace through faith we received the free gift of eternal life, God took up permanent residence in our lives.

Saints love other people because God is love. When God came into our lives, He brought all of His love with Him, because God is love. We love people with God's love. His love differs from human love, because God differs from humans. He has absolute and supreme love. His love never fails.

Jesus loved us and revealed the Father to us. The Father loved us and revealed the Son to us. God loves us and revealed His love to us. We love,

because God first loved us. Because God loved us, He sent His only son, Jesus, to die for us and share His love with everyone. Unless God loved us first, we would have never known His love in us.

### ***We Love***

1. **Love, Fear, Punishment**. John has explained the relationship between love, fear, and punishment in the previous verses. Perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment.

2. **Roots of Love**. God intends for us to look directly at the roots of love in our lives. The roots of love grow in the love of God, for God is love.

3. **Born of God and Know God**. We have already seen that only people born of God and who know God can love people.

4. **First Love**. God said He loved us first, and therefore we love.

5. **Order of Love**. John also showed the order of love. God loved me first, and I should never forget it. God loved us when we were dead in our trespasses and sins, including murdering His Son, Jesus Christ. Even so, He loves us and forgave us by grace through faith.

6. **Love First**. Living joyfully in the family of God means we should love other people before they love us. We should love sinners before they love us or God.

7. **Conduits**. We rejoice today because we love people everyone else hates. God already loves them, so we are conduits of God's love to them.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we remember God loved us first.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we know that we love, because God first loved us.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we share God's love with sinners dead in their trespasses and sins, just as we once were.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we walk in God's love, loving other people, because God first loved us. Will you enjoy today by showing your love for other people as God first showed you His love?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty Two

## I Love God



1 John 4:20

If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

Has anyone ever called you a liar? God calls many people liars because they lie about loving God. Jesus called whole groups of people liars to their faces. People lie when they do not tell the truth.

Many people think they are not lying if they think they are telling the truth. God says you may think you love God, but you may still be a liar. You cannot say you love God if you hate your brother. God said we lie whenever we say we love God, but hate our brother. Remember, God is love.

Under the inspiration of God, John revealed that if you have seen your brother and do not love him, then you cannot say you love God Whom you have not seen. John linked seeing people and hating people. Many people

hate what they have seen. They see their brothers doing terrible things. They hate them for many reasons and sometimes without reason.

God has every cause to hate us. We killed His only Son, the Beloved Jesus. Even so, God forgave us by grace through faith. God has seen all the sinful things we have done, and still loves us, and still sent Jesus to die for all those sinful things. So, the next time you think about hating your brother, whom you have seen, consider John's words that you cannot truthfully say, "I love God," if you hate your brother whom you have seen. God's command to love is absolute.

## ***Hates His Brother***

1. **I Love God**. Why did God call so many people liars? God called everyone who says, "I love God," but hates his brother a liar. John returned to a familiar theme. What you can see relates directly to God, Whom you cannot see.

2. **Examine Carefully**. Many people claim to love God. Every believer should examine that claim carefully. Some people making that claim are lying.

3. **Liars Hate Their Brothers**. Liars hate their brothers, but say they love God. As we have seen, only people born of God and who know God love.

4. **Seeing Is Loving**. Seeing our brothers means saints must love their brothers. We have seen our brothers and we love them, just as God loves them. Because we love God, we must love our brothers. We are lying if we talk about our love for God while we have hatred for our brothers.

5. **Many Hate**. Many believers hate their brothers. While that hate fills their heart based upon what they see in those brothers, know for sure at that moment of hate they are not loving God. We inhibit the love of God in

our lives by hating our brothers. Do you have family members you never speak to because you hate them? If so, now is time to stop lying about “I love God.” Take steps today to resolve all hatred. Send a text, make a call, send an email.

6. **Repentance**. Living joyfully in the family of God means God helps us to stop hating and start loving. The cure for hate is repentance that leads to God’s love flowing out of us, because God is love, and He abides in us, and we abide in Him.

7. **Cleansing Love**. We lose the hate and gain love for our brothers by repenting of our hate, confessing that sin, and rejoicing in the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ through faith. Stop lying and start loving all your brothers.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we love our brothers, and avoid lying.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when stop hating our brothers, and love them, no matter what we have seen.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we love God, Whom we have not seen, by loving our brothers, whom we have seen.**

### **Application for Today**

Today we can truly love our brothers without lying. Will you enjoy today by loving your brothers whom you have seen?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Eighty Three

## Love Your Brother



Jesus taught extensively about love. He also demonstrated His love in many ways before He went to the cross, and died for us as the ultimate act of love.

Before Jesus died, Jesus made water into wine at a wedding. Jesus also met a ruler of the Jews and explained to him how to be born from above. Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well near Sychar and explained to her that He was the Messiah. Jesus told a lame man to rise, take up your bed and walk. Jesus fed multitudes and helped fisherman catch many fish. He also told His disciples that they would become fishers of men.



Jesus loved the guards who wove a crown of thorns, dressed Him in purple and slapped Him in the face. They also scourged Him. Jesus even allowed them to crucify Him. Jesus loved all the people all the time. He set the perfect example of love. As we have seen, if you say "I love God," but hate your brother, then how does the love of God abide in you? You lie. Jesus commanded us to love our brothers, and did so repeatedly.

### ***Commandment***

1. **God Is Love.** Why does God command us so many times to love our brothers? Because God said it is the second commandment, and like the first commandment to love God. Because God is love, we love because He first loved us and abides in us and we in Him. John has carefully explained the love of God and His love must permeate every aspect of our lives.

2. **Love before First Sight.** John tied together our love for God, Whom we have not seen, with the command to love our brothers in Christ.

3. **Should Love.** John emphasized "should love." God has no problem with commanding love. So often I hear people talk about falling into or out of love. They focus upon feelings as the basis for love. Feelings come and feelings go. The love of God abides forever.

4. **Source of Love.** God is love, and God is the source of love, and only people born of God and who know God can love. God commands love.

5. **Commandment.** God never makes loving the family of God optional. I see many people thinking that they can love God, and then decide upon a list of family members they will love, as if they had the option to decide who received the love of God.

6. **Love our Family.** Living joyfully in the family of God means that we should love our family in Christ, because we love God. We love to love the family of God and God says that love fulfills His commandment. Likewise,

we love the love the family of God pours out upon us, because we enjoy God's love flowing through them to us. Love produces wonderful feelings, but it arises from our abiding in God and God abiding in us, for God is love.

7. **Covid Christianity**. We rejoice today as we look forward to more hugs from the family of God. Before the Covid pandemic of 2020, saints hugged other saints as a tangible expression of God's love for them. We look forward to the day where we will all hug each other again, even strangers. God can use our arms to pass on love. But our words and actions matter far more than brief hugs. Love means continual, holy actions directed to family members so that we both glorify God by doing His will. We love each other because He first loved us.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we obey God's command to love the family of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more when we love each other because we love God.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we strengthen our love and apply God's love to the family of God, some of whom hurt for love very much right now.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may love the family of God and follow the command of Jesus to love them. In the alternative, we may lie and just say that we love them, when we really do not love them. Obedience should rule in our hearts and obedience brings full joy from God. Will you enjoy today by living in obedience to God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 12

## Learning to Enjoy Our Faith Today

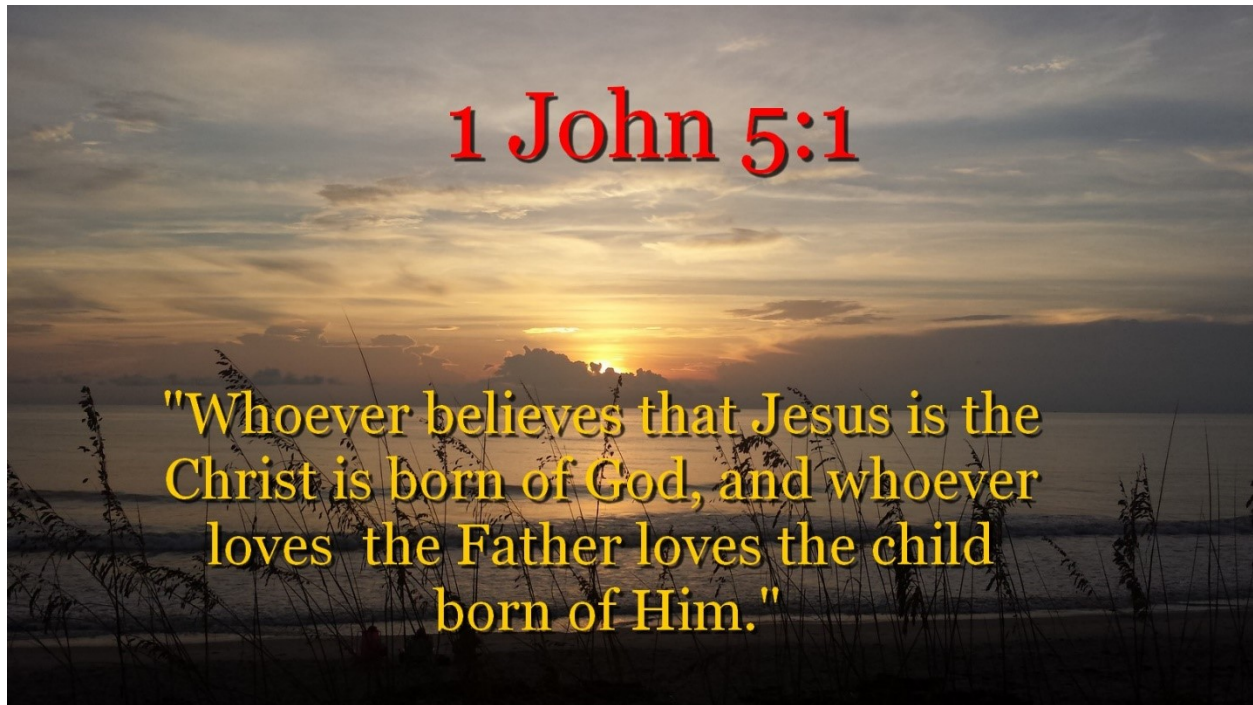
Have you noticed your confidence lately? Our confidence in God makes all the difference in the way we love and we live every day. Confidence means we trust God to tell us the truth and to keep His word. John told us over and over again that God is love, and how we can have His joy made full in our lives.

Confidence means that we live joyfully in the family of God. God is love and God abides in us and we abide in Him. We love because He first loved us. He has called us children of God and such we are. He knows that His children still sin, but the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin and we walk in fellowship with other saints.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. Because of our faith, we have love. Because of our faith, we overcome the world. God has testified that He sent His Son, Jesus. God testified that He gave us eternal life, and that life is in His Son. He who has the Son of God has life, and he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. We live in confidence before God, because we have the Son of God, and we believe the testimony of God concerning His Son.

# Day Eighty Four

## Jesus Is The Christ



Recently a poll of Americans showed that they believed Jesus was a good man, but not God. Under the inspiration of God, John revealed that whoever believes Jesus is the Christ is born of God. Therefore, we know that poll, if accurate, shows that most Americans do not have saving faith.

The word Christ means Messiah, the anointed One from God. Jesus was the only Messiah sent from God. Imposters frequently claim to be a Messiah, but they lie and were not anointed by God.

In our lives, whoever loves the Father loves the child of the Father. I never saw my Dad happier than when his first grandchild was born. He now has great grandchildren and enjoys them tremendously. I love my Dad and

love the children born of him. If we say that we love God the Father, but do not love His Son Jesus as the Christ sent by God, then we lie and not love God at all. The children of God comprise the family of God.

### *Loves the Child*

1. **Loves The Child**. Why do we love the children of God? Because we love God the Father and so we love His children. John revealed many facets of God's love and how His love dominates the lives of His children. He now relates love to faith.

2. **Faith**. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of unseen things.

3. **Believing**. Believing is faith in action, and here our faith focuses upon Jesus as the One and only Christ, the anointed Son of God. Whoever believes that truth is born of God the Father.

4. **Messiah**. All saints believe that Jesus is the Christ of God. Christ means Messiah, the Holy One anointed by God, Who is God in the flesh.

5. **The Children of God**. God also revealed that because you love God, you will also love the children born of God the Father.

6. **Born of God**. Living joyfully in the family of God means we believe that every member of the family of God loves God the Father and has been born of God the Father.

7. **God Is Love**. We rejoice today because God promised that we would love every child born of God the Father. As God commanded us to love the children of God the Father, God also promised us that, as we love God the Father, so also we love the children born of God the Father.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we love God the Father.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we love the children of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we believe that Jesus is the Christ, born of God.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we love the children of God because we love their Father and His Son, Jesus the Christ, born of God. Will you enjoy today by loving a child of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Eighty Five

## By This We Know



**1 John 5:2**

**By this we know that we love the children  
of God, when we love God and observe  
His commandments.**

John wants every saint to know many things. Writing under the inspiration of God, John revealed that if we love God, then we will love the children of God. We can know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

John emphasized the joy and love of God. As we love God, we enjoy God and the family of God. John wanted us to know, to have happy confidence, that we love the family of God. What we do helps us to know that we love the family of God. Specifically, as we love God and keep His commandments, then we know we love the children of God.

John has linked before the love of God with keeping His commandments. If we truly love God, we will keep His commandments. God commanded us to love Him, love His children, and love in deed and truth.

### *Love God*

1. **Know**. How can we know that we love the children of God? John presented a test to see if we love the children of God. We can perform the spiritual test upon ourselves.

2. **Two Questions**. The test has two questions: (a) Do I love God? and (b) Do I observe the commandments of God?

3. **Assurance**. If we answer yes to both questions, then we can rest assured that we know God and we love the children of God. We can be sure that we are not deceived.

4. **Commandments**. Keeping the commandments to love God and His children provides concrete proof in our lives of our right relationship with God.

5. **Everyone**. God intended that we live knowing that we love everyone in the family of God.

6. **First**. Living Godly in the family of God means that we know God first loved us, and so we love God and the children of God.

7. **The Love of God**. We rejoice today because we love God and keep His commandments, and so we know that we love the children of God. God is love and everyone born of Him loves. What a wonderful family where God helps us to love each other just as He loves us.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we know that we love the children of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we keep the commandments of God to love God and the children of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we live today in assurance of love from God and for God and His children.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we know that we love the children of God because we keep the commandments of God to love Him and His children. Will you enjoy today with obedience assurance you that you love the children of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty Six

## Keep His Commandments



When I first started surfing when I was about eleven years old, I had a hard time paddling out against the waves. When the surf got bigger, I found it much harder to get outside the waves. We called that getting outside. My board was a 7'2" Bing pintail, with a white top and blue rails. I loved that "short board" for the era, but I was so small I could knee paddle with ease.

As I grew older, I grew stronger and heavier, although I was always skinny as a rail. My diet was lousy and I loved to surf. I surfed almost every

day. I learned how to turn turtle, so that I rolled off my surfboard and I held it tightly with both hands while the wave passed over me. At other times, I would grab the nose of my board and pull it under water with me. Big waves always posed a challenge for me. I found it burdensome to get through all the white water coming at me. I had to fight my way out.

When I grew older, boards grew smaller and I could sink the entire board, like a duck diving under water. The wave passed over and I could pop back up to the surface. The waves were no longer so burdensome because they were so much easier to overcome. As I grew older, I surfed less and less. Other things occupied my life. I still love to surf, but I am getting old.

In my spiritual life, I do not find the commandments of God burdensome. I enjoy loving people with the love of God. I am not fighting the waves, nor diving under them. I am riding the love of God each day and having the time of my life enjoying loving others.

### ***Not Burdensome***

1. **Burdensome**. Are the commandments of God burdensome? No, because God empowers us with His love and we enjoy loving the family of God.

2. **The Love of God**. John revealed that the love of God is keeping His commandments. God is the only One we can trust to keep His promises always.

3. **God Is Love**. God is love, and because we love God, He abides in us and we in Him. His love abides in us. If we find one or more commandments of Jesus to be burdensome, then we are not walking in love.

4. **Keep the Commandments**. Please recall that John did not reimpose the Law of Moses here. The commandments here mean the New

Testament commandments, and particularly the commandments to love God and the children of God.

5. **Obedience**. Our obedience reflects our love. We all know people complain about keeping the commandments of God. They constantly tell us about how difficult they find it to love people, especially Christians. who tell me how hard and burdensome it is to keep the commandments of God. When obeying God becomes a burden, then we need to check our faith and our love.

6. **Power**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that the power to keep the commandments of God comes from His love abiding in us. Because we love Him, we keep His commandments. The love of God, flowing from His abiding presence in us, empowers us to love Him and other people.

7. **Powerful Joy**. We rejoice today because more obedience produces more joy. More love produces more obedience. My obedience tells me about my love every day. We love the desire to obey Jesus, because we love Jesus.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we keep the commandments of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as we love one another more, just as God commanded us.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we keep God's commandments and increase our love for Him daily.**

**Application for Today**

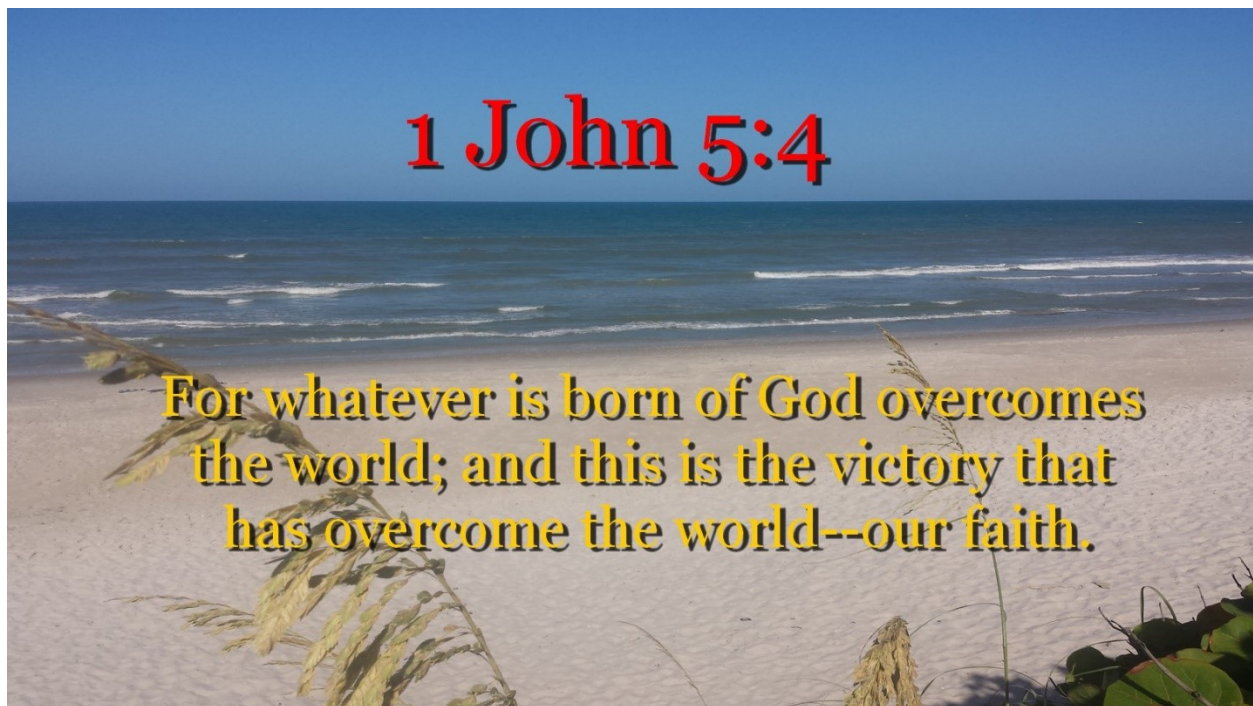
Today, we love God and love to obey Him. As we love Him today, we obey Him. Will you enjoy today without finding the commandments of God to be burdensome?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Eighty Seven

## Overcomes The World



I spent time going to school. I went to schools of one type or another for many years. I did not finish school until I was thirty-three years old. I often worked while I went to school. Growing up, I did construction with my father building a large house on the beach. Our home stretched from the ocean to the river. As I grew older, I worked in various churches. I really enjoyed working with believers and evangelizing lost souls.

When I went to school, I believed that the time spent learning things would pay dividends in the future. I was not always a great student, but I managed to graduate. My graduation signified that I had overcome my ignorance and passed the

required exams to graduate. My graduation also showed that I did not give up, but continued to the end.

One day we will all graduate to heaven. Solomon said the day of his death would be better than the day of his birth. All believers join Solomon in his wise words spoken under the inspiration of God. Until graduation day, we all live in this world and overcome all difficulties by faith. The only reason I reached graduation day in my schooling was because I believed that God wanted me to study, learn new things, and use my life for His glory, not mine. I lack perfect faith, but my faith enabled to to overcome and graduate.

### ***Our Faith Victory***

1. **Faith and Victory**. Do all believers overcome the world? John brought good news like rain on a hot summer day. Our faith brings victory and so we, all saints, overcome the world .

2. **Born of God**. Every believer has been born of God. Because we have been born of God, we overcome the world.

3. **Overcome**. Therefore, every believer has overcome the world because each one of us has been born of God.

4. **Faith Victory**. While every believer overcomes the world, no believer can take credit for overcoming the word. Our faith in God empowers us to overcome the world.

5. **Overcomers**. God proclaimed that every believer has victory over the world. Nothing in this world can overcome the children of God.

6. **Love**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we have been born of God, and so our faith provides victory over the world. We love others because God first loved us.

7. **Power of Faith**. We rejoice today because our faith provides the victory over the world. Never underestimate the power of faith in your life. By faith we live in victory.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we overcome the world.**
- **We enjoy the family of God more as share our faith with each other and so overcome the world together.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we love others by the strength of faith in our lives.**

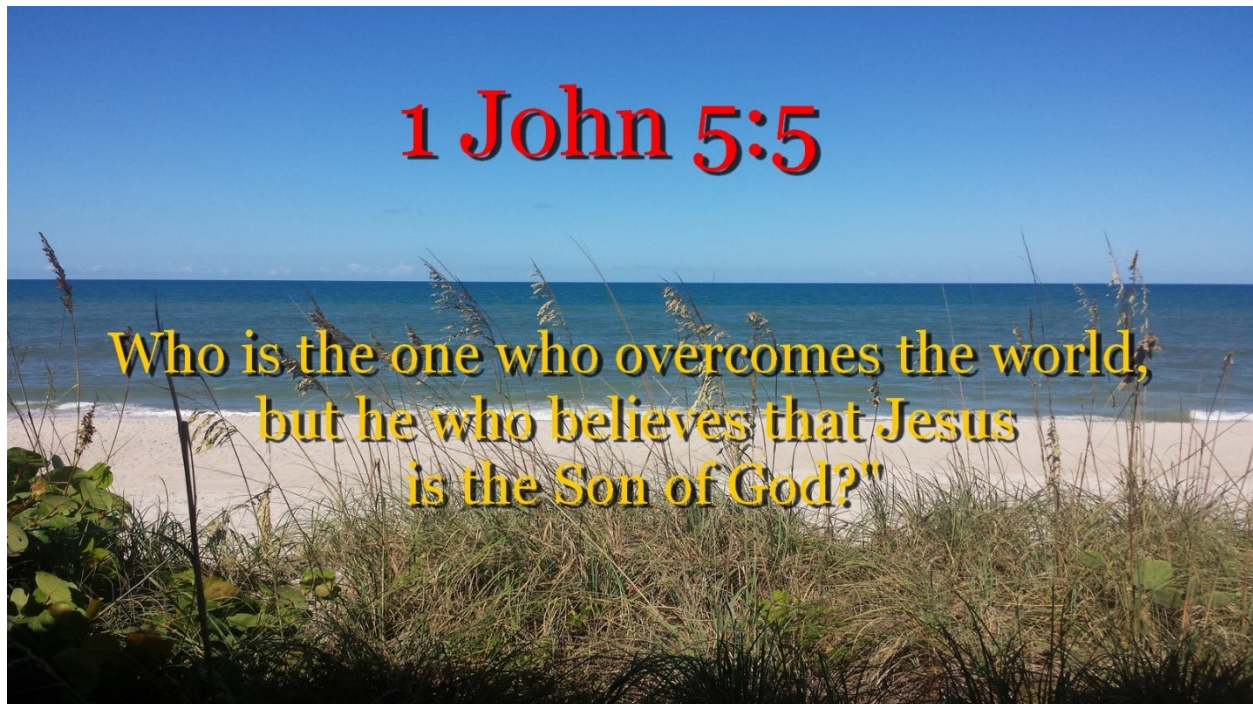
### **Application for Today**

Today, we love God and love to obey Him. As we love Him today, we obey Him. Will you enjoy today overcoming the world by faith?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Eighty Eight

## The Son of God



Have you ever overcome a problem that dogged you for years? At least twice in my life I have lost over 60 pounds, only to put on the weight again. I changed my diet and lost weight. When I no longer restricted my diet, but ate what I wanted, when I wanted, I weighed more again.

Overcoming any problem requires God's help. Overeating causes many health problems, so weighing the right amount helps keep our bodies going longer for service to God. Of course, each person will decide before God what an ideal weight should be. Furthermore, we know that bodily discipline alone produces little spiritual profit (1 Timothy 4:8).

Jesus wants us to know that our faith overcomes the world. We invest our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As we continue in our faith in Jesus as the Son of God, we continue to overcome the world. Although our salvation remains secure eternally, our life on earth can be much tougher unless we live in ever growing and expanding faith. We must love God, our neighbors, the family of God and even our enemies. By faith that Jesus is the Son of God, we overcome the world. When we go back to doing what we want, when we want, then our faith slips just before we hit the ground with a thud.

### ***Overcomes the World***

1. **Overcomers**. Who are the overcomers? John blessed each believer with the knowledge that every believer has overcome the world.

2. **Only Believers**. Only believers have overcome the world. Without saving faith that Jesus is the Son of God, no one overcomes the world.

3. **The Family**. Each member of the family has overcome the world.

4. **Sin**. John reminded us that all believers sin, but the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin as we confess our sins and believe that God will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

5. **Afflictions**. Being an overcomer does not mean we no longer face afflictions, persecutions and temptations.

6. **Triumph**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that by faith in the Son of God we triumph over afflictions, persecutions and temptations by our faith in Jesus.

7. **Trust Me.** We rejoice today because when Jesus tells you that "It will be o.k., trust Me, " we may rest assured as overcomers that it will truly be good in Jesus. We rejoice together in knowing that we live victoriously in Jesus, the Son of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we believe that Jesus is the Son of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because we have overcome the world by our faith in Jesus.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we walk in faith that Jesus is the Son of God and so overcome the world.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we believe that Jesus is the Son of God. By that faith, we live daily by faith, sharing the love of God, living in His joy made full in our lives. Will you enjoy today by living in the joy of overcoming the world by faith that Jesus is the Son of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**



## Day Eighty Nine

### The Son of God



**1 John 5:6**

**This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with water only, but with water and with blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.**

In the Old Testament, you needed the testimony of more than one witness to confirm the truth of a matter. Jesus said, “If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true; there is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true (John 5:32).” Jesus then went on to describe other witnesses who confirmed His testimony about His equality with God by describing Himself as the Son of God. Jesus offered proof that God the Father sent Him into the world and He was God in the flesh and Messiah. Jesus also warned that the Father gave Jesus the authority to do judgment.

Jesus will also do judgment. Luke wrote that God “has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has



appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:31).

In his epistle of 1 John, John provided historical proof of Jesus coming into the world. John described Jesus as “the One who came by water and blood.” Notice the emphasis upon how Jesus came into the world. Jesus was the One Who came into the world through water, but also through blood.

## ***Water and Blood***

1. **Water and Blood**. Why did John describe Jesus as coming by water and blood? A wide variety of opinions have been offered as to what water and blood reference.

2. **Water**. Based upon John 3:5, John may have used the term “water” to emphasize the coming of Jesus through the womb of Mary, with her water breaking before delivery. Jesus came as a true human being.

3. **Atonement**. Based upon John 19:34, and other passages, Jesus also shed His blood on the cross. In 1 John 1:7, the blood of Jesus, the Son of God, cleanses the believer from all sin. The blood may also refer to Jesus having real human blood, never tainted by sin. We must remember that the “life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11).” The blood makes atonement for the souls. The life of the flesh is in the blood and without the shedding of blood and sacrifice of life there can be no atonement (Leviticus 17:11). So, John may have been proving that Jesus was born with real human blood, to be used in atonement on the cross.

4. **Confession**. We happily confess that Jesus came with water and blood. We rejoice that He came in real human flesh and blood. He was truly God and Man at the same time.

5. **Not Only Water**. John also proclaimed that both the water and the blood are critical points of confession about Jesus. Water only remains inadequate.

6. **The Holy Spirit**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus, including the water and the blood.

7. **The Holy Spirit Is The Truth**. We rejoice today because we can always rely upon the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth about Jesus. The truth is that Jesus came with water and blood, and they testify as to the truths of Jesus Christ. As believers, we know the truth, because the Holy Spirit indwells us, constantly illuminating the truth of Scripture to us, to the glory of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as confess that Jesus came by water and blood.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because the Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we listen to the testimony of the Spirit Who tells us the truth.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we believe the testimony of the Holy Spirit. He speaks to us about Jesus coming with water and with blood. Will you enjoy today by listening to the Holy Spirit testify that Jesus is the Son of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety

## Three



We do not have the original manuscripts produced by John of His letters. We have copies of those originals called autographs. God moved men to speak and write for Him as the Holy Spirit moved them. Therefore, we know that John wrote down the inspired words of God in the Book of 1 John. Concrete proof underlies our faith in God. Part of that proof consists of the inspired word of God, the Bible (sixty-six books, Old Testament-New Testament).

John also wanted us to know about three witnesses. 1 John 5:7 has a note in the New American Standard Bible indicating that a few late manuscripts have additional words. Because we can compare manuscripts

and then understand what the original autograph contained, we can be confident we have the words of God preserved for us.

John took special care to focus upon three witnesses that Jesus came by water and with blood. The Spirit testifies, because the Spirit is truth. We can always rest assured that God tells us the truth.

With that background in mind, John emphasized the importance of believing that Jesus came with water and blood, not just with water. By the blood of Jesus we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### ***Testify***

1. **Three**. John declared that the water, the blood, and the Spirit all testify that Jesus is the Son of God.

2. **Witnesses**. The Bible writers, like John, support their claims with witnesses.

3. **Old Testament Witnesses**. You may recall the Old Testament emphasized the importance of more than just one witness.

4. **Truthful**. As we have seen, three witnesses here prove that Jesus was fully man (water), fully God (blood), and absolutely holy and truthful in everything (Holy Spirit).

5. **Testimony**. Because of those three witnesses, we know that our faith in Jesus Christ has overcome the world, and we are victorious in Jesus our Lord. Faith means that we believe the truth that God told us.

6. **Unimpeachable**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that I know my faith rests upon the power of God, supported by unimpeachable witnesses.

7. **Confidence.** We rejoice today because we have high confidence in Jesus and His loving power in our lives. We believe the testimony God provided about Jesus. We know Him, love Him, and obey Him, because He first loved us.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we believe the three witnesses.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because God provided the best witnesses about Jesus.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we believe the testimony of the three witnesses who told us the truth.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may confidently rest our faith upon God and His witnesses. They provide the best testimony about Jesus, completely truthful. Will you enjoy today with confidence in the testimony of the three witnesses?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day Ninety One

## Agreement



John valued proof and testimony about Jesus. He also noted that the witnesses agreed among themselves. In court, witnesses often disagree with each other and the truth may not be clear.

John explained that the Spirit and the water and the blood testify that Jesus was the Son of God, who came in flesh and dwelt among men. He laid down His life as a ransom for many souls.

When witnesses say the same thing, it sounds more like the truth. In this case, we have no doubt about the truth because the Holy Spirit always



testifies to the truth. As God, the Holy Spirit cannot lie. So we may depend entirely upon His testimony. But with the added testimony of the water and the blood, then we have strong proof.

## ***Spirit, Water, Blood***

1. **Agreement**. Why did John stress the agreement of the witnesses? John stressed the agreement of perfect, multiple witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God.

2. **Three Witnesses**. John then emphasized the agreement of all three witnesses: the Holy Spirit, the water and the blood.

3. **Law**. In court, eyewitness testimony can be very unreliable. People perceive and recall differently the same incident.

4. **Faith**. In this case, all three witnesses completely agree that Jesus is the Son of God. As believers, we do not have purely blind faith, but faith based the unimpeachable testimony of many witnesses spread over hundreds of years.

5. **Rock-Solid**. We have rock-solid faith built upon the testimony of rock-solid witnesses concerning the Rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ, the unique Son of God.

6. **Consistent**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that no matter what challenges may arise against the three witnesses, their testimony remains eternally consistent and true.

7. **No Myths**. We rejoice today because God loves to anchor our faith in truthful, direct testimony from multiple witnesses. We do not believe in cleverly devised myths, but in God who established testimony concerning Jesus, the Son of God, our one and only Savior.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we understand the agreement between the three witnesses.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because God provided the three witnesses that provide complete proof that Jesus is the Son of God, Who took flesh and dwelt among men.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we understand that the three witnesses agree with one another.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, our faith rests upon perfect witnesses bearing entirely uniform testimony. Will you enjoy today because we have perfect witnesses testifying that Jesus is the Son of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## Day Ninety Two

### Testimony of God



Does God provide clear testimony in the Bible? John provided different forms of evidence that God the Father sent His unique Son to take human flesh on earth and live among men. Courts today receive evidence in many different ways and forms. Ideally, the court should be concerned about finding the truth. Witnesses may be called to testify, documents may be produced and entered into evidence, audio and video may be key evidence, as well as scientific evidence. The court may also allow expert testimony.

John distinguished the testimony of men from the testimony of God. People tend to believe reliable witnesses in court. People make judgments about credibility and so juries often make decisions about who is telling the

truth. Lawyers call the judge or jury the finder-of-facts. They decide what is the truth.

John said that God testified concerning Jesus. John also stated clearly that the testimony of God is greater. When God speaks, He never lies. We can always trust every word of God.

### ***Greater***

1. **Testimony**. Why did John compare the testimony of men with the testimony of God? John compared the testimony of men with the testimony of God.

2. **Multiple Witnesses**. The Mosaic law required more than one human witness to testify concerning many matters.

3. **Truth**. God provided one means to establish the truth by receiving the testimony of multiple witnesses to determine a matter.

4. **False Testimony**. You may recall that witnesses brought to testify against Jesus gave conflicting testimony.

5. **Lying**. The testimony from God is greater than the testimony of men. It is from an all-knowing Source, with perfect recall of all the facts, and without any motive for lying; indeed, God cannot lie.

6. **Our Faith**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that my faith rests upon perfect testimony, not only from men, but testimony from God as well.

7. **Son of God**. We rejoice today because God wants us to know all about His testimony concerning the Son of God. God anchors our faith in the testimony of God, which is greater than all the testimony of men. So, if

anyone asks, we will happily report that God has provided His own testimony that Jesus is the Son of God.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we understand the infinite greatness of the testimony of God about Jesus.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because we rely upon three witnesses, and we know God always speaks the truth.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we share the testimony of God with other people.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we continue to hear the testimony of God about Jesus. We love to hear from God. Will you enjoy today the testimony of God about His Son?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## Day Ninety Three

### Made Him a Liar



1 John 5:10

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

In court, testimony from witnesses often makes a difference. Furthermore, the credibility of each witness must be examined. In this case, credibility means whether or not you believe that witness is telling the truth. When witnesses testify, it often becomes clear that although they may think they are telling the truth about what they saw or heard, they may not have remembered correctly or missed important events which happened quickly or long ago.

Perfect testimony only comes from God. He has no evil motives, and never lies. He knows everything and has perfect recall of all events from all times. He knows all thoughts, actions, purposes, outcomes, and the list continues.



When God testifies, He tells the truth. God expects everyone to listen to Him and accept His testimony. When someone does not believe the testimony of God, someone makes Him a liar. God testified concerning His Son Jesus, and if you believe, then you have the testimony of God in yourself.

### ***Not Believed***

1. **Relationship**. What is the relationship between faith and the testimony of God? God commands us to believe His testimony regarding Jesus, the Son of God.

2. **Internal**. At the moment of salvation, the believer gains the internal testimony that Jesus is the Son of God.

3. **Liar**. Everyone who does not believe the testimony of God makes God a liar.

4. **Testimony**. The unbeliever does not believe the testimony of God. God the Holy Spirit has testified that Jesus is the Son of God and the unbeliever makes God a liar by failing to believe the testimony of God concerning Jesus.

5. **Son of God**. We understand unbelievers by nature reject the testimony of God concerning His Son. In effect, every unbeliever calls God a liar. God never lies. Unbelievers lie when they call God a liar.

6. **Listening**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we now have the internal testimony that Jesus is the Son of God. We delight in listening to the testimony of God and believing the truth concerning Jesus: He is the Son of God.



7. **Every Day.** We rejoice today because, by the grace of God, we have received the truth of God. Therefore, we believe in the Son of God. We truly enjoy the testimony of God concerning His only Son, Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We hear the testimony of God every day.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we listen to the testimony of God and believe it.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because we all hear the same testimony from God: Jesus is the Son of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we believe the testimony of God and act upon it daily.**

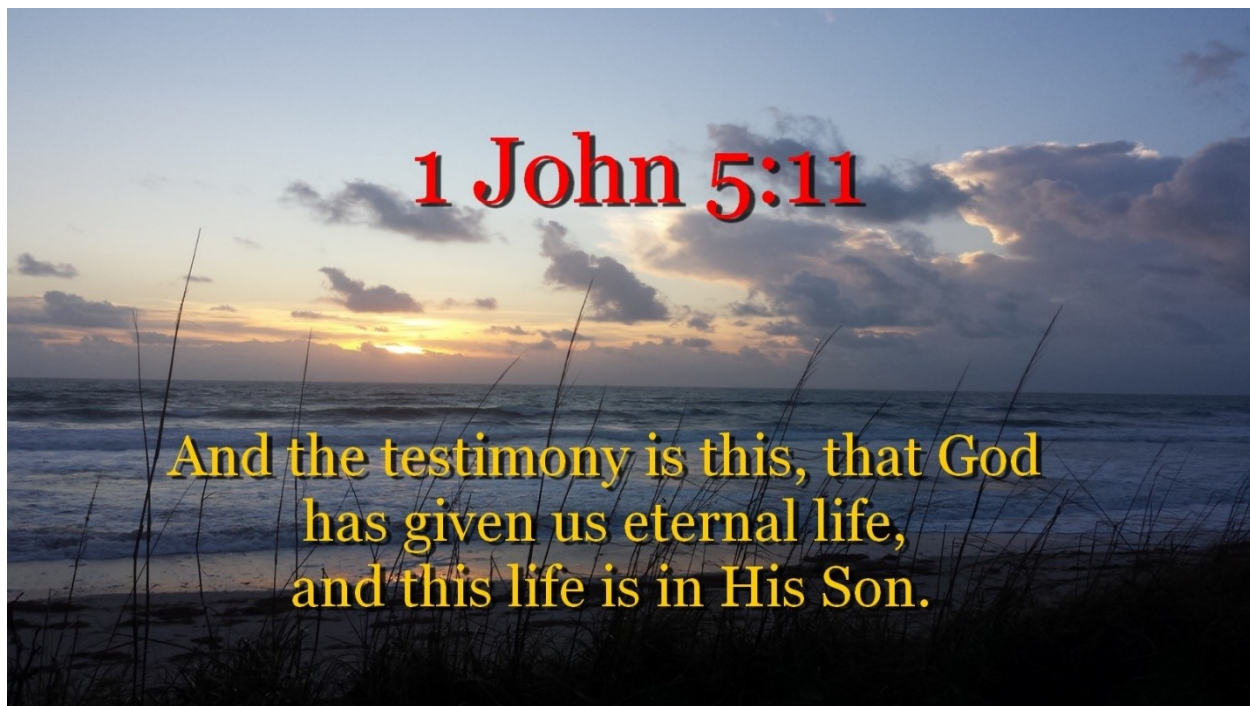
### **Application for Today**

Today, we live each day listening to the testimony of God that Jesus is the Son of God. We believe in Jesus, the Son of God, according to the testimony of God. Will you enjoy today by listening to God and His testimony concerning His Son?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## **Day Ninety Four**

### **Given Us Eternal Life**



John emphasized the value of testimony from God. He explained that the value of God's testimony infinitely exceeds the testimony of men. John also emphasized the content of the testimony.

John wrote his letter so that we would believe and know that we have eternal life. As John developed the concept of eternal life, he explained that eternal life is in Jesus, the Son of God.

God the Father testified that He gave us eternal life, and that life is in Jesus, the Son of God. Because of the testimony of God, we have great

confidence that we have eternal life. God does not remain silent and absent; He testifies constantly and abides with every believer.

## ***Life Is in His Son***

1. **Testimony**. Why did John discuss the testimony of witnesses? Because John wanted believers to know they had eternal life.

2. **Eternal Life**. The testimony has two related parts. First, God has given us eternal life. Second, this eternal life is in His Son.

3. **Three Witnesses**. God provided three witnesses in this passage. Now we see that the focus of that testimony is the gift of God to us: eternal life.

4. **Free Gift**. We have received the gift of eternal life from God. Free gift, no payment from us. God paid the whole price for the gift He gave us.

5. **The Gift of Eternal Life**. The gift of eternal life is in the Son of God, Jesus. Notice that if we do not have Jesus, then we do not have the gift of eternal life.

6. **Receive the Gift**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that God planned for us to receive Jesus into our lives as the Son of God, and by receiving Jesus, we also receive the gift of eternal life.

7. **Loves to Give**. God loves to give people the gift of eternal life. Because God so loved the world, He gave His unique Son, Jesus, as Savior. We love God because He first loved us, and gave us eternal life in Jesus.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we remember that He has given us His son, Jesus Christ.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because everyone in the family has eternal life.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we believe the testimony of God that eternal life is in His Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we have received the testimony of God, and believed that God gave us eternal life in Jesus. God testifies to that fact every day. Will you enjoy today by testifying that we have received eternal life in Jesus today?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## Day Ninety Five

### Has the Son



1 John 5:12

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Can you go to heaven without Jesus in your life? John proclaimed that if you do not have Jesus, then you do not have life. Every day I hear people take the name of the Lord Jesus in vain. They say things like “Oh G\*\*” and “Jes\*\*” without really thinking about it. They merely exclaim the name of God when something unusual happens. If you listen to commercials on the television and the internet, you will hear how often people take the name of God in vain.

This familiar contempt for the name of God reflects a deeper disobedience to God. Jesus declared that no one comes to God the Father except through Jesus. He left no doubt that Muslims, Hindus, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, Roman Catholics, and many other religious cults will

not be in heaven because they do not have Jesus. You may say that they all claim Jesus in some form. Actually, they do not have Jesus because they do not believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, and salvation consists of receiving the free gift of salvation by grace through faith, without works of any kind. People may talk about Jesus, pray to Jesus, and worship Jesus, but without saving faith, they do not have Jesus in their lives.

### ***Has Life***

1. **Eternal Life**. How can you know if you have eternal life? John provided a clear, simple test for eternal life: do you have the Son, Jesus Christ? If you have the Son, then you have eternal life.

2. **No Son, No Life**. John presented absolutes. They were easy to understand. Do you have the Son of God in your life? If yes, then you have eternal life. If no, then you do not have eternal life.

3. **Excusive**. John left no room for other saviors or other means of salvation. Without Jesus, you do not have eternal life.

4. **Other Religions**. Consider Muslims, Buddhists, and all other religions that deny Jesus is the Son of God, our only Savior. God said none of those religions can bring you eternal life, no matter how sincerely and devoutly you believe.

5. **Life and Jesus**. John provided the foundational truth of Jesus and eternal life. With Jesus, we have eternal life. We live forever with God and enjoy all of His love in perpetuity.

6. **Only Jesus**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we only have eternal life because Jesus, the Son of God, has come into our lives by grace through faith alone.

7. **Friends.** We rejoice today because we have eternal life in Jesus, the Friend of Sinners. He called us His friends. Because we have Jesus, we have eternal life and new friends.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we remember that we only have eternal life because we have Jesus.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because we all have Jesus; He lives in each of us.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we live in Jesus and He lives in us.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we have friends and family who do not have Jesus. As we live before them with Jesus in us, we can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. Do you know people today who do not have Jesus and so do not have eternal life today? Will you enjoy today by speaking to them about Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# **Learning To Enjoy Our Confidence Today**

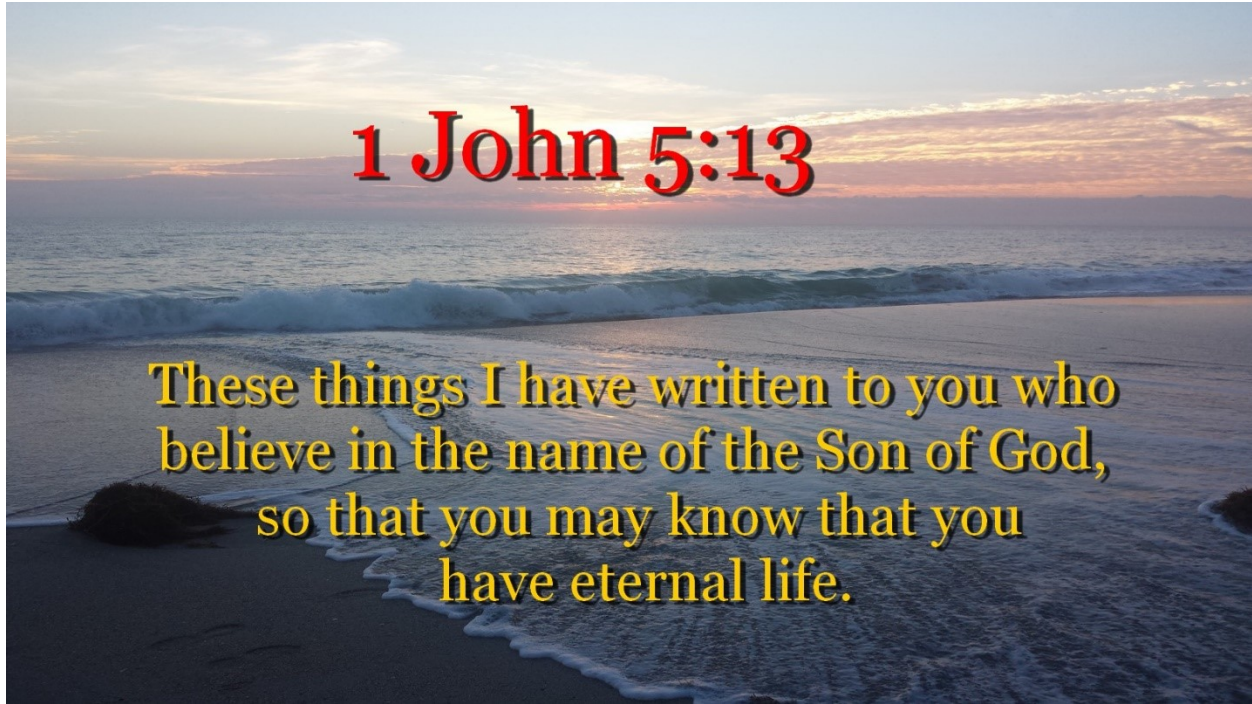
In our spiritual lives, confidence makes a lot of difference. But, not confidence in ourselves, but confidence in God changes our lives. Confidence rests upon faith in God and His word. As we believe what God says about eternal life found only in His Son, Jesus Christ, then we live in confidence in the power of faith which overcomes the world.

As we love other people with confidence from God, God confirms to us through inward and outward testimony that we are the children of God, born of God. As His children, we live in the family of God.

We rejoice today because know that we have eternal life, and that eternal life is only in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Him we have life and love. We live in great confidence because God builds our confidence in Him each day.

# Day Ninety Six

## You May Know



What does God want every believe to know? He wants us to know that we have eternal life. He wants us to be secure in our faith. Many people today do not know what will happen to them after they die.

False teachers have filled the ears of the people with many false teachings about death and the afterlife. Some false teachers proclaim death ends everything with nothing to follow, while other false teachers proclaim that you go to purgatory until some pope lets you out of there. All the false teachers emphasize their opposition to the Bible, the word of God. While they may claim to follow its teachings, they actually distort the Scripture to their own destruction. The false teachers give unbelievers a false sense of security as the unbelievers enter through the wide gate leading to eternal destruction. They also oppose people knowing for sure that they have eternal life today.

In contrast to the false teachers, Jesus wants every believer to know that we have eternal life. John wrote his letter so that we would know we have eternal life and live accordingly.

## ***I Have Written***

1. **Can We Know?** Can we really know that we have eternal life? John intended every believer to have unyielding confidence in their salvation. We can know right now that we have eternal life.

2. **Confidence**. God wants us to be sure we are saved. Jesus wants you to be sure all day that you have eternal life. He wants us to be confident in our salvation.

3. **Doubts**. Many people doubt their salvation. In some cases, they were never saved by grace through faith and so should have doubts, repent, and receive the free gift of eternal life. In other cases, born-again believers have doubts because they do not live to please God.

4. **No Doubts**. Jesus wrote that every born-again believer can know that we have eternal life. We know we have eternal life because we have believed in the name of the Son of God. No false security found here.

5. **Sin**. Some people doubt their salvation, especially when they sin. Sin and doubts often go hand in hand.

6. **We Know**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know from the Word of God that we have eternal life because we believe in the name of Jesus, the Son of God.

7. **Eternal Security**. We rejoice today because we know that Jesus tells us the truth always. He said He wants every born-again believer to know that we have eternal life and His word backs up our faith in Him. The Bible helps us overcome our doubts. As we read 1 John, we learn about believers,

how they obey God, love the brethren, and on and on. As we learn, our faith grows in Jesus and His salvation. We love Jesus as the Son of God, and the Bible tells us that we have eternal life by grace through faith alone.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we know that we have eternal life.**
- **We enjoy the family of God as we live in the confidence of eternal life.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we live without doubting our salvation.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we know people who doubt their salvation. Most Roman Catholics I have met doubt they are going to heaven. If they believe the doctrine of the Roman Catholic church, then they should fear death, because Roman Catholic doctrine condemns salvation by faith alone. We need to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Roman Catholics we know and let them know that they can have eternal life by faith alone. Will you enjoy today by sharing your confidence about eternal life with people who have doubts about eternal life?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day Ninety Seven**

## **According to His Will**



**1 John 5:14**

**This is the confidence which we have  
before Him, that, if we ask anything  
according to His will, He hears us.**

Does God hear your prayers? God wants us to have confidence that He hears our prayers. He also wants us to know that we must pray according to the will of God. Therefore, we must understand how prayer works.

Prayer means that we embrace God's will for our lives. We learn about God's will for our lives from reading the Bible. Every command of God represents the will of God for our lives. Of course, not all the commands of the Old Testament still apply today. When Jesus died on the cross, He fulfilled the demands of the law for us and the Old Testament law no longer applies to believers today. Today we follow the perfect law of liberty.

John has emphasized that if we truly love God, then we will keep His commands and they are not burdensome. God gave us many commands, which start with loving God and then loving our neighbors. As we love God, then we pray for God to do His will in our lives. So, praying according to the will of God means that we submit our lives to God as servants submit their lives to a loving Master.

### ***He Hears Us***

1. **Confidence**. Can we be confident that God hears our prayers? John loved for his readers to pray with confidence.
2. **Prayer**. John wanted every believer to know that we can pray with confidence.
3. **Hears**. As believers, we can be confident that God hears us when we pray.
4. **His Will**. God directs us to pray according to His will.
5. **Bible**. God reveals His will for our lives in the Bible. Every command embodies the will of God for our lives.
6. **Doubt**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that you pray with confidence. Do you doubt that God cared or God even listens to your prayers?
7. **Follow**. We rejoice today because we pray with confidence that God hears us, because we pray according to His will. We may entrust everything in our lives to God. He will lead us as we follow Him by faith.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we pray with confidence.**
- **We enjoy the family of God as we pray according to the will of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we know that God hears our prayers.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we pray with confidence according to the will of God. We know that God hears us. Will you enjoy today with prayers God hears from you?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day Ninety Eight

## Whatever We Ask



**1 John 5:15**

**And if we know that He hears us in  
whatever we ask, we know that we  
have the requests which we have  
asked from Him.**

Writing under the inspiration of God, John crafted a detailed explanation of how we may pray with confidence. God wanted us to know that He hears us, loves us, and gives us whatever we need to accomplish His will for our lives.

God loves to fulfill our prayer requests. He intends for us to pray according to His will for our lives. If we only pray for our will to be done, then God loves us and protects us from our own plans. We must never expect that prayer will change God's mind about doing His will for our lives.

God loves to build prayer confidence. In other words, God loves to hear us praying according to His will, and then provide all that we asked from Him. His love controls the entire prayer process. He wants us to know His loving will for our lives, pray for His will to be done in our lives, and then to give us whatever we ask according to His will. We learn the will of God, pray for the will of God, and then receive all we need to accomplish the will of God in our lives.

### ***We Have the Requests***

1. **God Hears**. After God hears our prayer requests, what does God do? God gives us whatever we asked according to His will.
2. **Whatever We Ask**. Whatever we ask from God according to His will, God gives to us.
3. **Brimming**. As believers, we should be brimming with confidence, built upon knowledge, when we pray.
4. **According to His Will**. Please recall that we must pray according to God's will. Only when we pray according to His will, can we rest assured God will grant our prayer requests.
5. **Obedience**. As we pray in God's will, God wants us to trust Him as we pray. We trust Him to hear our prayers and do His will in our lives, starting with our prayer lives.
6. **We Know**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know that God hears our prayers and grants our prayer requests.
7. **He Wants**. We rejoice today because we can always let our personal requests be made known to God, but ultimately, we must submit our requests to the will of God. Only then can we be sure that God will grant the request, because He will do what He wants, not necessarily what we want. Praise God

He keeps us from getting all we want, because only God knows what is best for our lives.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we know that God hears us when we pray.**
- **We enjoy the family of God as we pray together for God's will to be done in our lives.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we see God answer our prayers according to His will.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we know that God hears us when we pray according to His will. Having heard us, God will give us whatever we ask in His will. Will you enjoy today by trusting God to hear your prayers?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 14

## **Learning To Enjoy Overcoming Sin Today**

God wants us to rejoice as we overcome sin our lives. We live victoriously because of our faith in God. We have overcome the world and now we can rest assured that we can know the will of God.

By the loving power of God, we have overcome sin in our lives. At the moment of salvation, Jesus came into our lives by faith. That faith overcomes the world and brings all of God's loving power into our lives. We learn to rejoice we overcome sin in our lives through the power of God at work in our lives.

## Day Ninety Nine

### Sin Leading to Death

#### 1 John 5:16

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit a sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

People often confuse the sin leading to death and blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. They are not the same sins, as we can see from a comparison of 1 John 5:16 with Matthew 12:31.

In Matthew 12:31 the Pharisees charged Jesus with casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons. Jesus then explained that He cast out demons by the Spirit of God, and that the kingdom of God had come upon them. Jesus then showed that by rejecting Jesus as God in the flesh, the Pharisees had attributed the works of Jesus to the devil, and so had blasphemed the Holy Spirit who performed those works through Jesus.

Therefore, only unbelievers commit the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit by attributing the works of Jesus to Beelzebul.

In 1 John 5:16 John described a brother sinning, but that brother still lives. While the brother remains alive, other believers aware of the sin may ask God to spare the life of the sinning brother and God will spare that life. At other times, a brother may sin, and God imposes death upon the sinning brother. Therefore, John taught us that there is a sin which leads to death for believers, but we should always pray for deliverance for the sinning brother. Believers should not pray that a brother may die for sinning. We also know that sin leading to death cannot be blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, because only unbelievers can commit that sin.

### ***Give Life***

1. **Sin Leading to Death**. What is the sin leading to death? Some believers sin the sin leading to death. John does not point to just one sin, but that different sins, depending upon the individual, may lead to death.

2. **Physical Death**. Sometimes believers sin, and that sin may lead to physical death. We have seen that born-again believers never lose their salvation. Therefore, the sin leading to death in this verse can only mean physical death.

3. **Different Sins**. Notice too that John did not isolate one particular sin, like robbery, as leading to death. Apparently, God makes sovereign decisions in each case whether the person will die because of a particular sin.

4. **Prayers**. John instructed believers to avoid praying that people would die because of their sin. Instead, John commanded believers to love each other and seek the best interest of one another, including confession of sin, with forgiveness and cleansing from God.

5. **Give Life**. If a brother prays for another brother sinning, but not dying, then God promised to spare the physical life of the sinning brother, if we ask God according to His will.

6. **Sinning**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we can pray for believers still alive after sinning. As believers, we pray for each other, especially when we see believers sinning. We pray that God will spare the life of the sinning brother.

7. **God Loves**. We rejoice today because God loves all of His children. He loves to forgive us and cleanse us from all sins. We ask God to spare the physical life of our sinful brothers. We all sin and we all need such prayer support. God loves sinners, and sanctifies them in the Word of Truth.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we know that God forgives believers who sin.**
- **We enjoy the family of God as we pray for believers sinning and seeing God spare their lives from death.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we see God forgive sins and restore sinning believers.**



**Application for Today**

Today, we may pray for believers sinning. We know that will restore believers who do not sin unto death. Will you enjoy today by praying for believers who are sinning?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# **Day One Hundred**

## **All Unrighteousness Is Sin**



**1 John 5:16**

**If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit a sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.**

Do all sins lead to immediate physical death? No, some sins do not lead to immediate physical death. Even so, John wrote that there is a sin leading to death, but not all sins lead to immediate physical death.

All sin is unrighteousness. Sin always leads to spiritual death. Sin separates people from God. All people have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death. Therefore, all people need a Savior, to save them from the death penalty imposed upon everyone who sins.

Jesus gave His life so that everyone who believes may have eternal life. Jesus died for us. He paid the death penalty for the entire world. Therefore,

having made atonement for sins, Jesus sat down at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. Atonement only becomes effective by personal faith.

Believers may sin and die physically. Once saved, always saved. So, believers never lose their eternal salvation. John emphasized that when we see other believers sinning, we need to pray for them. God promised to spare their life if they had not sinned the sin leading to death.

### ***Not Leading to Death***

1. **Death**. Is all sin unrighteousness? Yes, John declared that all sin is unrighteousness. John explained the relationship between the sin leading to death and unrighteousness.

2. **Unrighteousness**. Unrighteousness always produces sin, and unrighteousness is sin in itself. Why does this truth matter in the context of the sin not leading to death?

3. **Physical Death**. John explained that some sin may lead to physical death. Because all unrighteousness is sin, we understand God's absolute standard for judging sin.

4. **Righteousness**. The absolute standard remains simple: did we do something sinful? If so, it was unrighteous. Righteousness resides in God alone. By saving faith, we become the righteousness of God in Christ. God gives righteousness as a free gift.

5. **Sins**. Some sins, although unrighteous, do not lead to physical death. We learn that God makes sovereign choices about life and death. He decides the best time and place for life to end.

6. **Free Gift**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that God has given every one of His children the gift of righteousness. We can act like God as we interact with others.

7. **Grace.** We rejoice today because God's grace allows believers to enjoy the righteousness of God as a free gift. All sins do not lead to physical death, although we know that every sin leads to spiritual death. We all deserve eternal punishment because we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But God, being rich in love, grace, and mercy, has saved us from eternal punishment by the blood of Jesus Christ, through faith alone.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more as we understand that all sin is unrighteousness.**
- **We enjoy the family of God as we know that some sins do not lead to death.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we love God for His grace in saving sinners from the death penalty we all deserve.**

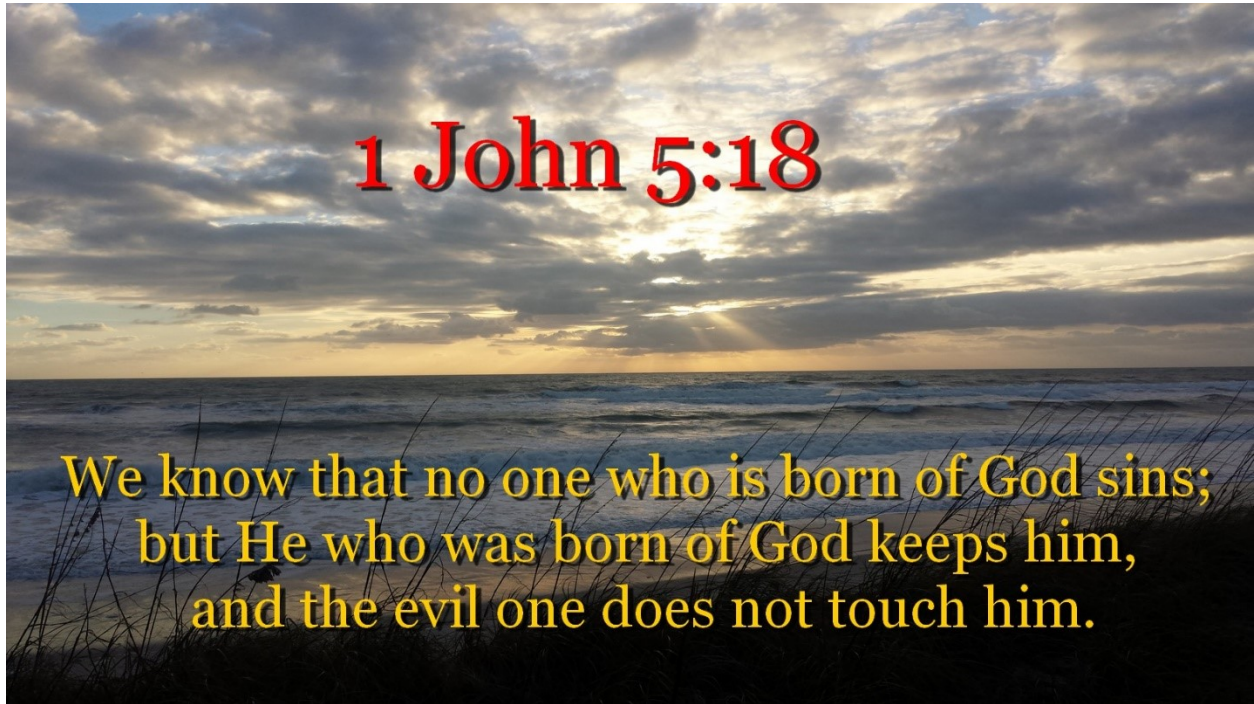
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may avoid the sin leading to death. As we love God, we walk with God and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Will you enjoy today by walking with Jesus in the light?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred One

## God Keeps Him



At the moment of salvation, many wonderful things happen. John declared that all people born of God do not sin. At first glance, this idea that born-again believers do not sin seems hard to understand in light of John revealing that if believers say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. Scripture leaves little doubt that believers sin and do so regularly. As we walk in the light with Jesus, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, the cleansing from sin continues on a regular basis.

As John explained previously, because we have been born of the seed of God, the new creature cannot sin. We need to keep in mind that the natural

man sins regularly, but the new creature cannot sin, because the new creature was born of the seed of God.

John emphasized that God keeps believers and the evil one does not touch believers. Of course, the evil one still tempts believers, and we sin. Our flesh and the evil one entices us to sin, and a constant battle between the flesh and the Spirit continues all the time. Even so, believers rest in the confidence from God that our faith has overcome the world, and the evil one cannot touch us, because God keeps us.

### ***Does Not Touch Him***

1. **Not Sin**. Does the seed born of God sin? No, the seed born of God does not sin. John taught that everyone born of the seed of God cannot sin (1 John 3:9).

2. **Sin**. Do believers still sin? Yes, as John wrote about in chapter one of First John. How can both statements be true?

3. **Born of God**. The new creature in believers never sins, so that only my fleshly, old nature sins. We became new creatures at the moment we were born again.

4. **Keeps Us**. Jesus keeps us every day. As new creatures, born of the seed of God, God keeps us, we cannot sin, and the evil one does not touch us.

5. **Rest**. Because Jesus keeps us every day, we rest securely in His salvation. Our old nature acts corruptly every day.

6. **Power**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that Jesus exerts His divine, limitless power to keep us from the evil one. Jesus bound the evil one, removed his armor, and plunders the house of the devil at will. As with Job, God always limits what the devil can do to us. No temptation can ever



overpower us. God never allows us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. He always provides a way of escape.

7. **Safekeeping**. We rejoice today in the safekeeping of Jesus. The devil cannot touch us. We love Jesus for His awesome love, power, and protection.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more because the evil one does not touch us.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because Jesus keeps us safe each day.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we know that no one born of God sins.**

### **Application for Today**

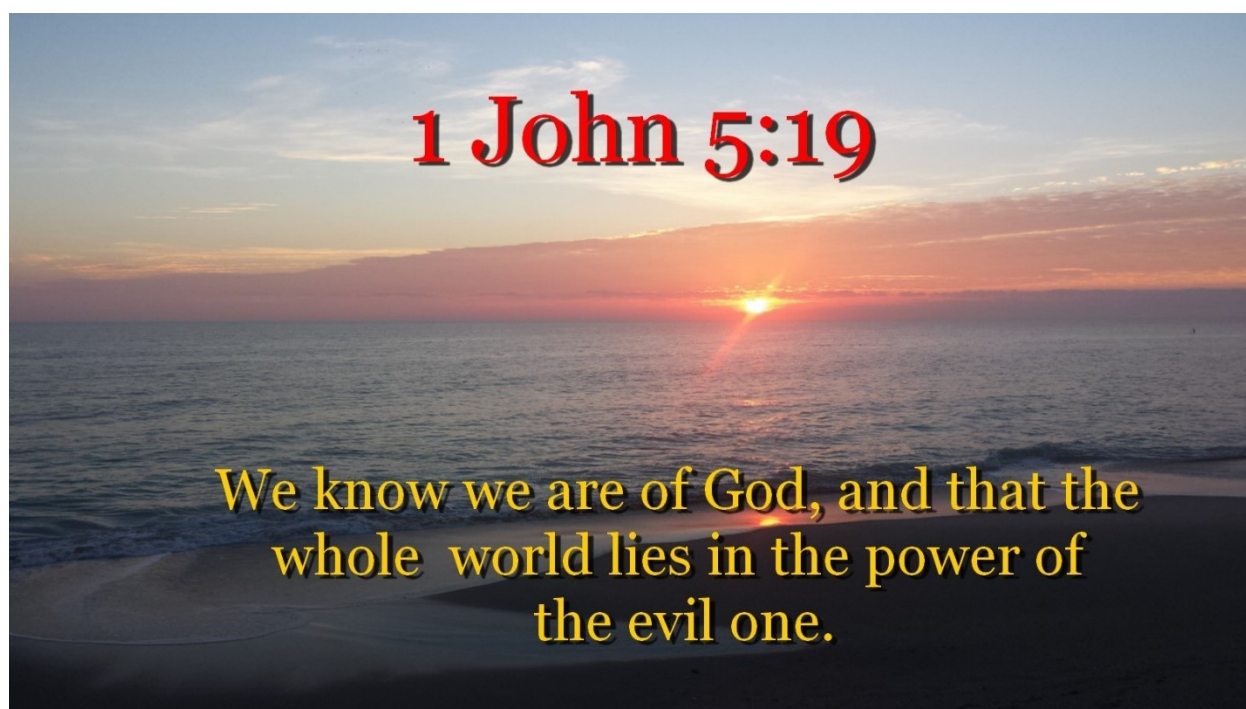
Today, we know that no one born of God sins. God also promised to keep us, so that the evil one does not touch us today. Will you enjoy today in the safekeeping of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**



## Day One Hundred Two

### The Evil One



If God is truly in control of all things, because He is God Almighty, why are people so evil and the whole world filled with death and destruction? Writing under the inspiration of God, John revealed that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. When Adam sinned, evil entered the perfect creation of God. The evil one also established his domain of darkness and sin on the earth. God gave man a choice about sinning, and man chose to sin.

Sin brings death and destruction. God brings salvation, love and hope for all eternity. Only Jesus provides salvation for everyone who accepts the free gift of eternal life from Him. Even so, believers still sin and need continual cleansing from the blood of Jesus.

As believers, we have overcome the world by our faith in God. Because we have been born of the seed of God, our new creature cannot sin and we no longer live in the domain of darkness. God transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, Jesus. As we continue to live in the world, the evil one cannot touch us, but he exercises power over the entire world. Blame sinful humans and the evil one and his minions for all the sin, death and destruction in this world. As believers, we live in the confidence of God's love and protection from the evil one.

### ***The Whole World***

1. **The Evil One**. John proclaimed that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
2. **Touch**. The evil one cannot touch believers.
3. **Children of God**. Because we are born of God, we are children of God and protected by God through the blood of Jesus.
4. **Chosen**. As the children of God, we are not part of the world, because God chose us out of the world.
5. **Evil Power**. The evil one exercises supernatural power over the whole world, and tempts the small and the great to sin against God.
6. **The World**. Living joyfully in the family of God means the evil one does not touch us, because we are children of God and part of the family of God.
7. **Overcomers**. We rejoice today because we are of God, and we abide in the loving power of Jesus Christ. Although the entire world lies in the power of the evil one, all believers belong to God and no longer are of the world.

**Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more because we are of God.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because the power of God overcomes the power of the evil one.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we testify that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one; yet, we are not of the world any longer.**

**Application for Today**

Today, we see the entire world held in the power of the evil one. Yet, we know that we are of God. Will you enjoy today knowing you are of God?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day One Hundred Three

## True God



1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

I recall learning Algebra for the first time. I was trying to understand what a variable was and how it worked in an equation. My friend was very good in math and so I asked my friend for help to learn what a variable was. My friend told me that the variable could be any number. That simple statement created total mental frustration in my mind. If the variable could be any number, then I did not understand how I could solve the equation for that variable.

As I pondered some very simple equations with simple variables, I discovered I did not think like my friend. I found that the variable must be a particular number or numbers, not just any number. I had to find the

particular number that satisfied the other parts of the equation. Not all numbers would make the equation work. So, instead of having to look for any number, I was now looking for a particular number that solved the equation for the single variable. In other words, what number was “x”? Once I understood that basic truth about a particular number, I found basic algebra to be not so difficult.

John told us that in our spiritual lives, we know that the Son of God has come and given us spiritual understanding. With that gift of spiritual understanding, we know God the Father, Who is true, and His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Jesus Christ is God just like the Father is God.

### ***Eternal Life***

1. **Come**. How can we understand God? Because Jesus Christ has come, He has given us understanding so that we may know God the Father, Who is true.

2. **Understanding**. The Son of God came for many reasons, but John revealed that Jesus came to give us understanding. Using that gift of understanding, we know Him Who is true.

3. **In Him**. John also revealed that we are in Him Who Is True (a Title for God the Father). God loves to reveal Himself to us in many ways, because He has many things to reveal about Himself. In this case, we know Him Who Is True because Jesus gave us understanding about Him Who Is True.

4. **True**. Truth characterizes everything about God. Jesus declared Himself to be the truth, just like the Father declared He is true and cannot lie.

5. **True God**. We have understanding to know the Him Who Is True. John revealed that many anti-Christ's have come into the world and deceived many people. In contrast to the evil one working his ways in the world, spreading lies and deceptions, believers know Him Who Is True, the true God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

6. **Eternal Life**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we know God, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom He has sent, which is eternal life. We have eternal life because we are in Him Who Is True. Together, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are the true God, three Divine Persons, united as one eternal God.

7. **Gift**. We rejoice today because Jesus gave us understanding about Him Who Is True. Because of that free gift of understanding, we know God, Who is the truth and Who abides in us and we in Him. In God, we have the truth and eternal life.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more because we understand Him Who Is True.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because Him Who Is True gave us understanding and eternal life.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we encourage people to know Him Who Is True and Jesus Christ His Son.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we see the entire world held in the power of the evil one. Even so, we have received the gift of understanding from Jesus that we are in Him

Who Is True. Will you rejoice today in the gift of understanding that we are in Him Who is True?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# **Day One Hundred Four**

## **Guard Yourself**



How to conclude a letter written by God? John finished with a warning to the little children of God. He commanded them to guard themselves from the idols. Notice that John emphasized personal responsibility once again.

John considered his audience to be his little children, as well as the children of God. John loved these children and expressed a genuine concern for their welfare. The last command to them was to guard themselves. He had just emphasized that the evil one could not touch them, but the whole world lay in the power of the evil one.

John provided a warning to guard themselves from idols. Notice that all the believers must guard themselves, indicating that we must not rely upon others to keep us away from idols, but we must be sure that we keep away from all idols. We do not lock up the idols, but we guard ourselves from idols. With that warning, John concluded his first epistle.

### ***Idols***

1. **Warning**. John concluded His first epistle with a warning.
2. **Dangers**. The dangers of idols pose a problem for young believers both then and now.
3. **Between**. Idolatry means we place something between ourselves and God and worship it.
4. **Idols**. Idols cause us to focus upon them, instead of God. When we give worship to some created thing, rather than the Creator, we know we have fallen into idolatry.
5. **Guard**. Notice the word "guard." It means to keep, or, as here, to stay away from. John emphasized totality here. Do not have even one small idol.
6. **Command**. Living joyfully in the family of God means that we obey God's command to guard ourselves from idols.
7. **Power of God**. We rejoice today because we can leave idols behind, by the power of God working in our lives. We can also keep them out of our lives by guarding ourselves against them. Never open the door even a crack to an idol. We live worshipping the Creator, God, alone; we must never worship idols.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We enjoy God more when we guard ourselves from idols.**
- **We enjoy the family of God because we are the little children of God.**
- **We strengthen our joy as we join together in keeping all of the family of God from idols.**

**Application for Today**

Today, God commanded us to keep ourselves from idols. Will you rejoice today in keeping yourself from idols?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## **Conclusion**

Living joyfully in the family of God means that we walk in the light with Jesus, and know that we have joyful fellowship with other believers and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. As members of the family of God, we have been born of the seed of God and so cannot sin. We are called the children of God, and so we are. God has given us an anointing that teaches us all things. We have so many reasons to be joyful each day.

We must test the spirits, because many anti-Christ's have gone out into the world. Our faith overcomes the world, and enables us to love God whom we have not seen and provide for the needs of our brothers which we have seen. God is truth and everyone born of God loves the truth and practices the truth. We live joyful lives knowing that God has made us all victors in Christ.

Finally, we know that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one, but God keeps us safe in Him. He abides in us and we in Him. Even so, we must guard ourselves from idols. For all eternity we live joyfully before God, who loves us and keeps us and abides in us. Will you live joyfully in the family of God today?

**HALLELUJAH !**