

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 5/11-12/2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1 JOHN 3:24 – 4:11

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7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:

WE WILL CONTINUE IN CHAPTER THREE, VERSE 24 OF THE EPISTLE OF FIRST JOHN!

Type in the <https://> for the meeting you want to attend:

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/817880051> for **Monday night 7pm** meeting # **817880051**; hit join, then when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

7 AM TUESDAY MORNING MEETINGS:

(<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/444504400> for **Tuesday morn 7am** meeting # **444504400**; hit join, when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

FOR PHONE: (please do not use more than one device at a time, such as your computer and your phone, as the feedback between the two devices causes echoing noises, which are disturbing.)

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7 pm Mon Meeting ID: 817 880 051 7 am Tues Meeting ID: 444504400

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OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1 JOHN 3:24 – 4:11

The Spirit of Truth & the Spirit of Error - 1Jn 3:24 – 4:6
Knowing God Through Love - vs. 7-11

NO LONGER A SLAVE TO SIN – Bethel Music; Jonathan David
& Melissa Helser (4:08)

*You unravel me, with a melody, You surround me with a song. Of deliverance,
from my enemies, till all my fears have gone.*

*I'm no longer a slave to fear. I am a child of God. I'm no longer a slave to fear. I
am a child of God.*

*From my mother's womb, You have chosen me. Love has called my name. I've been
born again, into a family, Your blood flows through my veins.*

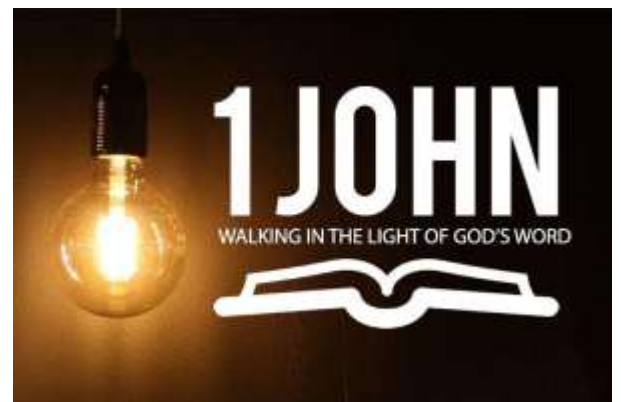
I'm no longer a slave to fear. I am a child of God. (4X); Whoa, whoa (4X)

*You split the sea so I could walk right through it. My fears were drowned in perfect
love. You rescued me so I could stand and say, I am a child of God.*

*You split the sea so I could walk right through it. You drowned my fears in perfect
love. You rescued me so I could stand and say, I am a child of God. I am a child of
God. Yes, I am a child of God. Yes, I am a child of God.*

THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

- FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD
- First John has been called the “Holy of Holies” of the New Testament. It takes the believer, the child of God, across the threshold into the fellowship of our Father’s house!
- A comparison or division of First John has been made that the Book of Romans deals with how we come out of the house of bondage; Ephesians is how we enter



the banquet house; Hebrews is how we approach the throne of grace, but I John is how we approach His Divine Presence!

- God has put a desire for relationship in every one of us, a desire He intended to be met with relationships with other people, but most of all, to be met by a relationship with Him.
- In this remarkable letter, John tells us the truth about relationships - and shows us how to have relationships that are real, for both now and eternity. **The purpose of the Epistle is to bring you into relationship with God.**
- It is the “family” epistle! It’s not addressed to any person, city or church. The church is a body of believers in the position where we are blessed, having been given that position when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Believing on Christ brings us into the family of God.
- Written around 90 A.D. John was the last living apostle, who at that time was the apostle who hadn’t been martyred for Christ. John was a living eyewitness!
- The heresy of Gnosticism was gaining a foothold in the Church when John wrote this letter. The Gnostics believed that all material was evil and therefore that Jesus was not in a living body like ours but was a phantom when He lived on the Earth and didn't have a body of flesh.
- John sought to correct the heresy by emphasizing the deity of Jesus Christ in his writings as one who was with Jesus, walking with Him and observing Him during His public ministry. We will see this testimony of the living Christ in this epistle.
- Phrases and Words frequently used in 1 John: *he who* – 30x; *we know* – 16x; *if we* – 10x; *by this we know* – 8x, *if we say* – 3x
- Words: *God* - 57x; *know (known)* – 37x; *love* – 36x; *sin/s/ed/ing* - 27x; *Son of God* – 23x; *if* – 21x; *commandment* – 14x; *life* – 13x; *have written* – 13 x; *Jesus* – 11x; *believe* – 10x; *Holy Spirit* – 7x; *light* – 5x.

1 JOHN 3:4 – 23

Review:

The Word of Life: 1Jn 1:1-3

Walking in the Light: 1Jn 1:4-10

Christ Our Advocate: 1Jn 2:1-6

The New Commandment: 1Jn 2:7-14

Do Not Love the World: 1Jn 2:15-17

Warning Concerning Antichrists: 1Jn 2:18-19

Deceptions of the Last Hour: 1Jn 2:20-23

Let Truth Abide in You - 1Jn 2:24-27

The Children of God – What Manner of Love - 1Jn 2:28-29 – 3:1-3

Sin and the Child of God - 1Jn 3:4 – 3:9

The Imperative of Love - 1Jn 3:10 - 15

The Outworking of Love - 1Jn 3:16 – 23

1Jn 3:23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe (today) on the name of His Son Jesus (God is Salvation) Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

The Spirit of Truth & the Spirit of Error - 1Jn 3:24 – 4:6

1Jn 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments (Joh 14:23) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

abides in Him, and He in him. (Joh 14:21) He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (Joh 17:21) that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

And by this we know (experimentally) that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. (Rom 8:9) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

- The Holy Spirit verifies these things to our hearts if we have not grieved Him. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we do not do His will.
- In the following chapter, the apostle pursues the subject suggested here in chapter 4, and shows that we should examine ourselves closely, to see whether the "Spirit" to which we trust, as furnishing evidence of reverence, is truly the Spirit of God, or is a spirit of delusion.
- Every good man feels it, and knows he is of God by the Spirit which God has given him.

Test the Spirits

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe (stop believing) every spirit, (Jer 29:8) For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed.

but test (check by an unchanging standard) the spirits (put them to the acid test of truth), whether they are of God; (1Th 5:19) Test all things; hold fast what is

good. (**Rev 2:2**) "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

because many false prophets (1Ti 4:1-2) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, [2] speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

have gone out into the world. (Mat 24:5) For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. (**Mat 7:15-16a**) "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. [16] You will know them by their fruits.

- "**Beloved**" means "those who are loved divinely in God." Every one of the New Testament writers warned the believers, not just pastors, about false prophets and teachers. Here we're told not to believe, or to stop believing every spirit, of which there were and are many who have gone into the world, and to test the spirits to see whether they are of God or not

1Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses (continually) **that Jesus Christ (Messiah) has come in the flesh** (Jesus Christ, virgin born, was preexistent) **is of God, (Joh 1:1, 14)** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (1Co 12:3) Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. (2Jn 1:7) For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

1Jn 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. (**2Th 2:3-7**) *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, [4] who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. [5] Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? [6] And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. [7] For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. (1Jn 2:18-19, 22) Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming,*

even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. [19] They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. [22] Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

- Here is the first test, defense of truth, of a spirit is what is being taught about Jesus Christ – His divinity, coming on earth in bodily form – what is being taught about Him?
- Today, some groups deny that Jesus is really God (such as the Jehovah's Witnesses (Jesus is Archangel), Mormons (Jesus is Lucifer's brother), and Muslims (Jesus is only a prophet). They twist, take away, diminish Christ.
- The way to discern a false prophet is to see what the prophet says about Jesus Christ. If he denies the deity of Jesus, then he isn't of God.
- Any spirit who denies that Jesus is the Messiah, and denies that He is come in the flesh, is not of God. ***“Hereby you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:”***

1Jn 4:4 You are (emphatic) of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (and never indwelling a Christian!).

(Mat 16:23) But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

(Joh 14:30) I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. (Joh 16:11) of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (Joh 17:15) I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (Rom 16:20) And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

- This is the second test. The Holy Spirit's influence and revelation to every believer. You are under the influence of the Divine Spirit, and have overcome them - your testimony, proceeding from the Spirit of Christ, has invalidated theirs which has proceeded from the influence of Satan; for greater is the Holy Spirit which is in you, than the spirit which is in the world.
- Believers are overcomers now! Since the Day of Pentecost all believers have been filled with the Holy Spirit. There really is no excuse for you to be taken in today by a false teacher, a false prophet, or a false teaching. We need to go to God and ask that the Holy Spirit lead us and teach us. If you are in fellowship with Him, the Spirit of God is going to make the issue clear to you.

1Jn 4:5 *They (false teachers) are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world,*

(Joh 3:31) He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. (Joh 8:23) And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

and the world hears them. *(Joh 15:19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (Joh 17:14) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

1Jn 4:6 *We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1Th 2:13) For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. (Joh 8:47) He who is of God hears God's words; therefore, you do not hear, because you are not of God." (Joh 18:37) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (Joh 14:17) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

- The third test of the spirit is it of the truth, in total agreement to the Apostles' doctrine and to the Word of God?
- The **"truth"** referred to here is His Word! *(Joh 17:17) Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.* The **"deception"** is Satan's great deception concerning the Person of Jesus Christ *(2Th 2:9-12) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, [10] and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. [11] And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, [12] that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
- Does the spirit being considered really have the love of God?
- Are the proponents of this spirit walking in the love of God? Are their lives manifesting the love of God? Test the spirits.

Knowing God Through Love vs. 7-11

1Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love (every time *love* is used in this epistle, it is *agapao/agape* in the original language) **one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.** (1Jn 3:10, 11, 23) *In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. [11] For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, [23] And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. (1Jn 2:29) If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. (1Th 4:9) But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.*

- After the warning against the spirit of error and false teachers, we're referred back to the subject of love, a topic for which more is said than any other.
- True love (*agape*) is of God. Everyone who loves is born of God, believers (beloved) let us love one another!
- We need to be reminded in the last days that iniquity, lawlessness will abound, so our *agape* love may grow cold. (**Mat 24:12**) *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

1Jn 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God is love! His love is not based on our worthiness: (**Deu 7:7-8**) *The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; [8] but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

God's love is giving (**Jer 31:3**) *The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore, with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (Joh 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

God's love is unfailing (**1Co 13:8**) *Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.*

- The word "love" is *agape*, the spiritual love we cannot have apart from God (**1 Cor. 13**).

- This is another test whether or not you are a child of God. Because God is love, if anyone does not love other believers, that person does not know God!

1Jn 4:9 *In this the love of God was manifested toward us* (not just a static love, but active *agape* love), **that God has sent (Rom 5:8)** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live (eternally!) **through Him.** (John 3:16) *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- Whenever the love of God is described that tells of His manifesting His reconciling love toward us, we are always taken to the cross! That's the time and place we see this total, awesome, sacrifice of God's only Son, Jesus Christ given for us that we and the whole world might live and have eternal life!

1Jn 4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us* (Tit 3:5) *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

and sent His Son to be the propitiation (mercy seat) **for our sins.** (1Jn 2:2) *And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. (Rom 3:21-26) But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, [22] even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, [26] to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

- ***In this is love, not that we loved God***—How do we know that God loves us? By healing my body? By giving me what I want? He sent His Son into the world to be the propitiation! Total self-sacrificial love, nothing else even could come close what God has done for us!

- We didn't love Him first. God didn't give His Son for us because we were attractive, or because we were good, or because we promised to do something.
- God loved us “while we were yet sinners.” We need to recognize that you and I today are sinners and that... *(Rom 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* God did it at that time, and God loved us at that time.
- He has made a way for us, if we will accept it. *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Joh 14:6).*
- You either come His way, or you don't come at all!

1Jn 4:11 Beloved, if (since) **God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** *(Mat 18:33) Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' (Joh 13:34) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

- The Lord Jesus could say even on the Cross, “... *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do ...*” *(Luk 23:34)*. The first martyr, Stephen, said pretty much the same. Can you forgive like that today? Are you able to forgive those who have hurt you and harmed you and yet profess to be children of God? And if they cannot return your love, there is some question whether they are children of God or not. This is the real test, the acid test, and it hurts—does it not? John gives us the bedrock of it all: Do you love God? And do you love other believers?

SUMMARY- Benefits/Application:

The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error - 1Jn 3:24 – 4:6

- **“By this we know”** through and by the Holy Spirit given to us, that God abides in us, who keep His commandments and abide in Him!
- **Test the Spirits - We move from pure love and practical love in chapter 3 to perfect, mature love, requiring that we test the spirits in order that we not fall prey to false teaching.**
- **We’re to test the teaching to see if it affirms both the deity and the humanity of Christ. If it does, it is of the spirit of truth and of God. Cults will always diminish or eliminate the deity of Christ.**
- **We’re given hope as His children that we overcome those who are not of the spirit of God because greater is He that is in you than he (Satan) that is in the world.**

- Those who truly know God know His Word. Those who don't know God don't listen to the Word.
- We're told here all we need to know to identify the cultists. If a person is drawn close to God, if he embraces both the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, if he encourages the reading of the Scriptures, he is of the Spirit of Truth. If he diminishes any of these four things, he is of the spirit of error

Self-examination Questions:

- How sensitive am I to the discerning, the testing of every spirit? To recognize and reject any spirit that diminishes the divinity or humanity of Jesus Christ? And does not encourage the reading and understanding of His Holy Word?

Knowing God Through Love - vs. 7-11

- Although we need to identify and resist false teaching, we must also be those who love, for God is love!
- Herein is love, not that we love God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins! He pulls us into His kingdom by the provision of the cross on Calvary! He had done it all!
- If God so loved us and keeps on loving us, we have no other recourse than to forgive any who come against us, remembering His great forgiveness of our own sin.

Self-examination Questions:

- How much am I truly loving others? Are my prayers always asking for His enablement and ability to love others?

Suggestions for the Coming Week:

To Maximize Your growth by the study of His Word and drawing yourself closer to Him.

Be a Berean! Act 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

- **Read the entire Epistle of 1 John each day** (takes 15 min to read the 105 verses in the 5 chapters)
- **Study the use of the words “The Son of God), ” – such a key phrase, used 9 times in this epistle (It's used 34 times in the Bible); Note its**

importance and the context in which it's used. What are the nine "this's" that we know?

1Jn 2:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1Jn 2:5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

1Jn 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1Jn 3:19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

1Jn 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

1Jn 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1Jn 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

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