



# Abiding Love

in the Book of 1 John

We live in trying times. Not to be trite, but it is true. Messages from the world conflict regularly with those from God. It is frustrating and overwhelming at times: how do we walk as Christians in a world which is in a constant state of flux – especially where the definition of *love* is concerned.

In 1 John, the “disciple whom Jesus loved” cuts straight to the point. Many scholars believe this letter was written to believers whom John presumed had already read his Gospel account. In this letter to the church as it faced Gnostic infiltrators, John issues clear points on what it is to abide and love... how to make God your life, rather than the world. Essentially, at the core of *abiding love* is the instruction of ‘here is how you not sin...’ and what to do if you have.

*Abiding love* is a call to make God your life, to abide with Him and He in you. It is a message echoed straight out of John 15-17... passages I encourage you to add to your morning devo and soak up as you work through this study.

A devotion series will be posted on the website’s blog as well as social media every Tuesday and Thursday for the month of February (2024). I have inserted an asterisk (\*) on days which will have these corresponding devos. We could spend months unfolding the deep doctrines in 1 John’s five short chapters, however, we will skim this time, asking the question as we go: *how do we attain an abiding love?*

The study pages which follow are brief and open-ended, encouraging you to take the lead in your Scripture dive with only a few questions or thought-provokers thrown in now-and-again. If you have never done one of my studies, the instructions follow this intro. Also, if you want to notate Scripture itself but are nervous about writing in your Bible, I have also included a split-page copy of the ESV version of 1 John at the end of the study pages. Scribble and notate all over them to-your-heart’s content!

As always, if you have any questions about this study, please reach out to me! Also, tag us in any social media posts so we can see how your study is coming! Like, comment, and sharing gets the word out!

May God guide and bless your time in His Word♥

Amanda

amanda@faithandhomepublishing.com

[www.faithandhomepublishing.com](http://www.faithandhomepublishing.com)

Pinterest @faithandhome

Facebook @faithful.homeschool

## How to use this study (and other intro info!)

I call my Bible study method “S.W.A.P.”. It was developed in the two-thousand-teens for a Thanksgiving Bible Study I wrote on *How to be Thankful*. This method was inspired by other acronym-based study guides but mine differs in that I have a passion to inspire people to dig a bit deeper into the timeless text...

A *good* Bible study should open our eyes to what is *really there*. Not what we *want* to find there or as a result of our own opinion, bias or emotion. Rather, we *swap* what we have always assumed we know or take for granted in God’s Word for what God’s Word *actually says*. As a result, we are transformed by Truth. This Truth is at the very heart of how a *good* Bible study is critical to growing and becoming more like Christ.

The worksheets provided for you spell our acronym out and provide space for recording what you are discovering. However, this method is versatile and can be applied to any scripture you are studying whether it be one simple passage or an entire book of the Bible. Simply grab a piece of paper, notebook or journal and follow the S.W.A.P prompts as you work through a passage.

So what does SWAP stand for/mean?.....

### Simply Put, The SWAP method works like this:

Scripture – what passage of scripture is being studied

What *exactly* is being said

After you have explored what exactly is being said, you can also consider

**W**hat stands out to you and **W**hy

(this section is NOT personal application, it is fact-based, looking at the words on the page, what they say, what they mean... we will unpack this more)

Apply – NOW you can make it personal! After we have considered the scripture in its context, we can begin to see how it applies to us now and internalize what has just been studied

Pray – to plant God’s message for you deep inside. Pray *about* it and pray *the scripture*.

***Don’t be intimidated.*** It sounds much more complicated than it is. It is actually a summed-up simplified version of Inductive Bible study, seeking to investigate and draw out the core of each passage so we can better absorb what is actually said. I do strongly recommend trying hard to avoid bringing in what we *want* a passage to say or what we *think* it says or how it makes us *feel* (this is how mis-interpretation occurs). Instead we look at *what is there* (at times referring to surrounding text and the whole of scripture for clarity) and allow the Holy Spirit to speak truth to us as we explore.

## Need a bigger challenge?

If you feel like the basic outline for SWAP above *isn’t* challenging enough, or, perhaps you have some extra time to study and want more to sink your teeth into, then read on!

#1 - Try considering the following under “W” more deeply:

**Who** is speaking and **Who** are they speaking to (this is so important to understanding context)

Also, alongside **What** *exactly* is being said you can consider, **Why** is the author saying it (clues are usually found in surrounding Scripture or you can reference a good study Bible, commentary and even sites like BibleHub.com or BlueLetterBible.com)

#2 - Do a word study:

Look up words you don't understand, or that seem to stand-out, in a dictionary or, better still, in a concordance. Blue Letter and Bible Hub referenced above are excellent resources for word studies since they have the option to view the passages in their original language (Greek for the NT) saving a lot of guesswork (for example, did you know there are at least FOUR different words for “love” in the original Greek/Latin our New Testament was written in and that each one carries a much different intended meaning?)

### **Still, how do I make sense of it all??**

NO MATTER YOUR LEVEL OF STUDY, sometimes words and understanding just jump off the page... Other times, we can find ourselves stumped trying to really SEE what God is trying to say through a given passage. If you would like even more help in that area, consider these ideas to assist in unlocking deeper comprehension:

Look for transition and condition words like:

but	if
however	so that
and	therefore

Consider quantities like “ALL” or “none” and others.

Watch for...

- action words
- commands or absolutes... especially when they come with contingencies.
- repetition (God must really want you to notice something if he is repeating it directly or indirectly through a theme or idea)
- themes (overall in a paragraph or section)
- lists

Cross Reference passages using the footnotes in your Bible to see what other passages carry the same message. Looking up the same passage in other translations can help as well (biblehub.com is a GREAT resource for this, you can line up multiple translations of one verse all at the same time.)

## Are you longing for an Example of how to do this S.W.A.P. thing?

Here is some idea of what one Bible Study session might look like:

- 📖 **S** – Write out a verse from the day’s reading which seems to encompass the theme of the passage. If you aren’t sure, write out one that stands out to you.
- 📖 **W** - Once you are done with writing out the passage in whole or in part, you can then answer the “W” questions. First look at what *exactly* it says, reading a few verses before and after if you need more clarity. Consider the various other tips I have included above for the **W** section, looking for repetition, transition words and other statements. Jot down what you see and learn.
  - **W** should consume the bulk of your study time. Once you feel you have exhausted all of the **W** options, you can begin transitioning to **Application** by considering what you have learned.
- 📖 **A** - After reading/writing/considering... you can write out an application. This should be considered *in light of* what you learned and what the Character of God/Jesus is as reflected by the passage. It may be an action you feel convicted to take, or an encouragement and inspiration you found as you studied. Yes, you can bring emotion in here if you want.... *But* be sure any emotional response is anchored in the truths you have just studied and not in personal desires you may want to force upon the passage. Whatever the Text prompts you to react on is good to log under “Application”. **CAUTION:** at times it may be tempting to only see these lessons as they pertain to someone else in your life you think it applies to... but **FIRST YOU** have to *internalize it for yourself*, lest you become a hypocrite or log-in-eye type! God *will* open the door for you to share truth with others *as long as* you are humbly daily striving to walk His truths out yourself. (Interestingly; internalizing first can grow you in grace for others you know are needing the message as well!)
- 📖 **P** - Finally, there is a line for you to write a prayer out if you would like. Writing out prayers can be encouraging to reflect on when you look back later. You will be readily able to see how God has worked in your heart and life. It is good to pray the scripture as well. For example, Psalm 119:2 says...

*Blessed are those who keep his testimonies who seek him with their whole heart.*

A prayer which could be written with this passage might go something like this:

*Lord, I thank you for your Word today. Please help me to keep your testimonies,  
to seek you with my whole heart, not just part of it,  
that I might feel the blessing of your presence as a result.  
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

## Don’t Complicate the Process!

All this information may be a bit overwhelming at the moment. Please don’t let it overwhelm you. I find it helpful to give A LOT of information in hopes I might cover any concerns or questions (I also get a bit over-enthusiastic when it comes to sharing Bible Study approaches!!) In the end, however, it really is meant to be simple... to be taken at whatever pace you feel ready for.

The outline for each day is merely a guideline to help you in a direction. If you are only comfortable with one line answers to each prompt... that is OK! If you find you need extra notebook paper for a ton more notes, that is fine too! Some days you may not be able to finish... don't worry. Simply pick up where you left off when you get to it next. Nobody is timing you or grading your progress. This study is meant to prompt you into *valuable* and deeper study and prayer time so that each day can feel fuller of the Hope and Peace God offers us. Doing this study IS attainable, no matter how slow or busy we are! Just do what you can, taking each next step!

## A final note...

At the end of each lesson in any study you do, remember to ask yourself:

- Has this study broadened a certain perspective on this topic?
- Have you found new ways to walk out the topic in your own life as a result?
- In general, how has God used this study to speak to you on specific areas of your own life?
- How has this study grown you?
- **But most importantly:** What have I learned about God in this section of study? He is revealing Himself to us in so many ways. Diving into His Word is meant to be for the purpose of knowing Him better. As we know Him better, we understand all the life applications He has for us even more.

Every time we complete a study of God's Word it is so important to ask the above questions as a way to reflect on what we have learned and prepare to walk it out daily. James wrote:

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

*James 1:22-25 (ESV)*

Ready to get started?

## A quick note on words...

Words matter. What words *really* mean, matters even more. A word like *love*, which is grossly misrepresented in modern culture, must be defined when facing a book of the Bible which uses it no less than 51 times!

In our modern English vernacular, we often take the word *love* for granted. "I love my sister" or "I love my friend" or "I love my spouse" or "I love this ice-cream"... all speak of different types of love which we often blanket with those 4 simple letters. However, in Biblical times, love wasn't quite so static. Consider these Greek roots:

### **Phileō**

This love is called out of one's heart by qualities in another. It is a companionable love and speaks of affection, fondness, or liking. It responds to kindness, appreciation, or love and involves giving as well as receiving; *but* when it is greatly strained, it can collapse in a crisis.

### **Storgē**

This love has its basis in one's own nature as a natural affection or obligation between kinfolk. It is a natural movement of the soul for husband, wife, child or dog. It is a quiet, abiding feeling within a man that rests on something close to him and that he feels good about. It can have the prefix of "a" which then translates to unloving or it can be paired with Philos to indicate devotion.

### **Eros**

This love is erotic or sexual love, it is a love of passion, an overmastering passion that seizes and absorbs itself into the mind. It is a love that is an emotional involvement based on body chemistry. The basic idea of this love is self-satisfaction. Though Eros is directed towards another, it actually has self in mind. For example: "I love you because you make me happy." The foundation of this type of love is some characteristic in the other person which pleases you. If the characteristic would cease to exist, the reason for the love would be gone, the result being, "I don't love you anymore." Eros looks for what it can receive. If it does give, it gives in order to receive. If it fails to get what it wants or expects, bitterness or resentment could develop.

### **Agapē or Agapaō**

It is the noblest word for love in the Greek language and it **keeps on loving even when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable, and unworthy**. It continues even despite disappointment and rejection and desires only the good of the one loved. This love is called out of one's heart by the preciousness of the object loved. It has the idea of prizing and it is not kindled by the merit or worth of its object, but it originates in its own God-given nature. *God is love*. It delights in giving. *It is unconditional*.

*(Adapted from Precept Ministries International, you can read more by visiting:*

<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/different-types-of-love-from-the-bible-a-christian-study/#ixzz5dUidRzKt>)

So, of all these types of love, do you want to guess which one is at the heart John's message in this study? Yup, Agape. As a matter of fact, Agape love is the love used most often in the New Testament. It isn't a flighty, emotional kind of love... it is a dedicated, no-matter-what kind of love!

As you study, don't take the commands to *love* lightly. It isn't an emotional issue – it is a devotional one!

Let's dive in!!



**Scripture passage 1 John 1:1-4**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



Scripture passage **1 John 1:5-10\***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*





**Scripture passage 1 John 2:1-6\***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 2:7-11**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary) (Cross-reference 4:7)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 2:12-14**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What exactly** is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary) (an interesting play on words in this section worth looking into if you have time...)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Apply...** how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Pray:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 2:15-17\***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 2:18-25**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 2:26-27**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 2:28-29**

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

**W**hat exactly is being said? Time to dig in on your "W's"! (use back of page if necessary)

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

**P**ray:

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 3:1-3\***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*





# *What are you practicing?*

Scripture passage **1 John 3:4-10\***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary) (Notice how many times “practice” is repeated in this section! A great word study or compare-and-contrast segment!)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 3:11-15**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



Scripture passage 1 John 3:16-18\*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



# *How do we know we are of the truth?*

Scripture passage **1 John 3:19-24**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 4:1-6\***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary) (How do you test spirits? A word and cross reference study would be helpful with this section)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 4:7-12**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Pray:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



## *How do we know that we abide?*

Scripture passage 1 John 4:13-21\*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary) (Cross reference John15)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 5:1-5\***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*





**Scripture passage 1 John 5:6-12**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 5:13-15**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**W**hat *exactly* is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary) (see Hebrews 10:19-25)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A**pply... how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**P**ray: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



**Scripture passage 1 John 5:16-21**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What exactly** is being said? Time to dig in on your “W’s”! (use back of page if necessary) (see Hebrews 10:26-27)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Apply...** how can this message encourage (or transform) your walk with Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Pray:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

*Share what you have learned with others, not only is this another way to make the message stick with you...*



---

## Conclusion

Abiding in love. A final note to remember: Biblical love is not self-centered, it is others focused and the example comes from God because *God is love* and we are called, day-by-day, to become more like Him. With true Biblically based love, we give up our own desires for the good of others and the glory of God. Abiding in God allows this kind of agape to flow more freely, between us and Him, Him and us, us and others.

Has this study broadened your perspective on this topic? Have you found new ways to walk out love in your own life as a result? In general, how has God used this study to speak to you on specific areas of your own life? How has this study grown you? Every time we complete a study of God's Word it is so important to ask these questions as a way to reflect on what we have learned and prepare to walk it out daily. James wrote:

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

*James 1:22-25 (ESV)*

I hope and pray this study has, indeed, been transformative and grown your understanding of true Biblical love. Below is space for you to jot down your reflections. I pray, as you move forward, you carry the truths you have learned with you... that they would guide you in thought, word and deed ♥

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# 1 John

**1:**<sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—<sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**2:**<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>3</sup>And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup>Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.

By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup>whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. <sup>8</sup>At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup>Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. <sup>10</sup>Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. <sup>11</sup>But whoever 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.

<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, little children,  
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

<sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,  
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children,  
because you know the Father.

<sup>14</sup> I write to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,  
because you are strong,  
and the word of God abides in you,  
and you have overcome the evil one.

<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the

world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

<sup>18</sup>Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup>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 it might become plain that they all are not of us. <sup>20</sup>But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. <sup>21</sup>I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. <sup>22</sup>Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup>No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup>Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup>And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

<sup>26</sup>I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. <sup>27</sup>But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

<sup>28</sup>And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. <sup>29</sup>If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

**3:**<sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved,

we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup>Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup>No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup>By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

<sup>11</sup>For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <sup>12</sup>We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup>Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup>Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?



<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

<sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

<sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**4:**<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and

sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**5:**<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the

Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. <sup>9</sup>If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. <sup>10</sup>Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup>And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

<sup>16</sup>If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. <sup>17</sup>All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

<sup>18</sup>We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

<sup>19</sup>We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

<sup>20</sup>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. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup>Little children, keep yourselves from idols.