

## INTRODUCTION

This little book is not really an epistle, but is more like a book of instruction. Here we see eternal life—which was Christ—was on the scene. During the long history of mankind there were some good men but all who were seen were of the old creation. Now at last there is another man who is on the scene—Jesus Christ. There was a new beginning with Him. At the time this book was written wrong doctrine began to creep in among the people of God that Jesus was not a real man. No doubt that had some effect on John's words here because he emphasizes the fact that Jesus was a real man.

This book is very strong on professing what we possess. We want to make it real and not profess more than we possess. This is what John is talking about when he says, "*If we say*" [1Jo.1:8, 8, 10]. Let's make it real in our lives.

There are 3 divisions in 1 John:

God as Light and the Light in Us	1Jo.1:1-2:11
Growth by the Truth Which Manifests the Light	1Jo.2:12-2:27
The Children of God, and the Manifestation by the Fruit They Bear	1Jo.2:28-5:21

## 1 JOHN 1

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*"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life."* [1Jo.1:1]

Jesus Christ was from the beginning. See the stages here:

- They heard,
- they saw,
- they looked upon Him, and
- their hands had handled Him.

Isn't that wonderful? Just think if we heard Him speak, looked at Him, and then touched Him—that would be wonderful!

*"(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you **THAT ETERNAL LIFE**, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)." [1Jo.1:2]*

That eternal life was in a man that they had seen and looked upon! He was the very essence of eternal life and He was right here on the earth. They saw Him and bear witness to us and all that read this; eternal life was here in the world—Christ, the Son of God!

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## SERMON: 1 JOHN 1, 2, & 3 – BY MARY M. BODIE

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*"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." [1Jo.1:3]*

If John says it again—he is not a bit tired of it—he repeats it over and over. He was a true witness of eternal life and lived it out in this world. He links the Father and the Son up together.

*"And these things write we unto you, **THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL.**" [1Jo.1:4]*

The Word was written that we might have joy and that it might be full all the time. We love joy don't we? We can be joyful all the time even when things are not going so good. Joy is different than happiness. Joy is inward and even though there may not be a thing to make us happy, yet the joy is still there. Let's take these things in and be joyful!

*"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." [1Jo.1:5]*

God is never out of the light. In times past God was hidden from man, but now He is not hidden from man; we can see Him in the New Man. We have light and He is not in darkness to us. We have been enlightened!

*"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." [1Jo.1:6]*

This is a test to prove if our profession shows equal to our possession.

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." [1Jo.1:7]*

Even if we haven't been walking right in His Sight, and have failed Him, yet if we turn to Him and believe this we will have fellowship again in the light.

*"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." [1Jo.1:8]*

Some folks may say they haven't sinned for 6 months or 6 years, but that is wrong doctrine. We cannot say that, while we are in a body of humiliation, we have no sin. We still have sin in our flesh; it hasn't been taken out root and branch. All we must do is judge it and step on it. The flesh wouldn't be so bad if it didn't have sin in it. Sin doesn't make God hate us, because the love of Christ cleanses us from all sin and causes us to walk in the light. We are out of the old man—Adam.

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." [1Jo.1:9-10]*

Isn't that good news?

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1 JOHN 2
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*"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." [1Jo.2:1]*

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The phrase "*my little children*" is found 8 times in 1 John. We have sin in our flesh but we don't have to sin. Even though the devil is here we can refuse to sin. If we do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ. Christ had no sin in Him, so He is our Lawyer. His Father says, "What is it Son, what do you want?" He has power with His Father.

*"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." [1Jo.2:2-3]*

He atoned for the sin against the Father. We can tell anyone, no matter what place he is in, that his sins have been atoned for by One who is able to do it. We can say, "the Lord has undertaken for you, He has tasted death **for every man**."

*"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." [1Jo.2:4]*

This does not refer to the 10 Commandments, this means keeping the Word of God.

*"But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." [1Jo.2:5]*

Here we see the Word is the commandment. We can keep His Word in our heart and speak it out. When the enemy tempts us, or people annoy or hurt us, a scripture may come to our mind and we know we are keeping the Word.

*"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning." [1Jo.2:6-7]*

If we are in Christ and Christ is in us, shouldn't we walk like Him? Sure we should! And we can! I say again, a New Man was on the scene. There had never been a perfect, holy man until Christ came on the scene and He introduced a New Creation who can live right, talk right, walk right, be right—in right and out right!

*"Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth." [1Jo.2:8]*

We are joined unto the Lord and we are walking in the light!

*"He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now." [1Jo.2:9]*

No man hates his brother who is born of God.

*"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." [1Jo.2:10]*

We don't stumble in the light. If we walk in darkness, we stumble both naturally and spiritually.

*"But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." [1Jo.2:11]*

The nations are trying to join together as a brotherhood, but how can they when they do not love each other? The real brotherhood is The Church of Christ who love one another and are seeking

the good of others. He that loves his brother walks in the light and knows where he is going, because the light opens his eyes.

### WALK IN THE LIGHT

LET US WALK IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD,  
LET US HEED ALL THE TRUTH WE HAVE HEARD;  
'TIS THE GOODNESS OF GOD THAT HAS COME TO ABIDE,  
AND REVEAL WONDROUS THINGS THRU THE WORD.  
TO THE WORLD WE MUST SAY ONE GOOD-BYE,  
TO THE FLESH AND ALL SIN ONE NAY, NAY!  
'NEATH THE SHADE OF THE WINGS  
OF THE CHRIST WE WILL HIDE,  
AND TO HIM SHOUT AN ETERNAL "YEA."

WE WILL SUFFER REPROACH AND ALL LOSS,  
DEAREST FRIENDS WILL REJECT US AND SCORN;  
YES, OUR HEART WILL BE WRUNG WITH DEEP ANGUISH AND GRIEF,  
AND IN SORE DISAPPOINTMENT WE WILL MOURN.  
BUT THE LORD WILL SPEAK PEACE THRU HIS WORD,  
AMPLE STRENGTH WILL HE GIVE US TO STAND,  
AND THE ARM OF JEHOVAH WILL BRING QUICK RELIEF,  
AS WE PRESS ON AND HEED HIS COMMAND.

THRU THE AGES ETERNAL WE'LL PROVE  
ALL THE MARVELS OF INFINITE GRACE,  
AND FOREVER REJOICE THAT WE WALKED IN THE LIGHT  
BY THE SPIRIT, AND QUICKENED OUR PACE.  
IN THE GLORY WE WILL FIND A REWARD,  
WE WILL WALK ON THE EVERGREEN PLANE,  
AND FOREVER HAVE JESUS OUR BRIDEGROOM IN SIGHT,  
AS A CERTAIN AND ETERNAL GAIN.

This is like a family affair—the father is giving his children some good advice and instruction. It is sweet and precious to see how he talks to his little children.

We find the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division in this chapter from Verse 12 through Verse 27, which is growth by the Truth which manifests the light. We grow in the Truth and the Truth manifests all these wonderful instructive things. As we grow in the Truth, this life of Christ is manifested and the light shows us up. When we walk in the light we are shown up to ourselves and others, and God is shown up in us.

*"I write unto you, [LITTLE CHILDREN](#), because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake." [1Jo.2:12]*

"*Little children*" here is a different phrase than the one we read in other passages in this book. Here it refers to all the people of God. When we were first born of God we were all little children, but now, we have grown out of childish ways. We all had our sins forgiven and we are in the domain of our Father. We are not seen as under the moral government of God; but, we are in the Father's house and He is dealing with us. John is talking of the Father, our dwelling in His house, and the Father is talking to us. When I was first saved, I was thinking all the time of my Father and over and over I said, "God is my Father."

The young men know they are Christians and are going on because they have been tested. God lets His little children, as they go on growing up, begin to know Him and then they are able to stand a test. Every one of us has been carried around at first; but, after we get a little stronger He allows us to have tests. We have to be tested and tried in order to stand the tests. We are not to run away, to come back and fight another day, because we might have to fight harder than we would have the first day. When we stand the test and take it on the chin, we overcome and are ready for another battle. Every time we stand a test—standing loyal and true to God, rejoicing in what He has allowed, and taking it from His hand—we are strengthened wonderfully. Then, we are able to stand a greater test the next time.

*"I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome **THE WICKED ONE**. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father." [1Jo.2:13]*

Overcoming "*the wicked one*" is overcoming the devil, who does not want us to have any victory. The 3 Hebrew children came out of the fiery furnace without a hair being singed. Sometimes we come out of a terrible battle and there is no trace of the fire on us—no one would know we were in a battle. When we overcome, that pleases God.

*"I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, **YOUNG MEN**, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." [1Jo.2:14]*

To know Him yourself from the beginning is to be like Him. When you know someone very well, you become like them. "*Young men*" refers to young women as well—those who are going on to maturity. The "*fathers*" speaks of those mature folk who are going on and who are helping others.

This word **abide** is mentioned approximately 20 times in 1 John. If the Word abides in us, we are going somewhere because that Word is powerful and it is going to take us on.

Isn't this a wonderful eulogy of the young men in this verse? We attain something when we go on with the Lord. The Lord knocks us down (spiritually) for a cause. If He allows something to knock us over, there is a reason for it...because He wants us to come out of it stronger than when we went into it. Young people who are going on have gotten something already.

*"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." [1Jo.2:15]*

How can we be an overcomer if we love the world and the things in the world? We cannot love the world and the Father too. This is "father John" telling us this.

*"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." [1Jo.2:16]*

There is a little reference here to Eve. She looked at the tree and it looked good to her. She was drawn to it by her soul, and then she began to think of how wise she would be if she ate of it. These lusts are in the world today:

- Lust of the flesh—eating and drinking;

- lust of the eyes—clothes, cars, fine houses, and furniture; and
- pride of life—to be big and have a great place in this world.

Notice, none of these things are of the Father. God didn't put the things here that belong to the old creation. Man sought them out and found these things; and, the devil has something that will appeal to each individual. We lose out with the Father if we yield to the flesh. Of course, He won't send His little children to hell, but we would lose out in every way by losing the victory and our reward.

*"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."  
[1Jo.2:17]*

"The world passes away," this is what I say all the time. Let's all learn this so the world will not get a hold of our hearts! The world, all the beautiful things—honors and glory of this world—will pass away. The Word of God is built up in "*he that doeth the will of God.*" It lives in him making him strong and he abides forever

*"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." [1Jo.2:18]*

There are many false teachers in the world. An [antichrist](#) is someone who puts themselves up as God. There will be one mighty being whom the devil will raise up and have control of him. Others have some of the spirit of antichrist—speaking something contrary to the Word of God.

*"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."  
[1Jo.2:19]*

Doctrinally, they had gone out from them. Christendom is full of false teachers who are not true to God. They deny Jesus Christ, His blood, and His death. The Truth is manifest in us and growing up in us.

*"But ye have an [UNCTION FROM THE HOLY ONE](#), and ye know all things." [1Jo.2:20]*

This "*unction from the Holy One*" does not even make us to have earthly teachers. No Holy Spirit-filled teacher wants the people occupied with himself but with the Lord and with the Word. These good teachers and God-given teachers are working to that objective—that the people will be grown up enough that they will not need their teaching any more but will just need the Holy Spirit who will "*guide you into all Truth*" [John 16:13].

*"I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth." [1Jo.2:21]*

When you are born of the Spirit of God, you know the Truth and can discern a lie, and will know when people are lying about the Word of God.

*"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye*

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*have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.”*  
[1Jo.2:22-24]

They were denying that “*Jesus is the Christ*” in the day of John (note that **Messiah** means “*anointed of God*”). One cannot really believe on the Son without believing on the Father.

*“And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.”* [1Jo.2:25]

Isn't that a wonderful promise? He will not give us any less than that when we are saved!

*“These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.”* [1Jo.2:26]

He was guarding the family of God that they would not be seduced and led astray.

*“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”* [1Jo.2:27]

The anointing of the Holy Spirit abides in us. We had a demonstration of that the other night at the Bible School. The children had been praying all week for an anointing of the Spirit and they surely received it Thursday night. No matter where we go, what we do, or what we say, the Holy Spirit is in us and will never leave us.

*“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”* [1Jo.2:28-29]

### ABIDING AND CONFIDING

I HAVE LEARN'D THE WONDROUS SECRET OF ABIDING IN THE LORD;  
I HAVE FOUND THE STRENGTH AND SWEETNESS OF CONFIDING IN HIS WORD;  
I HAVE TASTED LIFE'S PURE FOUNTAIN, I AM DRINKING OF HIS BLOOD;  
I HAVE LOST MYSELF IN JESUS, I AM SINKING INTO GOD.

I WAS CRUCIFIED WITH JESUS, AND HE LIVES AND REIGNS IN ME;  
I HAVE CEASED FROM ALL MY STRUGGLING, 'TIS NO LONGER I BUT HE;  
ALL MY WILL IS YIELDED TO HIM, AND HIS SPIRIT DWELLS WITHIN;  
AND HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD EACH MOMENT KEEPS ME CLEANS'D AND FREE FROM SIN.

ALL MY CARES I CAST UPON HIM, AND HE BEARS THEM ALL AWAY;  
ALL MY FEARS AND GRIEF'S I TELL HIM, ALL MY NEEDS FROM DAY TO DAY;  
ALL MY STRENGTH I DRAW FROM JESUS, BY HIS BREATH I LIVE AND MOVE;  
E'EN HIS VERY MIND HE GIVES ME, AND HIS FAITH, AND LIFE, AND LOVE.

FOR MY WORDS I TAKE HIS WISDOM, FOR MY WORKS HIS SPIRIT'S POWER;  
FOR MY WAYS HIS GRACIOUS PRESENCE GUARDS AND GUIDES ME EV'RY HOUR;  
OF MY HEART HE IS THE PORTION, OF MY JOY, THE BOUNDLESS SPRING;  
SAVIOUR, SANCTIFIER, HEALER, GLORIOUS LORD, AND COMING KING!

**CHORUS:** I'M ABIDING IN THE LORD, AND CONFIDING IN HIS WORD,  
AND I'M HIDING, SAFELY HIDING, IN THE BOSOM OF HIS LOVE.



1 JOHN 3

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*"Behold, what **MANNER OF LOVE** the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called **THE SONS OF GOD**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." [1Jo.3:10]*

This "*manner of love*" came from Heaven! When we think of the immensity of God's love for these little earthen vessels, words fail us! God has bestowed such love upon us that we can be called "*the sons of God*." When you take your place as a son of God and count it so (telling your friends), the world will not know you. The world didn't know the Son of God, and when we make it manifest that we are the sons of God—live it, act it, and live separated—the world will not applaud us. We can have fellowship with Christ in His rejection. We are approved of the living God! Believe it and rejoice in it!

*"Beloved, now are we the **SONS OF GOD**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." [1Jo.3:2]*

We look like anyone else but we are not an ordinary people, we are the sons of God! Right now, His appearance is becoming manifest inwardly in us, but no one sees that now. Jesus is coming. He is going to appear and we are going to appear with Him. We are going to have bodies "*like unto His glorious body*" [Phi.3:21]!

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FACT 1, LOOKING FOR CHRIST

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In this chapter, we have several facts and the 1<sup>st</sup> fact is in Verse 2: **Looking for Christ**. This chapter is also in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of this epistle and that division is the manifestation of the fruit of the children of God. The first fruit is mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> fact as the "*sons of God*," we are looking for the Lord.

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FACT 2, PURIFYING THEMSELVES

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*"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth (separates) himself, even as he is pure (separated)." [1Jo.3:3]*

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> fact, or fruit, separating themselves from everything that would defile them in the world, **Purifying Themselves**. Those who are manifestly the sons of God are not worldly in any sense of the word. They are so separated that other people cannot even stand them; this proved they are the sons of God. When Christ was on the earth, He was separate from this world; and, even though He was with the fishermen, yet in His spirit He walked alone but was doing everything to help everyone.

*"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." [1Jo.3:4]*

We have an old man who sometimes acts up. You know very well by your own experiences, and everyone else's, that there is failure sometimes until we learn to control that old man and step on him. We are going on to perfection and God tells us that! Don't take any excuses for your old man, count him dead; God makes no excuses for him whatsoever. The new man never sins. If there is any sin, it is in the old man showing off; but, as we count him dead, he ceases showing himself off. There is a victory that we can have if we assert ourselves as the sons of God.



FACT 3, ABIDING IN HIM

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*"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." [1Jo.3:5-6]*

As we hold our place in Christ, as the new creation, we will not sin, be proud or lifted up, when we abide in Him. Verse 6 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> fact, **Abide in Him** (that is why we can bear this fruit). One cannot be sinning and abiding at the same time.

*"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." [1Jo.3:7]*

God is righteous and as we abide in Him we will be righteous and show our righteous life out all of the time.

*"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." [1Jo.3:8]*

He conquered the devil when He triumphantly arose from the dead; and, we have that victory! We can abide in Him, live in Him, and trust in Him to keep us faithful.

*"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." [1Jo.3:9]*

When we do fail, who is it that is doing it? It is the old creation. The seed of God remains in us and the new man cannot sin.

FACT 4, CHILDREN OF GOD DOING GOOD

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*"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." [1Jo.3:10-11]*

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> fact, the **Children of God Are Doing Good**; not just placidly, but doing good no matter where they are. The proof of it is to love one another and show it out. We can love and pray for those who have gone away, have lost the victory, or given up the Truth.

*"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you." [1Jo.3:12-13]*

If you live your life perfectly before God, those who are not yielding to God, especially those of the old creation, will not love you. The world hated Christ [John 15:18].

*"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." [1Jo.3:14]*

In this new life there is love for each other.

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*"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." [1Jo.3:15-16]*

Cain hated his brother before he killed him. Do we say that we "love the brethren;" then, are we willing to do something for our brother or are we just talking? Just talking doesn't get very far with God if we do not mean it. This is testing our profession. We must possess what we profess (see Verse 16).

### FACT 5, LOVE IN DEED

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*"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." [1Jo.3:16-18]*

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> fact, **Love In Deed**. Do not say it if you are not doing it or living for God. He that says it should manifest the fruit of it. People who love this way and do good, having all the manifested fruit, are the sons of God in this sense. Mark these things and see if they are true of you. If your heart does not condemn you, then you are manifesting the fruit that you are a son of God.

### FACT 6, KNOW WE ARE OF THE TRUTH

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*"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." [1Jo.3:19-20]*

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> fact, we **Know That We Are of The Truth**. God knows when we are telling the truth.

### FACT 7, PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED

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*"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 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. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." [1Jo.3:22-23]*

Here is the 7<sup>th</sup> fact, our **prayers are answered**. These commandments are the Word of God; they are not the 10 Commandments. We are not under The Law; we are under marvelous, glorious grace! God can do anything but fail. Are you doing those things that are pleasing in God's sight?

1 JOHN 4
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*"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." [1Jo.4:10]*

Think of it, way back there (almost 2,000 years ago) when John was on the scene, he was telling them of false prophets. Since that time, they (false prophets) have multiplied and there is a legion of them today. It shows how we need to trust God in these days so that we won't be pushed aside or lose the victory.

*"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:" [1Jo.4:2]*

The phrase "*come in the flesh*" means that He's a man; but, to come in the spirit means He is God.

*"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." [1Jo.4:3]*

In the new modern version of the Bible that fact is contradicted over and over again. They take out almost every place where it speaks of the Son of God. There are many antichrists making way for the great Antichrist that is coming. We see things of this world that mighty, educated men do not see. We have seen the glory of the Lord and the wonderful crown and place He has given to us. How can we be of the world? We have had a glimpse of heaven and we have sailed away!

*"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them." [1Jo.4:4-5]*

How gently he talked to his little children (Verse 4).

The world does not hear us because we are from another country (Verse 5). We have another life which is from heaven and is not of this world at all. Of course, the world does not understand our language.

*"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." [1Jo.4:6]*

Yes, we can see error a mile off!

*"Beloved, let us love one another: for **LOVE IS OF GOD**; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." [1Jo.4:7]*

We are sure of one thing, "*love is of God.*" This unfeigned love is one fruit that cannot be mistaken or counterfeited.

*"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." [1Jo.4:9-10]*

This is love in action. What have we given? We would never have loved God if He had not first loved us. Let's let our love be in action—doing good, serving one another, and living for one another. Someday, because of what Jesus did for us in His love, we are going to see this wonderful One who died on the cross and we will be glad for every little thing that we have done

in love. Little things done in the name of the Lord, and with a heart of love, will not be without a reward from the Lord.

*"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." [1Jo.4:11-12]*

We know we are in Christ and that the Spirit dwells in us. We are walking in the Spirit and learning the Word.

*"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." [1Jo.4:13-15]*

It seems as though the Spirit in John emphasizes, over and over, the phases of love we are to manifest to one another.

*"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." [1Jo.4:16]*

Think of it! We dwell in God! That is the way our love is manifested and the way He would have us manifest this love. He is living in us and we are living in Him.

*"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." [1Jo.4:17]*

Oh, what John says to us is so wonderful! As Christ is, "*so are we in this world.*" Not only as He was on this earth, but as He is now! That glorified life of His is ours right now! He wants us to manifest it and show it out in this world—this wonderful love of Christ.

*"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us." [1Jo.4:18-19]*

If we fear, we do not love. When we get to the place where we do not fear and know we are dwelling in God and He in us, then...we are going on from strength to strength. If you love God like that and believe He is your Father dwelling in you, you have no fear about tomorrow or next year. You believe He is coming and you are looking for Him to take you out from everything in this world.

The early Christians...those who died at the stake, were beaten, and thrown to wild beasts...loved Him that way. They could have saved their lives, but they said, "*thy yoke is easy and thy burden is light*" [Mat.11:30 paraphrased].

*"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" [1Jo.4:20]*

You cannot hate your brother and say you love God. We are to see God in our brother and love him because God is in him.

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## SERMON: 1 JOHN 1, 2, & 3 – BY MARY M. BODIE

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*"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." [1Jo.4:21]*

This Word is from God and we are to take a hold of it if we want that place with Him. We can't just say it with our lips; the fruit has to be manifested. I know that when we think of all the divisions between the sons of God, because they are not all walking in the light, and some are in error, we cannot love them all alike. While we have sympathy for them and pray for them, yet we cannot love them as dearly as the ones who are going on. This new life loves the people of God.

1 JOHN 5
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*"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." [1Jo.5:1-2]*

To love God and His people is His commandment.

*"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" [1Jo.5:3-5]*

We can hardly believe that we are overcoming when we just believe God; but, when we believe on His Son, that is the 1<sup>st</sup> step in overcoming the world. **Faith** is to the front in this last chapter of 1 John.

*"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." [1Jo.5:6]*

Jesus shed His blood for the whole human race. His side was pierced and out flowed "**blood and water**" [Joh.19:34], which speaks of redemption. **Blood** speaks of the basis of sanctification and **Water** speaks of the cleansing of our walk every day. Christ's work on the cross gives us a basis for a full salvation, overcoming in this world, and a cleansed walk.

*"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." [1Jo.5:7]*

Ten days after Christ went to heaven the Holy Spirit came down upon the people; that fact tells us that God was perfectly satisfied with the work of His Son. The Holy Spirit came to bring that salvation to mankind. He is the executor of the Father's will and purpose in the world.

*"And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one." [1Jo.5:8]*

Just think how good that is! The 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity comes down to dwell in little vessels of clay on this earth. We are possessed by the Holy Ghost! Let's believe it, live it, and show it out. Let's live so above the world and the powers of darkness that people will know there is a difference in us. The Holy Spirit came here and has been dwelling here ever since to make us like Jesus; to live in us, work in us, dwell in us, and speak through us.

This is the greatest age that humans have ever been in. If we yield to God, we are going to have such a magnificent place. Get the victory over everything—let nothing defeat you! It is pitiful to lose something so wonderful—we want to be joined forever and ever with Jesus Christ. Live with Him, love Him, and seek the good of everyone.

God is so satisfied with the work of Christ that He sent the Holy Ghost to dwell in us. He came to dwell in The Church and He is still here. He had never come that way before. He had anointed some of the prophets and kings, but He did not dwell in a company of people. This is the honored age for the Holy Ghost is present. How good it is to guard the Lord, His person, and His work in this world of departure.

*"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son." [1Jo.5:9-10]*

Notice, it is the Son that is to the front. Believing in Him is sufficient for anyone anywhere. God had only one Son, but that Son died on the cross so that God would have a multitude of children. Abraham is a little picture of this; God changed his name from **Abram** {"father is exalted"} to **Abraham** ("father of a multitude"); and, he also had only one son. The Hebrew people are children of Abraham. God has thousands and thousands of children on the earth.

The nation of Israel will have a wonderful place when they believe on Christ; but, oh what a place we'll have if we attain to the special company who will be overcomers. This company will be in and around and about the throne—Jesus' bodyguard. He is blessing people that let Him have His way and count everything as loss to win Him. When we think of how He came down from the heights of glory and made Himself of no reputation, emptying Himself of His glory, becoming a weak man dependent on His Father, it is no marvel that God puts Him to the front and says to believe on Him.

*"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." [1Jo.5:11-12]*

Regardless of how good a man lives or how mighty he is on the earth, if he "*hath not the Son of God*" he is dead to God. God doesn't even hear the prayers of those who do not believe on Christ. "*There is none that doeth good, no not one*" [Romans 3:12].

*"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." [1Jo.5:13]*

Notice how many things we know by believing on the Son of God? Everything is dependent on the Son of God; there is no other hope for all the world.

*"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us." [1Jo.5:14]*

He loves us and He hears and answers us.

*"And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." [1Jo.5:15]*

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## SERMON: 1 JOHN 1, 2, & 3 – BY MARY M. BODIE

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We know that He hears us! I asked the Lord to give me a fuller understanding of this chapter, and He did! He just opened it up to me just like it was all lit up. Let's believe Him a little more—have faith!

*"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death." [1Jo.5:16-17]*

This verse is related to Verse 15. See, the man is not dead yet but he is going in the way of death. A man could be almost dead, but if we pray for him, the Lord could give him life. Just think, we can give life to people who are on the way to death! Sometimes God takes those home who fail to yield to Him or He takes those who have finished their walk and are old in age. But, this verse is speaking of a death caused by sin, and continuing in it, not yielding to God. John is talking about the sons of God in this verse, not the world. In 2 Corinthians 11, we read that many sin because they do not hold the headship of Christ. If we walk in the Spirit, we will not die before our time and we will be useful all the days of our life. You are above the earth; you are in the heavenlies! I know it is a reality—we can live in the heavenlies and be a heavenly product.

*"We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." [1Jo.5:18]*

The new life itself does not sin; the old flesh life sins. This new life in us keeps himself and the wicked one never comes to touch him. Christ lived in the world and the devil could not touch him. Christ used the words *"thus sayeth the Lord"* in everything.

*"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." [1Jo.5:19]*

The whole world is helpless and lies in the lap of the wicked one. They try to do something, but they are dead to God in trespasses and sins.

*"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." [1Jo.5:20]*

He has given us an understanding! Every one of us should learn this verse and say it every day; then, we will walk, live, love, and talk differently.

*"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." [1Jo.5:21]*

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## 2 JOHN 1

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*"The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth." [2Jo.1:1]*

In the 1<sup>st</sup> epistle of John, he does not cite any name for himself; but here, he says *"the elder"* (I don't see any "Reverend" in there either). This dear Apostle John, who leaned his head on the Master's bosom having the most intimate place with the Savior, is here writing as an elder. The only place we find the word reverend is in Psalm 111:9: *"holy, and reverend is his name."*



**Note:** Reverend is not applied to God in this way; nor does the Hebrew word YARE bear this signification; instead it means “*Holy and terrible or holy and tremendous is His name.*” His name is to be revered; He is not to be called reverend.

*“For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.” [2Jo.1:2]*

Here was a lady who had a church and was the leader of this church. This word lady is KURIA in the original and means “*sovereign, master.*” In England, the word lady was given to the high class folk who were born into the nobility. The lady in this chapter is in the aristocracy of heaven!

This lady has a wonderful letter written to her and to her children. This made an impression on me. There were 8,000 saved in the beginning of the age; we never read of any big, spectacular building for them to meet in. They had little houses. They were praying people and God gave the Word to them—those people grew.

In Paul’s letter to the Hebrews, he admonished them to separate themselves. God is always separating His people and reckoning among the nations. We are not of the world any more than the Lord Jesus Christ was of the world! We are to live and walk that way!

We read of Mary having a church in her home and, at the time, Peter was in prison and the people were having a prayer meeting for him at Mary’s home. In Acts 8 we read of a great persecution—the people were scattered. They went everywhere preaching the Word that they knew. They met in homes; this woman was one of those. Her children speak of the church that met in her home.

- In 1 John, John is talking to the children of God. In 2 John, he is talking to the lady.
- In 1 John love was to the front; in 2 John, notice how much is made of the truth.

Love is born of the Truth of God. The more we love the people of God, the more we do for them. Let’s love people in the Truth!

*“Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.” [2Jo.1:3-4]*

If the truth dwells in us we will walk in it and live it out. In the Greek, the phrase “*found of thy children*” is “*found some of thy children.*” This was the church to whom John was writing. The commandment from the Father was to love one another.

*“And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.” [2Jo.1:5-6]*

In the Greek, Verse 6 reads like this: “*That we walk in obedience to his commandments and live in love.*”

*“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” [2Jo.1:7]*

As Jesus Christ came in the flesh, He will come again in glorified flesh. There was one perfect human on the earth then; but, after a while there will be thousands of perfect humans (spirit, soul, and body). We will have a perfect mind, soul, and body. That is our hope in Christ Jesus, who was a perfect human when He was here (on earth).

In Verse 7, the deceivers mentioned here were separating the body from the man Christ Jesus by saying that Christ was the Son of God but had not come in a body and was not human. We know that God prepared Him a body in which he was to be born and live—Jesus looked like any other man. I like to think of Him that way; that is what makes Him so much more wonderful! He was not beautiful; Scripture says, “*there is no beauty that we should desire him*” [Isa.53:2].

*“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”*  
[2Jo.1:8]

Walk in the light, do right, and bring your state up to your standing so that you will receive what you have wrought. It could mean that “*we (the apostles and the workers) lose not those things that we have wrought (done).*” In 1 Thessalonians 2:19, Paul wrote “*you are my crown of rejoicing*” and what he had wrought will come back to him in a great reward. Millions have been saved because of the Word that Paul wrote. He is still on the stage and is talking through others. Think of the way that the Word has gone forth! Those, whose light Paul has shed on their pathway, will be jewels in his crown and will adorn him throughout eternity.

*“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in [THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST](#), he hath both the Father and the Son.”* [2Jo.1:9]

“*The doctrine of Christ*” is that Jesus Christ came down into this world and walked in this world. There is a Trinity and unity in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

*“If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed.”* [2Jo.1:10]

Notice carefully—the gentle, tender John is saying to not receive that man into your house. When we know they do not have the true doctrine, we need not say “the Lord bless you.” Paul said, “*If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed*” [Gal.1:9].

*“For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.”* [2Jo.1:11-12]

Here’s where we see the Lord talking to us in the phrase “*come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy (His joy and ours too) may be full.*” Oh, glory to God, our joy will be full then! He loves us better than anyone in this world. Let’s revel in this fact! Let’s believe it and get the joy out of it now; because, later on we are going to get more.

I believe this 2<sup>nd</sup> epistle of John always speaks of a later time than the 1<sup>st</sup> epistle. The 3<sup>rd</sup> epistle of John speaks of an even later time yet, and brings us right down to the end of the age.

*“The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.”* [2Jo.1:13]

3 JOHN 1
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The elder (John) is writing to an individual in this 3<sup>rd</sup> epistle. Both of these epistles (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) are official documents.

*"The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth." [3Jo.1:1]*

This is another little meeting of a company of people gathered together. We need not feel that we must have a big, fine building. In the beginning, they (this company of people) didn't have it either; they just had little groups of people meeting together. Jesus said, *"true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him"* [Joh.4:23]. God doesn't want a great congregation but worshippers! *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* [Mat.18:20]. To have 2 or 3 is better than to have a great congregation where you go in and out and no one notices you. John didn't love Gaius outside of the Truth (because he was a brother, uncle, or nephew), but he loved him *"in the truth."*

*"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." [3Jo.1:2]*

If you are in pain and suffering, you are much more apt to yield to God than if everything is going good with you. Many people are saved when they are sick and in need.

*"For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth." [3Jo.1:3]*

This man walked and lived in the Truth. The Truth was made manifest by his very life!

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." [3Jo.1:4]*

Have you greater joy than that? I have no greater joy than to know that the people of God are going on and growing up into the full measure of Christ. We can do that as we take in the Truth and live in it, walk in it, and talk it.

*"Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers. Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well. Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles." [3Jo.1:5-7]*

They helped all those who were going out, and they didn't take anything of the unsaved.

*"We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth." [3Jo.1:8]*

Notice how different this verse is than Verse 10 in this chapter. They were not to receive them into their house who did not bring the true doctrine. In this 8<sup>th</sup> Verse, we see that they are to receive those who have the Truth. Some have wrong doctrine and we are not to receive them; however, others have the Truth and we are to receive them.

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SERMON: 1 JOHN 1, 2, & 3 — BY MARY M. BODIE

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*"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not." [3Jo.1:9]*

John must have written a letter to this church (over which Gaius was the pastor) and sent it by Demetrius. Diotrephes was a dictator.

*"Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God." [3Jo.1:10-11]*

No, he would not receive these brethren and he did not want anyone else to receive them.

*"Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true." [3Jo.1:12]*

Demetrius is the one with whom John, no doubt, sent the letter and was not allowed to hand it over because of the domineering Diotrephes. We say "Amen" to John's record—we know it is true!

*"I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee. But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name." [3Jo.1:13-14]*

This ending is similar to the one in 2 John. The word [salute](#) has a greater meaning than just a greeting; it means "to embrace and hug to their hearts." That is what God is going to do to us; take us into His arms and love us forever and forever!

