

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 15- The Affections of the Heart

149 The Assurance of Salvation- Part 18

WAOY Friday/Monday 02/08-11/08

Welcome again, my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about the Assurance of our Salvation by reading **1John 3: 19-24-** so let's read those verses again together:

19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Now on our last broadcast- we were examining the role that our own hearts play in our Assurance and on today's broadcast – I want to look closely at verse 24.

John is telling us here that we know that we are saved because the Spirit “abides” in us. Now the word that was translated into English here as “abide” comes from the Greek word, *menoo*, which means: *to dwell continually; to tarry; to continue to be present.* John says here that God the Holy Spirit does not periodically visit with us;- but He abides; he dwells continually; He never leaves and never departs-and that this is one of the greatest sources of our Assurance-the continually indwelling Holy Spirit.

Now as early as **Genesis 1:2** we can read about how active and how present and how vital God the Holy Spirit was in the earth. Because the Spirit is a part of the Triunity of God- the Holy Spirit has always been and always will be. There was never a time that the Holy Spirit was not alive and busy- bringing to pass the things that God the Father decreed to occur.

God the Spirit along with God the Father and God the Son are one in Essence and yet eternally operate and function as three separate Persons- each with specific roles to play in the Redemption of Man.

The Holy Spirit was not created- He always was and always will be and moves and operates at the Father's command to guarantee that what the Son did will be honored and glorified.

Until Salvation was purchased by Jesus Christ- no human being had God the Spirit indwelling within them. This is strictly a New Covenant Promise that God made 700 years before Jesus was born. Let's read **Isaiah 7:14**:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Now this of course is the Promise that God made through the prophet Isaiah that because of the New Covenant that was not going to be purchased through the blood of animals; that was not going to be administered through sinful priests; whereby God was not going to dwell in the Temple in Jerusalem; and which was not going to deal only with the Jews.

But this New Covenant was going to be purchased by the shed Blood of the Lamb of God that was slain before the foundation of the world- God made flesh and Who dwelt among us- God incarnate- the virgin born Son of God; and this New Covenant was going to *supersede* the Old or the First Covenant because of its great superiority. The New Covenant was going to be administered by a High Priest Who never sinned; and it contained a Heavenly Tabernacle that was not made with hands.

But one of the greatest Promises of the New Covenant- that not one single soul had in the Old Covenant is that God Himself would not ever leave His people again- He would no longer be distant and that God would literally go inside His People and take out of them a stony heart

and put in them and heart of flesh- and that God Himself would walk up and down in them and lead them and guide them and write His Law on their hearts and circumcise their hearts and dwell in them continually and never leave.

The Law did not cause this to happen. And this promise that God would be with His people was only fulfilled through the Lord Jesus Christ. Only born again people have this great privilege to house and to be the living tabernacle of God the Spirit.

Now even though that is true- before Jesus was born- the Spirit was functioning on the earth in great and mighty ways. But if you notice the terminology of the Old Testament and the way that the writers described how God 's Spirit dealt with them—it is very clear that their relationship with God's Spirit was very different than what we have today under the New Covenant.

You see places in the Old Testament where God "moved upon" the Old Testament saints; He came "down" to them- but then- He always went back up. He moved upon them- but He didn't stay. He overshadowed them- but not one time in all of the Old Testament did God the Holy Spirit ever go inside one single person and dwell in them.

Conversely under the New Covenant- *all* of those who are saved- 100% of those who are born again have within them the Holy Spirit. And this Spirit doesn't come and go- He stays- He remains and He dwells continually in us to constantly keep us and constantly convict us and constantly strengthen us and to guide us into all Truth. That is what it means to be saved. No lost person has this Spirit in him. No unwashed and unredeemed soul has God the Holy Spirit dwelling and remaining in him- only those who are saved have this great honor. Let's read **John 1:32&33:**

32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

33 "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

Now there is a lot of misunderstood things about this event- probably due to people believing the movies the Hollywood has made about this

event rather than what the Bible actually says. But let's go over this moment.

Here is John the Baptist- dressed like a barbarian- eating locusts and wild honey- standing in the river Jordan- screaming at the top of his lungs, **“Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”** and dunking people under the water.

Now I would think that the average person in the Middle East during the first century would have thought this guy was a nut and I know that we would think today- I mean I really don't believe that any of us would have invited John over for crumpets and tea- but here he was doing something that nobody else had ever done before- he was baptizing people in the river.

Now just so you will know- the word, “baptize”, comes from the Greek word that means: *to completely immerse in water* and so this was not a sprinkling session going on here- John was literally taking those who had repented and was pushing them completely under the water.

And suddenly Jesus came to John to be baptized of him. Now according to the History Channel- Jesus needed to be baptized because he was just as sinful as everybody else- but the Bible says that Jesus was without sin and was baptized for no other reason other than to give us an example to follow.

But how did John know that this was the Son of God? Let's read verse **33** again:

I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

Who sent John to baptize? God did. So John is testifying here that when God sent him to baptize- God told John that when John saw with his own natural eyes- the Spirit of God coming down out of heaven- and *remaining* on a particular man- that John would know that this was the Son of God. John did not recognize Jesus by any other way. He did not hear what Jesus taught-; he never saw Jesus crucified because John was killed before Jesus was- so John went by one thing and one thing only to determine that Mary's son was the Christ- that the Spirit of God came down on Him and that He – the Spirit- remained. Now the Bible does not say that the Spirit is a dove or that he is like a dove- that is not

what the Bible says. That is Hollywood. The Bible says that the Spirit of God descended or came down from Heaven like a dove or in the same *manner* that a dove lands on the ground after flying.

The key word here in this verse is the word, “remaining” - because this was so unique. You see, before Jesus- the Spirit of God had never remained on anybody- so this miraculous event- of when God’s Spirit descended from Heaven on Jesus in the manner of a dove and then *remained* and did not lift and did not depart from him and go back into Heaven- proved to John that Jesus was the One and Only of the Father. And now Jesus baptizes every believer in the power and glory of the Holy Ghost.

And because Jesus perfectly obeyed His Father’s Will and died with all of our sins on himself- the Spirit Himself is the sealing agent or the signet of approval on the soul of every born again believer. Let’s read **Ephesians 1:13**:

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Now the word, “sealed” comes from the Greek that means: *to mark someone or something; to prove, confirm or to attest to something*. What God the Holy Spirit does is to mark us as belonging to Jesus and He places this confirmation on our hearts that attests that we have been bought and paid for by the Lord Christ and we are no longer for sale to anyone for any price.

Now this “sealing” does not give us the freedom to then live anyway that we see fit- on the contrary- this sealing allows us to be able to live the Christian life through the power of the Spirit.

You see, brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God does not come to live inside someone so that they can act crazy and behave in a foolish manner. There are many things that are done and said to day in the “name” of the Spirit- but most of the time- they have absolutely nothing to do with God’s Spirit. The Bible says in **John 16** that God’s Spirit always glorifies Jesus and always speaks of Jesus and never does or says anything that brings attention to Himself or the man that he inhabits.

So this is not an issue of *us* getting more of God’s Spirit- it is an issue

of God's Spirit getting more of *us*.

God's Spirit empowers us to resist temptation; He enlightens us to the Truth of God's Word; He convicts us of sin; and He cries out to God with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And as we see those things occurring in our lives- John teaches that this unmistakable evidence that God's Spirit is working in us and through us will serve to make our Assurance strong and certain.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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