

# So That You May Know

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

### Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

#### 88. Part 13

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WAOY Thursday/Monda 09/20-24/07; WOSM Wednesday 02/01/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again together:

**18** Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

**19** They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

**20** But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

**21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

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

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

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

**25** This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

**26** These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

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

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the three points that John is making in these ten verses.

1. Realizing the Danger
2. The Ability and Power that is given to us so that we may realize the Danger
3. The Way to Fight Against the Danger

And on the last broadcast, we began to look at the second point- our ability and power as believers to realize the danger that confronts us, and I want to continue in that today. So, let's look at verses 20, 21, and 27 again together:

**20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.**

**21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.**

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

Now what John is telling us here is that because believers are filled with God's Spirit that this Spirit acts as an unction and an anointing which abides within each soul and this unction, and this anointing causes us to know Truth. And with the knowledge of Truth- there is the ability to ward off error and false teaching.

So, John is teaching here that it is the Spirit and the Truth that the Spirit agrees with which gives us the ability to see the heresy of the antichrists and to fight against it.

Now look closely again at verse 20:

**But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.**

Now John is not saying that every believer knows everything that there is to know about every subject on earth. John is simply teaching here that because the Spirit –the anointing as he calls the Spirit here- because the Spirit lives and dwells inside us- that same Spirit will draw us toward Truth rather than error.

Now genuine believers know Truth for several reasons. First of all- John says that Truth and Light are synonymous. Light in Scripture represents understanding Truth. All throughout John's writings- John speaks about Light and Truth. John mentions the word, "light" 37 times in his writings and he mentions the word, "truth" 47 times. So, to John both light and truth were very important.

This brings up one of the most important characteristics and functions of the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit- Who is the third Person of the Trinity loves Truth. He hates error and lies and deceit. The Holy Spirit brings the believer to all truth and never leads that person into error.

The only reason that the believer ever goes into error is because he either ignores the Holy Spirit or he misunderstands what the Holy Spirit says. And this is crucial. Because there is only one cure for ignoring what God's Spirit says and that one cure is to repent and obey. But there is also only one cure for misunderstanding what the Spirit is saying- and that one cure is to become more familiar with the language of the Spirit.

Now what do I mean when I say, "The language of the Spirit"? The Holy Spirit only speaks one language and if you are going to understand correctly what the Spirit is saying- you must understand the language that He speaks in. Turn with me to **John 14**, and let's read verses 16, 17, and 26 together:

**16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;**

**17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.**

**26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

Now notice what John says here. John says that first of all that the Comforter *is* the Holy Spirit. So, when John uses the word, "Helper" or "Comforter" in verses 16 and 26- he is using this word to describe a *function* or a *ministry* of the Holy Spirit. The third Person of the Trinity comes to "comfort" or "help" those who have been saved.

Well, that's good- but help us to do what? Read again what John said about how the Holy Spirit comforts or helps us in verse 26:

**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

The Holy Spirit does not come to us so that we can feel good physically or so that we can have an emotional high or a psychological lift or so that we can feel goose bumps on our arms or have the hair on the back of our neck stand up. God the Holy Spirit doesn't come inside the believer so the believer can fall on the floor and behave in a weird and goofy way. That will not and cannot bring comfort or hope to the believer.

Now I realize that many of those who partake in these activities are sincere and well-meaning people- and some of them are saved and would give their lives for Jesus- so I am not criticizing them. But no matter how many people engage in these things- it is still true that the Bible doesn't teach that these things are functions of the Comforter.

The Holy Spirit comforts believers by leading them into all Truth; and by teaching us all things; and by bringing all the things that Jesus has said to our remembrance.

That is why in verse 17, Jesus called the Holy Spirit, "The Spirit of Truth". It was precisely because the Apostles were filled with this Spirit that enabled them to do what they did. Peter said in **The Acts 2:16**:

**... this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel**

Peter says here that when the 120 were filled with the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room approximately ten days after Jesus ascended into Heaven during the middle of the first century- that *that* one single event *was* the fulfillment of **Joel 2**. But many people in the modern Church believe that *anytime* God moves among them today- that it is the fulfillment of **Joel 2**- but that's not what Peter said here.

**Joel 2** was fulfilled precisely because Christianity- which is the full, final, and complete Revelation of God to Man was established in the earth. Then in Peter's sermon on that day- Peter began to articulate and correctly interpret what David and Isaiah prophesied about hundreds of years before that day. It was the Spirit within Peter

Whom Peter had received on that day which led Peter into fully comprehending what David and Isaiah meant when they gave their prophecies hundreds of years earlier.

What Peter was doing was fulfilling what Jesus had promised would happen when the Comforter came. But now listen very carefully.

We have to remember, beloved, that Peter and James and John and Paul were not just *believers*- they were specially chosen men to do a special thing for a special time for a very specific reason. These men were Apostles- who were given the commission and the tools and the gifts and the power to establish Christianity in the earth. Nobody before these men- and nobody after these men have the same charge as these men did- and therefore- nobody after them have the same tools and gifts and calling. We don't need to establish Christianity today- we need to be faithful to the Christianity that has already been established by these men.

Part of the establishing of Christianity in the earth was the power of the Spirit in Peter and the other Apostles to correctly and rightly and fully explain and interpret what the Old Testament writers *meant* by what they said and did and wrote.

So, God endued these Apostles with the Holy Spirit so that through the Spirit of Christ within them- they could pen down those inspired, inerrant, infallible Words which defined Christianity, and which fully explained what God had revealed in the Old Testament.

And it was with these Words that were God breathed; these Words that were inspired; these Words of Scripture found in the 21 New Testament Epistles that John and Peter and Paul and the others wrote down which confronted the antichrists and exposed them, and which proved their error and uplifted Truth.

Once that was done- once Christianity was established on the earth; once the final Revelation of God was given and written down in the New Testament; once the full explanation of all the Old Testament was given to the Church by the Apostles- the need for anyone else to do what these men did vanished away.

God the Holy Spirit came to these men to give them the completed Revelation of God so that it would be written down so that Christianity would be established. But now the Holy Spirit fills us- not to do what these men did- but so that we may fully understand what these men

did; and so that we may fully comprehend what these men taught and so that we may defend the Gospel against the antichrists.

We have no need to establish divine Truth. Divine Truth has already been established and completed and finalized and formalized and written down for us. That is what the Apostles needed the Holy Ghost to do for them. But since that was successfully done- it doesn't need to be done anymore.

What we need to do today- what we need the power of the Spirit to do in us and through us is to give us the tools so that we may study this already given Divine Revelation; and we need help to learn it; and we need comfort to understand it; and we need power to believe it; and we need an anointing to teach and preach and defend it and we need the ability to love it and to obey it- that is what we need the power of the Spirit to do for us today.

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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