



“Abiding in Love”

1 John 4:13-16

Perfect Love: The Book of 1 John

Three Gifts from the Father

1. The Father has given us his Spirit

Verse 13: “By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”

Why is the Spirit the evidence that God abides in us? The indwelling Holy Spirit abides in our hearts and forms a living, relational connection between God and us. Look at what the Spirit accomplishes in our lives (cf. Jn 3:8; Rom 8:16).

28 Ministries or Functions of the Holy Spirit:

- 1) Convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8)
- 2) Testifies about Christ (Jn 15:26)
- 3) Draws us to Christ (John 6:44)
- 4) Enlightens our hearts (Eph 1:18)
- 5) Illuminates our minds with understanding (1Cor 2:12)
- 6) Gives us wisdom and revelation (Eph 1:17)
- 7) Teaches us (1Cor 2:13; Lk 12:12; Jn 14:26)
- 8) Causes us to be born again (John 3:5, 8)
- 9) Baptizes us into Christ (1Cor 12:13)
- 10) Seals us for the day of redemption (2Cor 1:22; Eph 4:30)
- 11) Leads us and directs us (Matthew 4:1; Acts 8:29; Romans 8:14)
- 12) Guides us into all truth (Jn 16:13)
- 13) Pours out God’s love into our heart (Rom 5:5)
- 14) Fills us continually (Eph 5:18)
- 15) Gives us power & strength (Act 1:8; Eph 3:16)
- 16) Gives us boldness (Act 4:31)
- 17) Comforts us (Jn 16:5-7)
- 18) Sets us free (2Cor 3:17)
- 19) Grants us spiritual gifts (1Cor 12:4-11; Heb 2:4)
- 20) Promotes fellowship between believers (Phil 2:1)
- 21) Unifies us (Eph 4:3)
- 22) Produces good fruit in our lives (Gal 5:22-23)
- 23) Gives us righteousness, peace and joy (Rom 14:17; 1Thes 1:6)
- 24) Intercedes for us (Rom 8:26-27)
- 25) Helps us in our weakness (Rom 8:26)
- 26) Sanctifies us & helps us grow in holiness (1Cor 6:11; 1 Pet 1:2)
- 27) Helps us put to death the deeds of the flesh (Rom 8:13)
- 28) Transforms us into the image of Christ (2Cor 3:18)

2. The Father has given us his Son

Verses 14-15: “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

“Seen and testify” – those two words sum up the apostles’ ministry, and they sum up our Christian life.

What is our testimony/confession? Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

For the doctrine of the Trinity to be understood and expressed correctly, three things must be affirmed:

- (1) **God is three Persons** (Mt 3:16-17, 28:19; 2Cor 13:14; Eph 4:4-6; 1Pet 1:2; Jude 20-21)
- (2) **Each Person is fully God** (Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:28; Heb 1:3, 8, 10; Tit 2:13; 2Pet 1:1; Rom 9:5; Isa 9:16, 40:3; Col 2:9)
- (3) **There is one God** (Deut 6:4-5; Isa 45:5-6; 1Tim 2:5; Jas 2:9)

3. The Father has given us his love

Verse 16: “We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

John says “God is love.” It’s a wonderful, beautiful aspect of who he is. But it’s only one dimension of his character.

The point is we can’t take one attribute of God and focus on it to the detriment of others. All of God’s attributes work in perfect harmony and they’re never in conflict with each other. God is always loving, and always just. He is always patient and kind and righteous at the same time. He is a complex being who is perfect and sinless in all that he thinks, feels, sees and does. So we need to have a balanced view of God’s attributes. In fact, without that we cannot understand the gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some crazy things you’ve done for love?
2. What are some things that hinder you from abiding in God?
3. Look through list of 28 ministries of the Holy Spirit. Which one stands out to you the most and why? Read the corresponding verse and share why you appreciate it.
4. What did you learn or find interesting about the doctrine of the Trinity?
5. Share a time when you experienced God’s love in a powerful and personal way.