



“Our Hiding Place”
1 John 5:18-20
Perfect Love: The Book of 1 John

Throughout this epistle, John uses the word “know” 40 times. Now, as he prepares to end his letter, he restates three crucial truths we have come to know as believers. Verses 18, 19, and 20 all begin with the words “we know...”

I. We know the crucial importance of God’s holiness

Verse 18: “We know that no one who is born of God sins...”

This phrase has caused a lot of confusion, and on the surface, it seems to be at odds with what John has stated earlier in his letter (1:8, 10).

The key is understanding the tense of the Greek verb for “sins.” The present, active, indicative describes an ongoing activity – i.e. “no one who is born of God *continues* to sin... continues to live in habitual, ongoing, unrepentant sin.”

New conduct must follow new birth. There must be fruit and evidence in our lives that we have been truly “born of God.”

II. We know the crucial promise of God’s protection

Verse 18b-19: “but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

“He who was born of God” = Jesus (refers to his physical birth). Because the Son of God was born in the flesh, we can be saved in the flesh. He had to be born physically so we could be born spiritually and receive the gift of eternal life through faith in him.

“Keeps him” = literally watches over, guards, keeps safe (Jn 10:28-30).

“Evil one” = Satan (cf. Mt 4:5-6, 8-9; Job 1:13-19, 2:7)

- He can communicate with us, he can cast visions in our head, he can physically move things around, he can compel people to do his bidding by stealing and killing, he can control certain types of weather, and he can inflict people with sickness and disease.

The “whole world” (the entirety of lost, fallen humanity) lies under the power of the evil one. But believers don’t! Satan is a powerful enemy, but he’s nothing compared to God! He’s weaker than a flea or a speck of dust. He’s like a dog on a chain that is permitted to do only what his master allows. As Christians, bought by the blood of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit, we’re not under Satan’s power. He’s under ours! (James 4:7; Rom 16:20).

III. We know the crucial identity of God's Son

Verse 20: "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. This is the true God and eternal life.

Old Testament prophecy foretold that the Messiah would be God incarnate:

Immanuel (Isa 7:14); Mighty God (Isa 9:6); LORD our Righteousness (Jer 23:5-6); LORD Almighty (Mal 3:1).

New Testament Scriptures teach that Jesus is God incarnate:

1Tim 3:16; 2Cor 5:19; Col 2:9, 1:15; Jn 1:1&14; Tit 2:13; 2Pet 1:1; Jn 20:28.

Jesus claimed to be God:

Jn 8:56-59; cf. Ex 3:14; Jn 10:27-33; Jn 5:17-18; Jn 14:6-10; Mt 26:63-64; cf. Dan 7:13.

Jesus possesses the divine titles & attributes of God:

- Creator – God (Gen 1:1; Isa 44:24, 45:18). Jesus (Jn 1:3; Col 1:16)
- King of kings & Lord of lords – God (1Tim 6:15-16). Jesus (Rev 17:14, 19:16)
- Eternal – God (1Tim 1:17). Jesus (1Jn 1:2, 5:20; cf. Jn 1:1-3; Col 1:17; Rev 22:13)
- Omnipresent – God (Jer 23:24). Jesus (Eph 4:10; Mt 18:20)
- Savior – God (Isa 60:16; Hos 13:4). Jesus (Lk 2:11; 2Tim 1:10-11)
- Judge – God (Heb 12:23; Ps 50:6, 96:13). Jesus (Act 10:42; Jn 9:39; 2Tim 4:8)
- Forgives Sin – God (Mk 2:7). Jesus (Mk 2:5; Lk 7:48)
- Receives Worship – God (Mt 4:10). Jesus (Mt 14:33, 28:9, 2:2; Heb 1:6)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

1. Have you ever experienced a time when God clearly protected you and demonstrated that he was your refuge, fortress, shield and deliverer? (Psalm 18:2-3)
2. John used the word "know" 40 times in this epistle. What do you know about the crucial importance of God's holiness in your life?
3. According to 1 John 5:18, Satan can't "touch" believers without God's permission (cf. Job 1:10-12, 2:6). But he can tempt us. What are some ways Satan tries to stumble believers? And how do you overcome his attacks?
4. What verses about the Deity of Christ stood out to you the most, and why? Will you memorize a couple key verses so you are ready to defend your faith? (1 Pet 3:15)