

**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S DIVINITY**

Message One

**Participating in God's Nature—Spirit, Love, and Light**

Scripture Reading: John 4:24; 1 John 4:8, 16; 1:5, 7

- John 4:24**     *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.*
- 1 John 4:8**     *He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.*
- 1 John 4:16**    *And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.*
- 1 John 1:5**     *And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*
- 1 John 1:7**     *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.*

**I. God's nature, the divine nature, is a constitution of three items—Spirit, love, and light—John 4:24; 1 John 4:8, 16; 1:5:**

- A. *Spirit* denotes the nature of God's person; *love*, the nature of God's essence; and *light*, the nature of God's expression.
- B. To be a partaker of God's nature is to be one partaking of God as Spirit, love, and light.

**II. "God is Spirit"—John 4:24:**

- A. In John 4:24 the Lord Jesus tells us that God is Spirit; this means that the substance of God, the divine substance, is Spirit.
- B. Saying that God is Spirit is speaking of what God is—v. 24:
  - 1. We need to differentiate between the terms *Spirit* and *the Spirit*.
  - 2. What God is, is different from who God is.
  - 3. When we speak of what God is, we are speaking of God's essence, whereas when we speak of who God is, we are speaking about God's person.

4. If we refer to God as Spirit, we are speaking of what God is; if we say that God is *the* Spirit, we are speaking of who God is—v. 24.
- C. Because God is Spirit, we must exercise our spirit to substantiate His spiritual substance—1 Tim. 4:7.
- D. Because God is Spirit, receiving and experiencing Him is as easy as breathing and drinking—John 20:22; 4:14, 24.
- E. If we truly realize that God is Spirit, we will be burdened to develop a life of prayer—Col. 4:2; 1 Thes. 5:17.

### III. “God is love”—1 John 4:8, 16:

- A. Love is the nature of God’s essence, the inward essence of God and the heart of God—vv. 8-9, 16.
- B. God’s predestination of us unto the divine sonship was motivated by God’s love—Eph. 1:4-5.
- C. God’s giving of His only begotten Son to us so that we may be saved from perdition judicially through His death and have the eternal life organically in resurrection was motivated by His love—John 3:16.
- D. The divine love of God is mainly expressed in sending His Son to redeem us and impart God’s life into us so that we may become His children—1 John 4:10; Rom. 8:16.
- E. “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts”—Rom. 5:5:
  1. The pouring out of the love of God into our hearts is a matter of the essence of God.
  2. As believers, deep in our hearts we have something of the divine essence, and this is God, who is love—1 John 4:19.
- F. The goal of Ephesians is to bring us into love as the inner substance of God so that we may enjoy His presence of the divine love and thereby love others as Christ did—5:25.
- G. As those who have been regenerated to become God’s species, we, the children of God, should be love because God is love; since we become God in life and in nature, we also should become love—1 John 4:8, 18.

### IV. “God is light”—1 John 1:5:

- A. Light is the nature of God’s expression; thus, it is an expressive attribute of God—Isa. 30:26; Rev. 21:23.
- B. “In Your light we see light”—Psa. 36:9:
  1. Through God as light, God’s light, we see light and the true condition of things.
  2. “Your light” is God as the enlightening, and the second light denotes the real nature of things—v. 9b.

3. The only time a person can genuinely know himself is when he knows himself in relation to God, who is light—1 John 1:5.
- C. “You were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light”—Eph. 5:8:
1. As God is light, so we, the children of God, are children of light—1 John 1:5; Eph. 5:8; John 12:36.
  2. We are not only children of light; we are light because we are one with God in the Lord—Matt. 5:14; 1 John 1:5.
- D. “If we walk in the light as He [God] is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin”—1 John 1:7:
1. As light is the nature of God, so darkness is the nature of Satan in His evil works—v. 5.
  2. This light shines in the darkness within us, and the darkness cannot overcome it—John 1:4-5.
  3. We walk in the light, but God is in the light because He is light—1 John 1:5, 7.
  4. When we walk and live in the light of God, we have the joint enjoyment of the Triune God and the joint participation in His divine purpose—v. 7; 2 Tim. 1:9.