

# Conviction in the Last Hour: A Study of **1 John 2:18-27**

True conviction comes from abiding in the apostolic gospel of Jesus Christ by the Spirit's anointing.



# The **Big Idea** of Conviction

Knowing Jesus means walking in light, living in love, and standing confidently in eternal life.

## **Big Idea**

True conviction comes from abiding in the apostolic gospel of Jesus Christ by the Spirit's anointing, especially when false teachers arise in the "last hour."

## **Series Big Idea Tie-in**

True conviction comes from knowing Jesus — walking in light, living in love, and standing confidently in eternal life.

## **Series Text**

1 John 5:13 — "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

# Introduction to Spiritual Stability

In a world of "new and improved" teachings, John calls believers to stay where they started.

## The Situation

You've been following Jesus for years, but then someone influential starts teaching something "new and improved." They say, "Jesus is a great teacher, but not the only way."

## John's Response

John writes not to scare them, but to give them conviction — deep, unshakable confidence in eternal life.

## Masterclass in Stability

John says, "Stay where you started." In the "last hour," hold fast to the original gospel you heard, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

# Scripture Reading:

## 1 John 2:18-27

“Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I have not written to you because you don’t know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; he who confesses the Son has the Father as well. What you have heard from the beginning is to remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he himself made to us: eternal life. I have written these things to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you don’t need anyone to teach you. Instead, his anointing teaches

# The Reality of the **Last Hour**

The exit of false teachers reveals their true identity while true believers persevere.



## The Context

John begins with pastoral tenderness: "Children..." He's not alarming them; he's preparing them for the church age.



## The Conflict

Many antichrists have come. There is "the Antichrist" coming, but already many "antichrists" — those who oppose or replace Christ.



## The Reveal

They went out from us, but they were not of us. The exit reveals their true identity.



## Illustration

Think of a tree in a storm. The wind doesn't create weak roots — it reveals them.



## Application

Don't be shocked by deception. Ask yourself: Am I rooted deeply enough that I would stay if others leave?

# The Believer's Assurance: The Anointing



## The Gift

Anointing (chrisma) from the Holy One, the Holy Spirit, given at conversion.



## The Function

The Spirit teaches truth and guards from lies; no need for secret knowledge.



## The Clarity

John isn't dismissing preaching, just teachers who contradict the gospel.



## Illustration

The Spirit functions like an internal GPS and immune system.



## Application

Trust the Spirit; that nudge of unease when hearing falsehoods is His work.

The Holy Spirit acts as an internal GPS and immune system to guard believers from lies.

# The Test of Truth: **Confession of the Son**

Any teaching that diminishes the full deity and humanity of Jesus fails the test of truth.



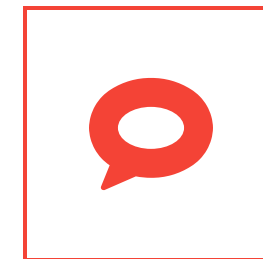
## **The Specific Lie**

The liar/antichrist denies that Jesus is the Christ — the promised Messiah, eternal Son of God come in the flesh.



## **The Consequence**

Denying the Son cuts you off from the Father. You can't have God on your own terms.



## **Modern Equivalents**

Anyone who says Jesus was just a good man, a prophet, an example, or that there are many ways to God.



## **Application**

Does it exalt Jesus as the divine Son, crucified, risen, and the only way to the Father?

# The Call to Abide: Remaining in the Beginning

Abiding in the apostolic gospel ensures connection to the Father and the promise of eternal life.

## 1 The Command

Let the apostolic gospel (what you heard from the beginning) remain in you.

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## 2 The Result

If it does, you will remain in the Son and the Father, resulting in the promise of eternal life.

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## 3 Illustration

Abiding is like a branch connected to the vine (John 15). Cut off, it withers. Connected, it bears fruit.

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## 4 Application

Re-read one Gospel this month. Pick Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John and marinate in the original story of Jesus.

# Conclusion and Final Appeal

True conviction is rooted in the real Jesus and empowered by the real Spirit.

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## The Anchor

In a world full of spiritual noise, John gives us conviction: Stay where you started.

## The Practice

Abide in Christ by His Word and Spirit.

## The Nature of Conviction

True conviction isn't fragile — it's rooted in the real Jesus, the real Spirit, and the real gospel.

# Response Today: **Stay and Abide**

**01**

**If you've drifted**

Come back. Confess and abide again.

**02**

**If you're uncertain about Jesus**

Today is the day to confess Him as the Son of God and receive eternal life.

**03**

**For all of us**

This week, re-read a Gospel and ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your conviction.