



LETTERS OF John

1 & 2 & 3 John

The Letters of John | “Hump Day Wednesdays”

1 John 3:1-24

What day is it?→**Hump Day: Wednesdays**→We’ve been barraged...→What does obedience get me?→Obedience can be really difficult.→**Camel/Mercedes**→Friends...get off the camel and into God’s Mercedes.→1 Jn. 3:1-24

→We all know what it feels like to hit Wednesday, “Hump Day,” and not be motivated to push past the hard and get to the downward slide of the rest of the week. The moment we say “YES” to God is exciting and beautiful and new. Then...we get into the grind of ministry and life and things can feel like an uphill battle. How do we get past the “hump” of obedience? John gives us five motivations to pull us past the Wednesdays of life.

→**What are 5 motivations to pull me past the Wednesdays of life?**→**Bible Project**→To download, [Click here!](#)

→**Text Background:** John writes to rebut deceptive teaching advocating for compromise. His churches were influenced by Gnostics who believed “sin” was ignorance of spirit’s superiority over matter, thus anything done in the body didn’t matter; Cerinthians, a specific form of Gnosticism; and the Docetists who believed Jesus was only a divine mirage. John challenges our faith through the right view of Jesus (**doctrine**) & keeping His commands/love (**praxis**).

1 John 3:1-24: *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

I am motivated to obey because God loves us.→He loves us SO MUCH, He calls us His children.→“Lavished”→joke

- Everything starts with our adoption (while we were sinners: Rom. 5:8).→This is the GATEWAY motivation.
- VISION: We believe in birth to Earth discipleship (not conversationists). HOWEVER...→Prayer: “Lord, I believe!”

→TRANSITION: I CAN obey because i am loved by God.

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

God’s future is coming.→My driving skills improve when I realize my DL is expired...→I fell asleep.→Past Series

- The 2nd Coming of Christ, gave the early church great comfort because their present reality wasn’t comfortable.
- Why obey when its hard, painful, & stretching?...because THIS isn’t forever.→I will have a new body.

→TRANSITION: I CAN obey because Jesus is coming back for me.

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

God is destroying the Devil’s work.→I don’t like blaming the Devil...bc i dong think he deserves the credit.

- Devil's work is defined by "SIN: miss the mark."→Will never sin again?→We fight (or run from) sin & to ABIDE in Him.
 - STORY: Im teaching Harper the Lord's Prayer.→Jesus includes sin in His prayer.→[Click for Guide.](#)
- TRANSITION: I CAN obey because Jesus is destroying the work of the Devil in my life.

9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

- God gives us a new nature.**→The Word of God activated by the Spirit of God...results in NEW BIRTH!→Easy street?
- Cain despised Abel bc...→The world is going to hate you too for obeying.→STORY
 - The Word of God, activated by the Holy Spirit, causes us to love people like Jesus has loved me (laid down his life).
- TRANSITION: I CAN obey because I have been born of God.

19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

- God gives us His Spirit.**→The accusations of our own hearts prevent us from being bold with God in prayer.
- The HS gives us that confidence to believe in Jesus & to love like Jesus.→Like any relationship, we grow w/the HS.
 - I called my inlaws.→The ministry of the HS heals us from the accusations of the heart.
- TRANSITION: I CAN obey because the Holy Spirit is healing my heart.

→**God helps us obey.**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Describe a "Hump Day Wednesday" experience in your walk with the Lord?
2. Why is obedience so difficult in our own strength? Why is obedience necessary?
3. What are the 5 motivations for obedience John gives in 1 John 3?
4. Which motivation can help me in my own journey of obeying God in my life?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to obey you by keeping your commandments & loving people."

QUOTES:

- "If you are going through Hell, keep going." - **Winston Churchill**
- "Number one, like yourself. Number two, you have to eat healthy. And number three, you've got to squeeze your buns. That's my formula." - **Richard Simmons**

Response:

I CAN obey because...

1. I am loved by God.
2. Jesus is coming back for me.
3. Jesus is destroying the Devil's work in my life.
4. I have been born of God.
5. The Holy Spirit is healing my heart.

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GRAPHICS / VIDEOS:

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SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **1 John 2:1-2** - 2 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.
- **Romans 5:6-11** - 6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. **8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.** 9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.
- **Matthew 5:6-11** - 9 Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

10 May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today the food we need,

12 and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

13 And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

- *The Jordan Hansen Version:*

Our Father in heaven,

We worship your HOLY name.

Let Your Kingdom come

Let Your will be done

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need,

and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

And don't let us fall to temptation,

but rescue us from the evil one.

For yours is the Kingdom, the glory, and the power

FOREVER. And EVER. And EVER. Amen.

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