

## Abide- Study of 1,2 & 3 John

### Week 7 Notes

You are past the midpoint of our study ladies- week 7 out 10. Great job! I thought parts of the text were difficult this week- maybe you did too ☺ I added to my paraphrase- it is helping me stay grounded as we cover more and more ground. I will include it here- in case it is helpful for you too.

*I am John and I lived side by side with Jesus- I watched Him die and saw Him resurrected. And, I want you to know that He WAS the promised Messiah that our Old Testament Scriptures have been speaking of all this time.*

*Just as I have had fellowship with the Son, so can you. To do this- you must admit the truth- that you are a sinner and need His forgiveness. But here is the good news! Jesus died and took God's wrath for your sin upon Himself. We are declared righteous by His righteous life! Just admit that and believe that!*

*If you are truly a Christ follower, it will be obvious because you will love and obey God's law. You will also love others with a sacrificial love. This love will be motivated by your love for God, not motivated by anything that other person can do for you. If you hate God's law or you hate the people He created than you are a liar- you actually DON'T love God.*

*Your love for God will be greater than anything you could love in this world.*

*Be wary of antichrists. No matter what they look like on the surface, if they deny that Jesus is the Messiah, then they are a liar- they do NOT know God. They will try to deceive you. But they do not know God, like YOU know God. You won't be deceived.*

*God looks upon you as His children- and as His children, you will become uncomfortable with your sin. The Holy Spirit within you will convict you, and as a result, you will battle your sin and overcome it- little by little. You will become WORSE at practicing sin and BETTER at practicing righteousness!*

*The more you look like God, the less you will look like the world. And the world will start to hate you- because the dark world hates the light of Christ. It will be difficult at times, but you can ask God for help at any time and whatever you need to help you complete the race of the Christian life- He will give you! Anything! Ask away and you will receive it.*

*As Christ abides in you, you abide in Him- so you are SEALED and SAFE. You will have discernment about the antichrists and confidence about your salvation in Christ and as well and His coming judgment upon sin. There is no need to fear- the Holy Spirit within you and God's Scriptures gives you all the SPECIAL knowledge you need.*

*Just to remind you- we know who loves God by a few simple tests: those who love God also love His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome- they are for our good and bring spiritual freedom! With Christ, we have overcome the world.*

*There are three things that testify that God give us eternal life which is found in Jesus. These three things are the water, the blood and the Spirit. The water represents the baptism and commissioning of Jesus, the blood represents the death and resurrection of Jesus, and the Spirit lives within us and illuminates the truth.*

### **Day 1**

Shout out and another prize for the women who completed all the annotating on page 106! Whew! It just goes to show you how much I miss even through repetitious reading- I did not realize that the phrase “by this we know” was repeated so many times.

Poll your ladies- do they think it is easier to obey God’s commandments, or to love others? I would say to obey His commandments. But, as the application question on page 108 brings to mind- the truth is that God’s commandments, if followed in our heart- as God intended- are focused on loving others.

### **Day 2**

I really loved the truth at the beginning of this day: “God’s commandments are not burdensome”. What do you think that means, and why do you think John made this point?

If you have time, go through all of the verses that have to do with burdens. What kind of burden is being described here? A physical burden or a spiritual burden, or both?

A theological topic that I have brought up many times is the concept of “creative rule” meaning, that as our Creator, God has the right to rule. Without His creative work, we and everything we see and experience would not exist. As such, God make the rules, He sets the parameters, and we are to live by them without question. The great thing is- is that His rules are for our well-being! He created us, and therefore He knows what will ultimately bring us the most joy! So, while there are rules (or commandments) set in place by God- they are not burdensome. They are exactly what we need to thrive. We need to trust God as our good Creator. I feel that God laid that out right off the bat- with the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil- that Adam and Even were not to touch. It was there to remind them that the fullness of joy was available to them- but could only be experienced as long as they lived life within the parameters God set.

How did your ladies respond to the application questions on number 13?

### **Day 3**

In this day, we drill into the Scripture that indicates that we will “overcome the world.” Based on their answers on question 17, what do your ladies equate with “the world”?

What things in the world, trips your ladies up? How does the Bible speak into those things? Are you using Scripture to realign your thinking and your priorities to keep the lust of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life in check?

What were your ladies answers to question 13? Maybe you can all share some encouragement with one another.

## **Day 4 and 5**

I am a staunch supporter of good bible teaching, but I have recognized that sometimes, an authentic testimony can move people's hearts even more than teaching- both are important. A testimony is a way that life is breathed into the truth of Scripture. Listening to an authentic, God glorifying testimony can be the first step someone takes to consider placing their trust in something other than themselves. Testimonies are the substance of the four gospels. What is your testimony? How does it highlight the work of God in your life? How has God used the circumstances of your life- both joyful and difficult- to share the hope of Jesus with others?

1 John 5:6-12: This passage has had me confused me since the first day we received our study books and started reading through 1,2 & 3 John repetitively. What exactly is being represented by the water, the blood and the Spirit? Well, I cheated and looked at some options presented by scholars:

- Water= baptism of Jesus, blood= communion at last supper
- Water and blood= birth of Jesus (both are present in birthing process)
- Water= birth of Jesus, blood= death of Jesus
- Water and blood= represents crucifixion of Jesus- when soldier pierced His side, both water and blood flowed out

No matter what the water and the blood represent, we can confidently say that they represent some aspect of Jesus' life on earth. The humanity of Jesus- his birth, life, work, death and resurrection testifies that God offers us eternal life through His Son. So Jesus and the Spirit within us testify to the gospel!