



First John

abiding faith

“Remaining Close to the Lord” | Pastor Joe Yoshihara

March 2, 2025

1 John 1:3

³ that which we have seen and heard we
proclaim also to you, **so that you too may
have fellowship with us; and indeed our
fellowship is with the Father and with his
Son Jesus Christ.**



The Gnostic Error

1. Special Knowledge



The Gnostic Error

1. Special Knowledge
2. Dualism – matter: evil; spirit: good



1 John 2:1-14

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole



1 John 2:1-14

world. ³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in



1 John 2:1-14

in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment



1 John 2:1-14

that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light



1 John 2:1-14

is already shining. ⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness



1 John 2:1-14

and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹² I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his
name's sake.



1 John 2:1-14

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the
beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children,



1 John 2:1-14

because you know the Father.

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers,

because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,

because you are strong,



1 John 2:1-14

and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.



1 John 2:1

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.



Remain close to the Lord by **cooperating with the Holy Spirit** when He convicts you of sin.



1 John 2:2

² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.



God's wrath is His righteous response to sin.



John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.



2 Thessalonians 1:9-10

⁹They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.



Remain close to the Lord by **remembering**
what you've been saved from.



1 John 2:3-6

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in



1 John 2:3-6

him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.



Remain close to the Lord by **walking as
Jesus walked**



1 John 2:7-11

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you,



1 John 2:7-11

which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is



1 John 2:7-11

no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.



Leviticus 19:18

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.



John 13:34

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.



1 John 2:12-14

¹²I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his
name's sake. ¹³I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the
beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,



1 John 2:12-14

because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children, because you know the Father.

¹⁴ I write to you, fathers,

because you know him who is from the beginning.



1 John 2:12-14

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong, and the word of
God abides in you, and you have overcome
the evil one.



Encouragement in truth -> Confidence ->
Vigilance -> Victory



Help others to remain close to the Lord by
repeating encouraging words to them.



Application – How to Remain Close to the Lord

1. Cooperate with the Holy Spirit's Conviction
2. Remember what you've been saved from
3. Walk as Jesus walked
4. Speak encouraging words often to others

