

THE EPISTLES of John

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Summer 2021
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WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

▣ **1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

▣ World: *kosmos*: the order of things here on earth

▣ Love: *agape*: to put another's best interest first

CHRISTIANS SHOULD NEVER PUT THE WORLD'S
INTERESTS AHEAD OF GOD AND HIS
INTERESTS

THE COMMAND

- ▣ **1 John 3:23** This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.
- ▣ John now turns his attention to the one empowering us to do this:
- ▣ **1 John 3:24** The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
- ▣ Apart from the ministry of the Spirit, people would be unable to withstand persecution
- ▣ **Mark 13:11** "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Holy

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION

- ▣ **1 Corinthians 12:7-10** But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.
- ▣ Distinguishing: *diakrasis*: to judge between; to discern
- ▣ **People don't pick which gift they will have; the Holy Spirit distributes them as He wills**

BEING POSITIONED

- We position ourselves to hear from God; it is possible to ignore/refuse Him to the point that we don't hear much at all
- **1 Samuel 3:1** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent
- John is fighting the antichrist sorts of spirits in his times: these said that Jesus' flesh wasn't real
- But redemption requires a "blood relative"
- **Hebrews 2:14** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

THE KEY TO OVERCOMING

- ▣ **1 John 4:4-6** You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
- ▣ **Jeremiah 1:17-19** "Now, gird up your loins and arise, and speak to them all which I command you. Do not be dismayed before them, or I will dismay you before them. Now behold, I have made you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land. They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD.

MANIFESTATION OF LOVE

- ❑ **1 John 4:7-10** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.
- ❑ Love comes from a regenerate nature (being born again) and fellowship with God
- ❑ Love is an initiative on God's part
- ❑ Propitiation: *hilasmos*: atonement
- ❑ Mercy seat: *hilasterion*: the place of atonement

THE POWER OF CONFESSION

- ▣ **1 John 4:14-15** We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- ▣ Testify: *martureo*: to give an account; to bear witness; to give (or be) evidence
- ▣ **Revelation 12:10-11** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the **blood** of the Lamb and because of the **word of their testimony**, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."

PERFECTED LOVE

- ❑ **1 John 4:15-17** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.
- ❑ Perfected: *telios*: to bring to completion
- ❑ **2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- ❑ Recompensed: *komizo*: to receive back to be provided for

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ORIGIN OF FEAR

- ▣ **1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
- ▣ Fear is based on concern about negative outcomes or punishments
- ▣ For believers, ultimately there is not a negative outcome
- ▣ **Romans 8:1** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- ▣ Condemnation: *katakrima*: penalty; judgment against
- ▣ **Luke 12:4-5** "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"

LOVE DEFINED

- ▣ **1 John 4:20** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.
- ▣ **Matthew 5:43-46** "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

OPPOSITION FROM THE FLESH

- ▣ **Galatians 5:16-17** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.
- ▣ **Romans 7:21** I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.
- ▣ **Matthew 26:39-41** And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you *men* could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."