

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

JoLynn Gower
summer 2021
352-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org



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

LACK OF UNDERSTANDING

- ▣ **1 John 3:1** See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- ▣ **Romans 8:6-8** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*,
- ▣ **John 8:43** "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word."



CHRISTIAN PERCEPTION

- Recognition on a spiritual level of other Christians
- Truths about God's Word
- Discerning between spirits
- Spirits recognizing us as Christians
- **Acts 19:13-15** But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" **The evil spirit overpowered all seven!**

IMMORTAL BODY

- ▣ **1 John 3:2-3** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- ▣ **Philippians 3:20-21** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
- ▣ **Mark 16:12-13** After that, He appeared in a **different form** to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either

A REDEEMED BODY

- ▣ **1 Corinthians 15:51-55** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"
- ▣ **Our** earthly bodies are still subject to the curse; they die and decay; but they will be resurrected as imperishable bodies like Jesus' body after the resurrection

THE PRODUCT OF ABIDING

- ▣ **1 John 3:4-8** Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. **No one who abides in Him sins**; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who **practices sin** is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
- ▣ Sins: *harmatanei*: sin past, present, future
- ▣ **BESETTING SINS** Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us...

OVERCOMING

- ▣ **1 John 3:9-10** No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.
- ▣ Cannot: *ou dunatai*: is not powerless
- ▣ **1 John 3:9 (TLB)** The person who has been born into God's family does not make a practice of sinning because now God's life is in him; so he can't keep on sinning, for this new life has been born into him and **controls** him—he has been *born again*.

LACK OF LOVE

- ❑ **1 John 3:12** ...not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

WHO CONTROLS? WHO WILL YOU LET EMPOWER YOUR LIFE?

- ❑ **1 John 3:13-14** Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.
Sin and lack of love never come from seeing and knowing God
- ❑ Love: *agape*: an action putting another's best interest first helps in time of need; shares; values commitment; patient, kind, humble, forgiving

SOMETIMES LOVE MUST BE TOUGH

- ▣ **1 John 3:16-20** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.
- ▣ Condemns: *kataginosko*: using knowledge to place blame
- ▣ **1 John 3:20 (NLT)** Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything.

HOW ARE WE SURE

- How do we know....
- **1 John 3:21-22** Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His command-ments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
- **Confidence: *parresia*: free speech; boldness**
- A confident and effective prayer life is founded on obedience to God's commands
- This presupposes that we are asking subject to God's will
- Model prayer: Your kingdom come, Your will be done...
- **John 14:13-14** "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*."
- **Romans 8:26** In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words:

ASKING IN HIS NAME

- ❑ **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.
- ❑ Name: *onoma*: authority and purpose associated with a particular person's name
- ❑ Authority: *exousia*: the right to do something; given by someone/group to another/group; acts within boundaries and rules established by the giver
- ❑ Purpose: *prothesis*: showbread; the setting forth of God's desires for a particular person at a particular time and place
- ❑ When we go claiming the name of Christ and do not follow through, or sin in the process, etc. we have quite literally taken His name in vain