

# BLESSED ASSURANCE

— A study of 1 John —

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# **Blessed Assurance: A Study in I John**

- Week 1 ..... An introduction to I John**
- Week 2 ..... Live Like Jesus**
- Week 3 ..... Love One Another**
- Week 4 ..... Proclaim Jesus is Lord**
- Week 5 ..... The Holy Spirit Bears Witness**



# **Week 1**

## Blessed Assurance: A Study in I John Week One

### Discussion Question

What is an event you weren't around for but you have heard your parents and grandparents describe in detail? This could be an historical event or something personal to your family. (ex: Great Depression, WWII, assassination of JFK, etc.)

### Who was John?

John was an \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>1</sup>We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.*

Most scholars believe John is writing this letter around 90 AD from Ephesus to churches in Asia Minor. Most of the recipients of this letter are second and third generation believers.

### Discussion Question

**What are some of the prevalent false teachings of our day? How do they differ from biblical truth?**

### False Teachers: Gnostics

Gnostics held to a variety of beliefs, but the predominant two tenants of their belief system were these:

1. Matter is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Salvation is by a mystical, secret \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>1</sup>We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. <sup>2</sup>This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. <sup>3</sup>We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.*

Christ doesn't give us the option of worshiping Him for anything other than exactly who He truly is, and John is writing to be sure we understand who Christ is and how to worship Him.

## Discussion Question

**In I John 1:3-4, John talks a lot about fellowship and joy. How is Christian fellowship similar to and different from simple friendship?**

### Full Fellowship and Joy

*<sup>3</sup>We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.*

The Greek word for fellowship is “koinonia” and it means sharing in common something that is significant and important; the joy and oneness in a group of people who are in accord regarding something that really matters.

John goes on to explain that fellowship is not just between believers, but it is also something we can have with our Heavenly Father.

*<sup>5</sup>This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. <sup>6</sup>So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*

The evidence that we belong to God through Christ is in the way we live – when we put away the things of darkness (sin) and live in the light (obedience), we have fellowship (share something in common that is significant and important) with God!

### Purpose

- **PROMOTE** \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 1:4) *<sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.*
- **PRESS ON IN** \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 2:1) *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.*
- **PURSUE CORRECT** \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 2:26) *I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray.*
- **PROVIDE ASSURANCE OF** \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 5:13) *I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.*

## Discussion Question

**Why is assurance of salvation (the idea that we can know with utter certainty that we belong to God through Christ and therefore look forward to an eternity in heaven with Him) important for believers?**

It is from this last theme that we chose our title for this series, Blessed Assurance. Throughout this short letter, John gives his readers four very specific ways to be assured of their salvation.

- 1) Those who belong to Christ keep His \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Those who belong to Christ \_\_\_\_\_ one another.
- 3) Those who belong to Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Christ as God.
- 4) Those who belong to Christ have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

I John 5:11-12, John writes, *“And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life.”*

**Homework:** INSPECT I John 1 this week using the following questions:

I - What INSIGHTS do I gain about God, myself, or the world from this passage?

N - What NEW THOUGHT does this passage teach me?

S – Is there a SIN this passage teaches me to avoid? What is it?

P – Is there a PROMISE in this passage for me to claim? Write it down.

E – Is there an EXAMPLE in this passage for me to follow? Whose?

C – Is there a COMMAND in this passage for me to obey? What is it?

T – What TRUTH from this passage will you memorize this week?



# **Week 2**

## Blessed Assurance: A Study in I John

### Week Two

#### Discussion Question

**What were some of the activities or behaviors that characterized your family growing up – or things you instilled/are instilling in your children?**

#### Introduction

John provides four “proofs” of salvation, each of which we will look closely at during our time together this summer.

- 1) Those who belong to Christ keep His commandments.
- 2) Those who belong to Christ love one another.
- 3) Those who belong to Christ proclaim Christ as God.
- 4) Those who belong to Christ have the Spirit of God.

#### OBEDIENCE

**“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”** – John 14:15

**Obedience reveals the genuineness of our \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.”* - I John 2:3

Obedience to God’s commands reflects our confidence in Him. Obedience now, reveals that we are trusting the God of eternity to know what is best and to act for our good.

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17):

*<sup>2</sup>“I am the lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.*

*<sup>3</sup>“You must not have any other god but me.*

*<sup>4</sup>“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. <sup>5</sup>You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. <sup>6</sup>But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.*

*<sup>7</sup>“You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.*

*<sup>8</sup>“Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup>You have six days each week for your ordinary work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.*

<sup>12</sup>*"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

<sup>13</sup>*"You must not murder.*

<sup>14</sup>*"You must not commit adultery.*

<sup>15</sup>*"You must not steal.*

<sup>16</sup>*"You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.*

<sup>17</sup>*"You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."*

## **Discussion Question**

**Is it difficult to keep these commandments? Why or why not? How does consistently living in obedience to these commands reveal the genuineness of one's faith?**

**Obedience reveals the authenticity of our \_\_\_\_\_.**

I John 2:4, *"If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth."*

To confess is to agree. When we confess our sin, we agree with God about our wrongdoing and our need for His grace to save us from eternal punishment. When we confess that Jesus is Lord, we agree with God about who He says He is and what He says He will do for us.

Obedience does not save us, but obedience does reflect the authenticity of our confession that Jesus is the Lord of our lives.

**Obedience reveals the maturing of our \_\_\_\_\_.**

I John 2:5, *"But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him."*

There are things in our lives that God asks us to do or not to do that may not seem all that important to us personally in the moment, but we do them because they reflect our growing, maturing love for the Lord and our desire to please him.

As our love for God matures, so does our obedience to His commands, even the ones we don't fully understand in the moment.

**Obedience reveals our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christlikeness.**

I John 2:6, *"Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did."*

## Discussion Question

**What are some stories or examples from Jesus' life that help you know what it means to live as Jesus did?**

Here are some of the examples I came up with for how Jesus lived:

1. **Humbly** \_\_\_\_\_ ... *Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup>Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)*
2. **As a** \_\_\_\_\_ **Leader confident about His Identity**... *Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. <sup>4</sup>So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, <sup>5</sup>and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. (John 13:3-5)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ... *But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer. (Luke 5:16)*
4. **By the** \_\_\_\_\_ ... *In Luke 4, Jesus had been fasting in the wilderness for 40 days when Satan came to tempt him with food, with pride, and with power, and each time Jesus rebukes him saying, "It is written ..." in other words, "Scripture says ..." In a moment of genuine weakness, Jesus leaned fully on the Word of God to keep Him from sin.*

The primary way we grow to look more like him is through obedience to God's commands. He tells us not to forsake meeting together (Hebrews 10), so we gather. He tells us hide His Word in our hearts, so that we will not sin against Him (Psalm 119), so we study to know what it says and obey. He tells us not to worry about anything but to pray about everything (Philippians 4), so we bring our requests to Him in prayer. He tells us that the Church is a body made up of many members of which we are a part (I Corinthians 12), so we stick together, growing in Him.

The longer we walk with him, the more we conform to His image, and our obedience reflects that growth in Christlikeness.

## Conclusion

*And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.*

*Those who say they live in god should live their lives as Jesus did. – I John 2:3-6*

The first way we can have a blessed assurance of our relationship with God is by our obedience to His commands.

**Homework:** Read and INSPECT I John 2.

I - What INSIGHTS do I gain about God, myself, or the world from this passage?

N - What NEW THOUGHT does this passage teach me?

S – Is there a SIN this passage teaches me to avoid? What is it?

P – Is there a PROMISE in this passage for me to claim? Write it down.

E – Is there an EXAMPLE in this passage for me to follow? Whose?

C – Is there a COMMAND in this passage for me to obey? What is it?

T – What TRUTH from this passage will you memorize this week?



# **Week 3**

## Blessed Assurance: A Study in I John

### Week Three

#### Discussion Question

**What would it look like to really love your neighbor as yourself? Do you think that is difficult? Why or why not?**

#### Introduction

Warren Wiersbe says, “Self-preservation is the first law of physical life, but self-sacrifice is the first law of spiritual life.” John, the author of this letter we’re studying says,

*If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.<sup>15</sup> Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don’t have eternal life within them. – I John 3:14-15*

The world often gets confused about what love is. To hear the world tell it, love is a powerful emotion that sweeps you off your feet, a pit you can fall into ... and fall right back out of. Love is a feeling, and when the feeling fades, so does the love.

But, that’s not Biblical love. That’s not the love Jesus talked about or demonstrated, nor is it the love John says is assurance of our eternal life in Christ. Instead, I John 3 says this:

*<sup>16</sup>We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?*

*<sup>18</sup>Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.*

**Real love is \_\_\_\_\_.**

a) Jesus gave up his throne in heaven to walk on earth.

*Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup>Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; - Philippians 2:6*

b) Jesus gave up his kingly status to be born as a peasant.

*he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. – Philippians 2:7*

c) Jesus gave up his home to be an itinerant preacher.

*As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” <sup>58</sup>But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.” - Luke 9:57-58*

d) Jesus gave up his life to die for sinners like you and me.

*No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. – John 10:18*

*<sup>6</sup>When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. – Romans 5:6*



**Real love is \_\_\_\_\_.**

For Jesus, it costs Him his position, his pride, his dignity, his comfort, and eventually his life. Most of us will not be called upon to give up our lives in a literal way for our brothers and sisters, but certainly, we have daily opportunities to surrender our pride or dignity or comfort for those around us.

### **Discussion Question**

Tell the people in your group about a time your love for someone cost you something.

**Real love is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*<sup>17</sup>If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? – I John 3:17*

Real love means that when we have the means to act on behalf of a brother or sister in need, we do so. It means we care. We allow ourselves to feel on behalf of others and let that caring move us to action.

**Real love is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*<sup>18</sup>Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.  
– I John 3:18*

### **Discussion Question**

What are some of the ways your brothers and sisters in Christ have shown love to you?

### **Conclusion: Love’s Source**

*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

*<sup>9</sup>God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup>This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

*<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.  
– I John 4:7-10*

Because He loves us that much and chooses to live in us, we can love each other. When we love each other in the same ways He loves us, we are allowing those who don’t yet know Him to see Him.

**Homework:** INSPECT I John 3.

I - What INSIGHTS do I gain about God, myself, or the world from this passage?

N - What NEW THOUGHT does this passage teach me?

S – Is there a SIN this passage teaches me to avoid? What is it?

P – Is there a PROMISE in this passage for me to claim? Write it down.

E – Is there an EXAMPLE in this passage for me to follow? Whose?

C – Is there a COMMAND in this passage for me to obey? What is it?

T – What TRUTH from this passage will you memorize this week?

# **Week 4**

## Blessed Assurance: A Study in I John

### Week Four

#### Discussion Question

**What are some of the things that your friends associate with you? (Something you collect? A show you enjoy? Something you're passionate about?) In other words, what are you known for?**

#### Introduction

*"All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God." I John 4:15*

One of our Blessed Assurances of salvation is that we agree with God about who Jesus is. We confess and are known for our belief about who Jesus is. Lots of people claim to know or have a way to God, but the Bible tells us that there is only one way to God, and that is through Jesus Christ. That's why this confession of Jesus as the Son of God is part of the assurance of our salvation. It sets true believers apart from false teachers and doctrines and requires that others decide what they'll do about Him.

**Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God (I John 5:1)**

*"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God ... And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God." I John 5:1,5*

#### Discussion Question

**Think of someone you know who does not believe in Christ. What are the indications that person wants more evidence? What kind of evidence do you think they're looking for?**

**The witness of His \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 5:6-8)**

*"And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water..." I John 5:6a*

The baptism of Jesus is so significant that all four of the Gospel writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) recorded it. Here is Matthew's account,

*<sup>16</sup>After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."*

At His baptism, we see the Holy Spirit descend on Him like a dove, setting Him apart, drawing our attention to the fact that He was no ordinary man. Then, we hear the voice of God the Father declaring Jesus to be His Son, a son in whom He was well pleased. This baptism is a witness that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the Son of God.

**The witness of His \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 5:6-8)**

*<sup>6</sup>And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. – I John 5:6*

The ministry that began with his baptism in water was completed by his death on the cross.

I John 2:2 says, *“He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins – and not only for our sins but the sins of all the world.”*

I John 4:10 says, *“This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loves us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”*

The witness of the crucifixion is that a perfect, sinless man died the death you and I deserved for our sins, taking both the guilt and the eternal punishment away, so that we could be made right with God. The fact that God was satisfied with that sacrifice and allows all who call upon the name of Jesus to be His children bears witness to the value of the cross and testifies that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

**The witness of the \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 5:6-8)**

*And the Spirit, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony. <sup>7</sup>So we have these three witnesses—<sup>8</sup>the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and all three agree.*

Pastor James Merritt describes Him this way, “The witness of the Spirit is God’s witness to us, in us, and through us. Just as the arrow of a compass always points toward the North, the Spirit of God always points to Jesus.”

Here at Center Point Church, our mission is to “Help people discover and live a God-centered life.” We, too, want to bear witness to who Jesus is and point others to Him as Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit speaks to the hearts and minds of those who hear our message and says, “It’s true! It’s all true!”

**Discussion Question**

**What role(s) did the witness of Jesus’ baptism, his crucifixion, or the testimony of the Holy Spirit play in your personal conversion to faith in Christ? How did one (or all) of these impact your belief?**

**The witness of the \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 5:9-10)**

*Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. <sup>10</sup>All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don’t believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don’t believe what God has testified about his Son.*

Never before and never since has God testified about anyone like He did Jesus. John says the witness of God the Father is so strong, that to not believe that Jesus is the Son of God is to call God himself a liar, to charge God with cosmic perjury.

There is no biblical version of God that does not also proclaim Jesus Christ as the Son of God. When one accepts and/or preaches a God other than this one, he has accepted a false god.

### **The witness of our \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 5:10)**

*<sup>10</sup>All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son.*

Here, John is calling on that internal witness of our personal experience to testify in agreement with the water and the blood and the Holy Spirit and God Himself.

2 Corinthians 5:14-16 says, *"Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. <sup>15</sup>He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. <sup>16</sup>So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!"*

This is the difference in the testimony of one who knows about Jesus verses one who knows Jesus. Lots of people may know some historical facts about his life, but those of us who've made Him Savior and Lord know Him, we've been changed by Him. We can testify that He is who He says He is and He will do what He says He will do!

### **The witness of \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 5:11-12)**

*And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. – I John 5:11-12*

To believe the Son is to have eternal life, and it begins now. To not believe the Son is to be dead in sin and face an eternity apart from God in hell, death.

John says the witness of eternal life is that it is impossible to have life apart from the Son, and it is impossible to have the Son without having eternal life. The reason this is a witness to Jesus as the Son of God is that only He who is eternal can give you that which is eternal. In order to make this astounding offer of eternal life to all who believe, He must Himself be the eternal Son of God.

## **Conclusion**

One blessed assurance, a way we can know that we have been saved by God into His forever family, is by our personal proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord and God. And, we can confidently and boldly proclaim that He is indeed both Savior and Lord because of the abundant witnesses provided to us by His baptism, by His crucifixion, by the Holy Spirit revealing truth to us, by the Father Himself, by our own conversion experience, and by the witness of eternal life.

**Homework:** INSPECT I John 4.

I - What INSIGHTS do I gain about God, myself, or the world from this passage?

N - What NEW THOUGHT does this passage teach me?

S – Is there a SIN this passage teaches me to avoid? What is it?

P – Is there a PROMISE in this passage for me to claim? Write it down.

E – Is there an EXAMPLE in this passage for me to follow? Whose?

C – Is there a COMMAND in this passage for me to obey? What is it?

T – What TRUTH from this passage will you memorize this week?





# **Week 5**

## Blessed Assurance: A Study in I John

### Week Five

#### Discussion Question

**How would you best describe the Trinity to someone unfamiliar with the concept? What metaphors have you heard and in what ways do they work? In what ways do they break down?**

#### Introduction

Understanding the trinity, God as one, existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is foundational to our faith, yet it can be more than a little difficult, even frustrating, to articulate.

But, when John writes “*And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us,*” (I John 4:13), it becomes invaluable that we understand the significant role of the Holy Spirit both in salvation and assurance of that salvation.

The Holy Spirit is the very Spirit of God, sent into the lives of believers to direct us to the truth.

#### The Truth About the \_\_\_\_\_

*“For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.” – I John 2:16*

John says the best the world has to offer is:

- a craving for \_\_\_\_\_
- a craving for \_\_\_\_\_
- a \_\_\_\_\_ in our achievements and possessions

The things the world has to offer can never satisfy and will eventually fade away all together, but those who follow God have an eternal, unfading reward.

The Spirit distinguishes the true believers from those in the world, helping them to recognize the true value of eternity with Christ over the temporary offerings of the world apart from Him.

#### The Truth about the \_\_\_\_\_

*I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. <sup>27</sup>But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. – I John 2:26-27*

The beauty of the indwelling Holy Spirit alive in every believer is that we know the truth. The Spirit teaches us everything we need to know and we can trust Him to continue to do so.

The Spirit lives in us to teach us right from wrong. To show us where our home is and to point out to us anything that does not belong in our home with Christ.

The Spirit's role in our lives is to help us recognize the Truth and distinguish it from a lie. To help us recognize when something or someone doesn't jive with what we know to be true about God.

### **The Truth about \_\_\_\_\_**

*Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us. – 1 John 3:24*

Here's some really good news. That conviction you feel when you do something wrong? It's evidence that you belong to God! It's part of your blessed assurance! When we disobey God's commands, when we fail to love one another the way he taught us, when we start to follow a false teacher – there's conviction, a check in our spirit, a holy discontent – sometimes it makes us rather miserable, doesn't it? But, it's the very best kind of news. It's evidence that we were made for more, made for better. We belong to Christ, and the Spirit of God lives in us.

### **Discussion Question**

**When was a time that the conviction of the Holy Spirit redirected you away from something wrong, false, or sinful, and toward truth?**

### **The Truth about \_\_\_\_\_ Teachers**

*<sup>1</sup>Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.*

1. Are you following \_\_\_\_\_? Evaluate the message and the messenger by the Word of God.
2. Are you confessing the \_\_\_\_\_?  
*But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. – 1 John 4:3 ... If someone comes along teaching something that does not line up with what we know to be true about Christ in the scripture, it's a clear indication that he (or she) is a false teacher.*
3. Are you trusting in the \_\_\_\_\_?  
*But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 1 John 4:5 ... The Spirit of God who lives in us is stronger, and we can trust Him to guide us in truth.*
4. Are you listening to the \_\_\_\_\_?  
*Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of*

*deception.* - *1 John 4:5-6* ... Right teachers are those who teach Jesus as we find Him in the Word of God, not Jesus plus or minus anything else.

**Conclusion: The Truth about \_\_\_\_\_**

*<sup>13</sup>And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.*

The Holy Spirit of God lives in us and bears witness to our salvation. The Holy Spirit reveals Truth that we belong to the family of God and have been made right with Him through Jesus Christ.

Stand tall, Christian. Walk confidently in your identity as one who knows and follows the Risen Savior. Be blessed in your assurance that you are known and loved by the Living God.

**Homework:** INSPECT *1 John 5.*

I - What INSIGHTS do I gain about God, myself, or the world from this passage?

N - What NEW THOUGHT does this passage teach me?

S – Is there a SIN this passage teaches me to avoid? What is it?

P – Is there a PROMISE in this passage for me to claim? Write it down.

E – Is there an EXAMPLE in this passage for me to follow? Whose?

C – Is there a COMMAND in this passage for me to obey? What is it?

T – What TRUTH from this passage will you memorize this week?





## Blessed Assurance: A Study of I John

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