

## “God Abides In Us”

4:13 **By this we [Christians] know [recognize and understand, are confident] that we abide [live] in Him and He [God] in us, because He has given us of His [Holy] Spirit.**

1. God has given us the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; Rom. 5:5; 8:9, 14, 15; Gal. 4:6; 1 Jn. 3:24).

- The Holy Spirit is given to those who repent and are baptized. (Acts 2:38).
- He is given to those who obey God through Jesus and become God’s spiritual children.
  - a. The Holy Spirit is an **incentive to holiness**. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).
  - b. The Holy Spirit is a **sign of our sonship**. (Gal. 4:6).
  - c. He is the **pledge of our salvation**. (Eph. 1:13, 14).

EPH 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**, “sealed” as the idea of ownership and certification. Sealed is from “sphragi’zo” meaning to “put a seal on, seal, mark, certify.”

EPH 1:14 **who is given as a pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

- d. He produces “fruit” in the Christian. (Gal. 5:22, 23).

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
GAL 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- 1) This is the clearest demonstration that the Holy Spirit lives in us.
- 2) Failure to bring forth “the fruit of the Spirit” is certain evidence that the Holy Spirit does not abide in us.

- e. He **helps the Christian in prayer**. (Rom. 8:26, 27).

- 1) We most often know how to pray. (Matt. 6:9-13; 1 Tim. 2:1,2). We also learn how to pray by studying the prayers of Jesus, the apostles, and all the great men and women of the Bible.
- 2) There are times, however, when we do not know how to pray or put our needs into words.
- 3) At times like these the Holy Spirit helps the Christian, and present our “groanings” [not His] to God.

2. There can be no question that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, but the Bible does not tell us how the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

- a. Some think the Spirit dwells in the Christian **through the word only**.

- 1) Galatians 3:2 is used to prove this.

GAL 3:2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Lit “hearing of faith.” Reference to hearing the gospel with faith.

- 2) It is correctly pointed out that faith comes from hearing God’s word. (Rom. 10:17).
- 3) It is true that we receive the Holy Spirit as the result of hearing and obeying God’s word.
- 4) This passage does not prove the Holy Spirit dwells in us only through the word.
- 5) See Eph. 5:18 and Col. 3:16. These scriptures are also use to prove the Spirit dwells in the Christian through the word only.

EPH 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit,**

COL 3:16 **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,** with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- 6) Some believe that “be filled with the Spirit” and “let the word of Christ richly dwell within you” have exactly the same meaning and contend we are “filled with the Spirit” when God’s (Christ’s) word “richly” dwells in us.
  - 7) The one who is “filled with the Spirit” will “let the word of Christ” dwell richly in him, but these verses do not mean the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian through the word only.
- b. Some believe the Spirit dwells in the Christian **through faith and others personally.** See Eph. 3:17.
  - c. **The truth of the matter is that the Bible does not tells us how the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian.**
  - d. We do not have to know the mode of His indwelling to believe He abides (lives) in us.
  - e. All human explanations are fallible, that is, may be wrong.

4:14 **And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son {to be} the Savior of the world.**

- The words “to be” are in italics, but are understood. McCord has “has sent the Son *as the* world’s Savior. Amp has “*as the* Savior of the world.”
  - 1 Jn. 4:9, 10.
1. There can be no mistake about the Father’s reason for sending Jesus into the world. (1 Jn. 2:2).
  2. Jesus came to save mankind. (Matt. 1:21; Lk. 19:10; Jn. 3:17).

**Note:** “Beheld” is perfect tense of “the’omai” [the’ o mi] meaning “to see, behold.”

### **Confessing Jesus As The Son of God**

4:15 **Whoever confesses [sincerely acknowledges] that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides [lives] in him, and he [abides, lives] in God.**

- 1 Jn. 4:12

1. Confession of Jesus is absolutely essential. (Matt. 10:32, 33; Mk. 8:38).
  - a. See Mark 1:24 to see that the mere lip service of the demons is not enough. See also Jas. 2:19.
  - b. See also Matt. 7:21-23 - Merely calling Jesus “Lord” is not sufficient
  - c. Confession assumes one is sincerely repenting of sin, and keeping God’s commandments.
2. Jesus must be confessed as “the Son of God” and “the Christ.”
  - a. Matthew 16:16; John 20:30, 31
  - b. “Christ” means “anointed one.”
  - c. Jesus is God’s anointed Ruler, and He must be accepted as our Lord and King.

ACT 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

3. See 1 Jn. 2:23; 4:2,3; 2 Jn. 7.

<p>1JO 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.</p>	<p>1JO 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;          1JO 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.</p>	<p>2JO 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.</p>
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4. God abides in those who obey Him and His Son. (Jn. 14:23).

**Jesus The Son of God.**

1JO 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with **His Son Jesus Christ**.

1JO 1:7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus **His Son** cleanses us from all sin.

1JO 2:22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the **Father and the Son**.

1JO 2:23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; **the one who confesses the Son has the Father also**.

1JO 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we **believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ**, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1JO 4:9 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.

1JO 4:10 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.

1JO 4:14 And we have beheld and bear witness that **the Father has sent the Son** to be the Savior of the world.

1JO 4:15 **Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God**, God abides in him, and he in God.

1JO 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for the witness of God is this, that He has borne **witness concerning His Son**.

1JO 5:10 **The one who believes in the Son of God** has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that **God has borne concerning His Son**.

1JO 5:11 And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this **life is in His Son**.

1JO 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; **he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life**.

1JO 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe **in the name of the Son of God**, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

1JO 5:20 **And we know that the Son of God** has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, **in His Son Jesus Christ**. This is the true God and eternal life.

### **Love Manifests Union With God**

4:16 **And 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.** 1 Jn. 4:12, 15

1. The words “God is love” are repetitious of what was recorded in verse 8.
2. Those who picture God as an unmerciful tyrant who is eager to destroy all men are badly mistaken.
3. God is a good and gracious God who wants all men to be saved. (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
4. This does not mean God does not punished those who are disobedient. (Matt. 7:21-23; Rom. 11:22; Heb. 2:1-3; 10:31).

### **Love Gives Confidence**

4:17 **By [in] this, love is perfected [made complete] with us, that we may have confidence [assurance] in [on] the day of judgment; because as He is [perfected in love], so also are we in this world.**

1. “By this” is literally “in this.” Denotes the purpose or aim or results.
2. The theme of the book of 1 John is that the Christian can have “confidence” of his/her salvation. Gr. parresi’a. - [par ray see’ a] “confidence, assurance.”
3. “As He is” denotes a Son in whom love is perfected.

4:18 **There is no fear [of condemnation] in love; but perfect [complete, mature, full-grown] love casts [throws] out fear [of condemnation], because fear involves punishment [torment], and the one who fears is not perfected [complete, mature, full-grown] in love.**

- “fear” is from the Gr. pho’bos.” [fo’ bos] - It is used 4 times in this verse.
  - “Involves” is literally “has” from the Gr. “ech’o.” This word, “phobos,” here means “has” punishment [torment].
  - “fear of condemnation” can cause us to be miserable in this life, and actual condemnation is very fearful.
  - “punishment” [torment] is from “kolasis.” This is the same word used in Matthew 25:46.
1. The child of God must “fear” (reverence) God. (Psa. 19:9; 111:10; Prov. 1:7; Eccles. 12:13; 2 Cor.7:1; Eph. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:17; Phil. 2:12).
    - a. The child of God has a reverential, godly fear of God.
    - b. He shrinks from any action that would displease God.
    - c. He is eager to do what pleases the Father. (Jn. 4:34).
  2. Though the Christian is to have a deep reverence for God, he does not have to live with fear (dread, terror) of condemnation as the wicked do.
  3. The Christian can have confidence of his/her salvation. (1 Jn. 1:7, 9; 2:1; 5:4).
  4. **The man of the world must live in constant fear of God.** (Heb. 10:31).
    - a. He has rejected the one and only Savior - Jesus.
    - b. See Matthew 25:41, 46. These verses reveal the eternity destiny of those rejecting Christ.
    - c. Matthew 10:28; 2 Thess. 1:8, 9.

4:19 **We love, because He first loved us.**

1. One might ask the question, “How do I develop a great love for God?”
2. **John gives a clear answer to this question.**
  - a. “We love, because He first loved us.” (Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16).
  - b. As we meditate and reflect upon God’s unequalled love (giving His unique Son for our sins), we are compelled to love Him back.
  - c. Jesus described the extent of our love for God. (Matt. 22:37, 38).
3. There are other things that should compel us to love God.

- a. He made us in His image. (Gen. 1:26, 27).
- b. God has blessed us with a beautiful, bountiful world. (Jas. 1:17). See Matt. 5:43, 44.
- c. He blesses us with countless spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3).
- d. He has given us the promise of heaven. (Matt. 5:12; Jn. 14:1-3).

**4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother [in Christ], he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother [in Christ] whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.**

1. John is contending it is easier to love what is close or near.
2. If we cannot love our brother whom we have seen, it is impossible to love God whom we have not seen.
  - a. "No one has seen God." (1 Jn. 4:12). See 1 Jn. 3:6; 3 Jn. 11
  - b. See John 1:18; Col. 1:15.
3. The one who says "I love God" and hates his brother "is a liar."
4. John once again uses the word "liar." (1 Jn. 1:10; 2:4; 2:22; 4:20; 5:10.).

### **Commanded To Love**

**4:21 And this commandment [order, charge] we have from Him [God] , that the one who loves God should love his [Christian] brother also.**

- "commandment" is from "entole" [en to lay']. See 1 Jn. 2:4; 5:3; John 14:15
1. Some say you cannot command love.
  2. **This is correct as an emotion, but it can be commanded as an action.**
    - a. There is an exception.
    - b. We are commanded to love God with all our being. (Matt. 22:37-39).
    - c. Loving God with our emotions can be developed by reflecting on how much God loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19).
    - d. **The more one reflects upon and accepts God's great love the more he/she will love God.**
  3. We are commanded to love our brother. (1 Jn. 2:7; 3:23).
    - a. John 13:34, 35; 15:12
    - b. Love from the Christian perspective is primarily action. (Lk. 10: 25-37).
    - c. There is no evidence the Good Samaritan was involved emotionally with the man who was beaten and robbed, but he did show love by helping the man who was beaten and left half dead.

4. Love is not limited to our brother in Christ. (Matt. 5:43, 44; Matt. 22:39; Gal. 6:10).

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