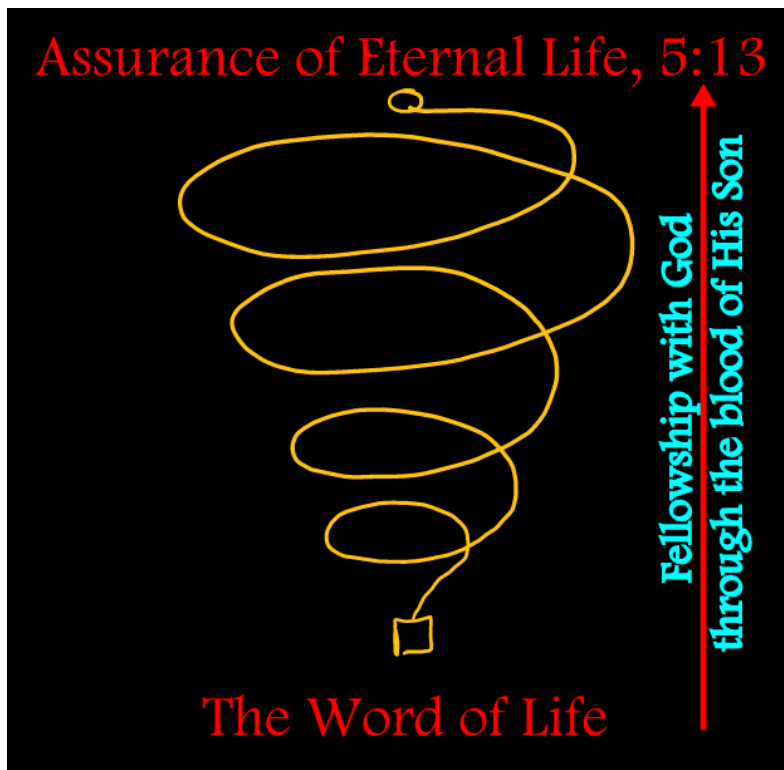


~ 1 John ~

Lesson 10- Knowing that we Know Him

Let's begin by reading our text today- **1 John 2:3-6**

We are starting a new section today, but it still ties back to what we learned in our previous lessons. As I have said before, this letter has a different flow than that of the systematic letters by Paul. John writes this letter more like a conversation. There is a cyclical pattern to this letter, one that keeps circling around one main topic, and that topic is our Fellowship in God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. The diagram below is an excellent visual example of John's unique writing style. The letter starts with the Word of Life, and he continues circling around the idea of our Fellowship in Him and living and abiding in the Word of Life. John continues repeating himself in these circles and we see him say very similar things, but each time he circles around, he expands our understanding a little higher and a little wider, ultimately leading us to the assurance of our eternal life in Him as John tells us in 1 John 5:13. Now as we start a new section, we see John take us back around, repeating some things he said in chapter one, but with more clarity and understanding.



Remember from last week, if we are abiding in Him, then we are abiding in the place of Mercy. Because Jesus is not only our Propitiation, hilasmos, *ἱλασμός*; not only is He our Advocate, parakletos, *παράκλητος*, our High Priest administering the Propitiation, which is His blood, but Jesus IS our place of Mercy, our hilasterion, *ἱλαστήριον*. He is the place where we can always find mercy and grace. This is the place where the Father will meet with us. This is our place of fellowship, in Him, in Christ, in His Word.

Now today we will be learning of our assurance of being in Him, having Fellowship in Him and how we can know that we know Him.

John has already taken us through one round of proofs. In the first chapter, he gave us four proofs of the faithful Christian who is in Fellowship with God. The one who is in Fellowship with God is 1) walking in the Light as He is in the Light; ...2) he has fellowship with the brethren; ...3) the blood of Jesus is continually

cleansing him of all sin; ...and 4) he is continually confessing his sins.

In chapter one, these were four proofs of abiding in Him. Now John is giving us four more proofs of those abiding in God: 1) those keeping His Commandments... 2) those keeping His Word... 3) those who walk just as He walked... and 4) those who Love the brethren. And this time, just like the diagram, he steps it up by going a little higher and a little wider. These proofs can be looked at as tests of Truth to have full assurance to know that we know God.

1 John 2:3-6. ³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

In these verses, John is giving us the assurance of being in Fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. And our assurance doesn't come from anything we do, but only as a result of what He has done, namely that God sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins and that Jesus Christ is our Advocate, the One making intercession for us toward the Father. We can have assurance of eternal life because He has forgiven our sins and He continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness. And in this, we can have continual Fellowship with Him. John is telling us that we can have confidence and know that we know that we are in Fellowship with Him.

None of us can see into another person's heart, or even into our heart for that matter, but John tells us that we can still have absolute security in eternal life. It is possible for us to know and have the assurance that we are saved. This is one of John's main points why he is writing this letter, 1 John 5:13... *that we might know that we have eternal life and continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

But this assurance is only evident in those who are being sanctified and this is a letter of sanctification. John is serious about Jesus, and we should be too. This is why John started his letter out the way he did, telling us of the Gospel, the good news of who God is, God is Light, who Jesus is, He is the Word of Life, and what He did for us, He is our Advocate and Propitiation for our sins. This is the main focus of the first chapter up to 2:2. Now he is giving us the proofs of knowing and being assured that we are in Christ. That we are abiding in the place of mercy and walking in Sanctification.

There are those who call themselves Christians, but they have no outward fruit to show they are Christians. These are what I would call, "worldly Christians". We see John write about these types of Christians in 5 of the 7 letters in the book of Revelation. These are lukewarm Christians; those who are too busy and as a result they have left their first love; those who are compromising the Truth; those who are caught up in the affairs of this world; and those who are apathetic to the things of God. These types of Christians could care less about His plan because they are too focused on themselves. They don't want to hear somebody talk for an hour about Sanctification. They just want to be entertained. They want a 20-minute self-help, inspirational message on how to make more money, be a better leader, get a better job, get a promotion at work and then they're set for the week. But I don't want to be that type of Christian, I know you don't, but America is filled with these types of Christians, and when persecution comes, because it will, many of these so called "worldly Christians" will fall away, they will apostatize away from the faith.

But the Christian who knows the goodness of God and knows what Jesus has done for them, the one who is committed to His righteousness and His Word, this is the Christian who will persevere through the persecution and walk into the eternal life with eternal glory. That's the type of Christian I am striving to be. I want to be in Fellowship with God. I want to be in love with Him, in love with His Word. I want to delight in the things of God. This is being sanctified and useful for the Master. This is the heart of one who is being sanctified.

Our assurance comes from our faith in Jesus and His work on the cross. You can be settled in your heart that God's infallible Word tells us that if we believe in Jesus, that He is the Son of God and the Christ who paid for our sins on the cross, who redeemed us out of darkness into His kingdom, if we have committed our life to Him as Lord and Savior, then we are saved, Romans 10:9-10; Eph 2:8-9; John 3:16; 1 John 5:1.

Faith in Jesus and His Word is our assurance of everlasting life in Him, and as proof of this assurance, John tells us there are manifested proofs that will become as evidence so that we will know that we know Him. These are manifested proofs of assurance of everlasting life. This is a grace that God has given to those who love Him. We should look at these proofs as gifts from God. He wants us fully assured and confident that we have Fellowship in Him. Therefore, throughout this letter, John gives us tests of Truth that we can examine ourselves and others to know that we are abiding in God.

There are three stages of assurance. 1) inward assurance in our spirit- faith; 2) inward assurance in our soul- a clean conscience free from guilt. We saw this in 1 John 1:7. This happens as a result of Jesus continually cleansing our soul of sin and as proof of this is, we have a clean conscience to stand boldly before God. Along with a clean conscience, we have an inward drive toward the things of God. We love His Word, and we delight to serve Him; 3)

outward assurance which is an outward display of our faith in Him. It is our corresponding action to our faith. James says that faith without works is dead, James 2:20. In the faithful Christian, there are proofs to our Fellowship manifested as fruit. This fruit is evidence to our faith in God. And this is what John is telling us in his letter. And this assurance is only evident to those who are being sanctified because sanctification is what produces fruit. This is God's mercy and love for us every day. The Father, as our Vinedresser, is there with His loving helping hand to cleanse us, and prune, and harvest the existing fruit so that we can continue to bear more fruit, John 15:1-11. This is the fruit unto sanctification, **Romans 6:22**.

But our assurance isn't in the things we do. We cannot bear fruit on our own. The only way we bear fruit is by being attached to the Vine and the Vinedresser is pruning and cleansing us. We are not earning our assurance, it is only in what He has done and what He is continuing to do in our lives. The proofs are displayed, and we bear fruit naturally because of our Fellowship with Him.

Sanctification will show the evidence of our assurance of eternal life. As John says, so that "*we know that we know Him*", 1 John 2:3. But in this, we still have a big part to play in the process of our sanctification, namely, having faith in Him, committing our life to Him and His righteousness. This is being in Fellowship with Him, and if we are in Fellowship with Him, if we are abiding in His Word and His Word is abiding in us, then His Word is working in us Sanctification. This is what Paul calls working out our salvation, **Philippians 2:12-16**. Holding fast the Word of Life...

Let's begin looking at this assurance that John speaks of. Today we are laying the ground work for this section from 2:3-6, and we will get through verse 3.

*³ Now by this we know that we know Him,
Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐγνώκαμεν αὐτόν*

John is telling us how we can know that we know God. John begins this verse with a Καὶ which is important to note, because John isn't starting a whole new thought. The kai is continuing from the fact that Jesus is our Advocate and Propitiation for our sins. And by this we know, Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν.

The phrase, "**by this**" is ἐν τούτῳ, literally meaning "**in this**" not necessarily "by this". John is saying, it is "**in this**" that we know that we know Him, which has a deeper meaning than just "by this we know". John uses this phrase, ἐν τούτῳ, 14 times in this letter, and 4 of these times is in verses 3-5.

1 John 2:3-6-³ Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐγνώκαμεν αὐτόν, ἐὰν τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ τηρῶμεν.

⁴ ὁ λέγων "Ἐγνώκα αὐτόν, καὶ τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ μὴ τηρῶν, ψεύστης ἐστί, καὶ ἐν τούτῳ ἡ ἀλήθεια οὐκ ἔστιν.

⁵ ὃς δ' ἂν τηρῇ αὐτοῦ τὸν λόγον, ἀληθῶς ἐν τούτῳ ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ τετελείωται. ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἔσμεν.

1 John 2:1-3-¹ ... we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins...

³ And **in this** we know that we have known Him, if we hold fast His commandments.

⁴ He who says "I know Him" and does not hold fast His commandments, he is a liar, and **in this**, the Truth does not exist.

⁵ But he who holds fast His Word, truly, **in this**, the love of God is perfected. **In this** we know that we are in Him.

Notice that all four of these statements are referring backward to something he said previous. And because of the καὶ linking this statement, we should read verses 2 and 3 as one thought. 1 John 2:1-3-¹ ... we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins... ³ And in this we know that we have known Him... We have assurance that we know Him because... "in this"... we have faith in the work of Jesus Christ as our propitiation.

³ *And in this we know that we know Him...*

Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐγνώκαμεν αὐτόν.

The word “**know**” is ginosko, γινώσκω, means to know intimately and experientially. To be settled, to discern, to be assured. It is different than the other Greek word for “know”, oida, οἶδα, which is to know by head knowledge. John uses both words many times in this letter, but here in verses 3-6 he uses ginosko, γινώσκω, this intimate knowledge, to know Him, to abide in Him. This is the Fellowship from chapter 1. Also, I believe John is using this word ginosko, γινώσκω, because of his rebuttal to the gnostics, those who claimed they had a special gnosis, γνῶσις, or knowledge of God to gain them eternal life strictly by their elevated knowledge.

John continues to tell us what we know. “We know that we know Him” ... γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐγνώκαμεν αὐτόν. This second use of the word ginosko, γινώσκω, is egnokamen ἐγνώκαμεν, (perfect active indicative), past tense with lasting results. Another way to translate this would be, “we know that we **have known** Him”. Or we could say... “we know that we **have come to know Him** in the past and the effects are still working in us today”. Why is it such a big deal to know that we have known Him? Because this is the promise of the New Covenant. Remember what Paul tells us in **Hebrews 8:7-13**, quoting Jeremiah 31, about the New Covenant.

If you have faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, this means that you “know” Him. You have made a decision to receive His mercy because you “know” that He paid for your sins on the cross and He was raised from the dead to grant you eternal life in His blood. All those who are justified know Jesus. This is much different than the Old Covenant because in the OC, you were merely born into it as a Jew and then you had to be taught who God is. In the New Covenant, you know Him at the point of transformation. This is an intimate, personal relationship in which we know God personally, **John 8:31-32; 10:14-15**.

John continues in verse 3...

And in this we know that we have come to know Him

Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐγνώκαμεν αὐτόν

If we keep His commandments.

ἐὰν τὰς ἐντολὰς αὐτοῦ τηρῶμεν.

Keeping His commandments is a condition AND a manifested proof of our assurance in Him. Why? Because our assurance is in Jesus Christ and the proof of this assurance comes from bearing the fruit of sanctification.

What does it mean to “**keep His commandments**”? This is so much more than obedience. This word, “**to keep**” is tereo, τηρέω. It means to hold tight, to keep as precious, hold safe, hold fast, to keep watch upon, to guard. This word is a present subjunctive, meaning it is continual and conditional. We are continually holding fast His commandments as precious. Not just a onetime occasion, but continually. And it is conditional, subjunctive, meaning we have a choice to do this. We have a choice to serve Him in love. John uses this word 37 times, all of which refer to this loving obedience. Keeping His commandments is in direct correlation with His love toward us and our love toward Him. This is why He gives us free-will. God wants us to lovingly choose Him and serve Him.

John 14:15- *“If you love Me, keep, tereo, τηρέω, My commandments.”*

John 15:10- *“If you keep, tereo, τηρέω, My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept, tereo, τηρέω, My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”*

Ephesians 6:6- *“as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”*

That is the key. We serve God from the heart because we love Him. It is holding His commandments as precious.

So what commandments is John speaking of. Is this Legalism? Is he referring to the Law of Moses? Is this keeping the Ten Commandments? Absolutely not! John tells us what His commandments are in 1 John 3:23- *“And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”*

His commandments are to believe and love; to believe in the name of Jesus and love the brethren. Believing is to have faith in Jesus. Keeping His commandments is having faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul said the exact same thing. He said, *“the just shall live by faith”*, Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38. Who is the just? Those who have been justified. These are Christians. Those who have been declared Righteous. *“The just... shall live by faith”*. This is how we as faithful Christians should live and walk and behave.

This is sanctification. It is living and abiding daily, continually in dependence and fellowship with our Savior.

This is what keeping His commandments is; living by faith and walking in Love. But notice what John says in 2:5. John interchanges “commandment” with His “Word”, 1 John 2:5- *But whoever keeps tereo, τηρέω, His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.* Now this adds more insight into what keeping His commandments mean. To hold fast His commandments is to: live by faith, walk in Love, continually abide in His Word, and hold fast His Word as precious. And who is the Word, who is the Logos, λόγος?, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, keeping His commandments is the same as keeping His Word, it is to believe on the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God, and it is loving one another. If you are doing this, then you know that you know Him. You are in fellowship with Him, you abide in Him and His Word abides in you.

This is what Jesus said in John 14:21–23-²¹ *He who has My commandments and keeps, tereo, τηρέω, them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. ...²³ ...If anyone loves Me, he will keep, tereo, τηρέω, My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

This is the underlying thread throughout John’s epistle, Fellowship with God and His Son Jesus Christ. And this is how you know that you know Him. Our assurance of everlasting life is having faith in Jesus. It is believing that Jesus is our Advocate and our Propitiation. And then out from this, God gives us proofs of having Fellowship in Him: we love God, we love His commandments, we love and hold fast and keep His Word precious, and we love the brethren. When this becomes our outward display, this is a God given grace to know that we have known Him and that we are in continual Fellowship with Him.

There is so much more to talk about in these verses, but we will have to leave that for next week, so let’s read this section keeping in mind what we learned today:

1 John 2:3–6-³ And in this [that Jesus is our Advocate and our Propitiation for our sins] in this we know that we have come to know Him, [and the condition and the manifested proof of knowing Him is that] we continue to hold fast [as precious] His commandments [which is to believe in the name of Jesus, who is the Word of God, and to love the brethren] ⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not hold fast His commandments [as precious, and does not have these outward manifested proofs of knowing Him], is a liar, and, in this, the truth is not existing. ⁵ But whoever holds fast His Word [as precious], truly, in this, the love of God is perfected. In this, we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.