

Behold What Manner of Love

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 10- The Test of Truth **1John 2: 18-27**

87. Part 12

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Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Test of Truth". So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2: 18-27** again together:

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

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.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the three points that John is making in these ten verses.

1. Realizing the Danger
2. The Ability and Power that is given to us so that we may realize the Danger
3. The Way to Fight Against the Danger

And on the last broadcast, we began to look at the second point- our ability and power as believers to realize the danger that confronts us, and I want to continue in that today. So, let's look at verses 20, 21, and 27 again together:

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

For a human being to be filled with God's Spirit is something that no one had any knowledge of prior to the advent of Christianity. All of the Old Testament heroes had some contact with God the Holy Spirit- but that contact was very vague and limited. The Spirit "fell" on these men by times and on occasion- but then the Spirit lifted off of them. The Spirit came to them- but then the Spirit left; He moved on them- but never filled them.

Moses quoted God in **Leviticus 26:11&12** as God told the children of Israel- that the time was coming when God would no longer dwell externally from them but that He would dwell internally in them when Moses wrote:

11 'Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you.

12 'I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

And the Apostle Paul correctly interpreted what God meant in this passage from **Leviticus 26**, when he wrote in **2Corinthians 6:16**:

Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I *WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.*"

Now the Hebrew word in **Leviticus 26** that was translated as "*among*" actually is better understood as "*inside*". So, in **2Corinthians 6**, Paul *correctly* interpreted this passage in **Leviticus 26** to say that God had promised way back when Moses wrote the Book of Leviticus that the day was coming when both the temple of God and God Himself would dwell *inside* the people of God.

Now even though we know this to be elementary to Christianity- the concept that God would actually and literally dwell inside sinful human beings was a very *radical* concept back when Moses saw a glimmer of it back then. And even though God told Moses about this- Moses never saw it happen in his day.

Hundreds of years after God gave the Law to Moses and 500 years before the Birth of Jesus- God gave Jeremiah the prophet a prophecy about what was going to change when the Messiah came. And we can read that prophecy by looking at **Jeremiah 31:31-34**:

31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Now we see a time when God has promised that not only will the

temple and God Himself be inside the believer- but here God promises that the Law of God would no longer dwell *externally*- but would dwell *internally* in the heart of the children of God.

But we must remember- that even though God gave Jeremiah this prophecy and promise- just like Moses- Jeremiah never saw it come to pass in his day.

Hundreds of years went by and still this prophecy had not come to pass. And the Spirit continued to fall upon men- and deal with them and move upon them- but then the Spirit continued to lift off of them and depart. And still no one was filled internally with God's Spirit. Still, no one had the third part of the Godhead walk inside them; still the temple of God existed externally in Jerusalem; still the Law of God was not inside anyone.

But the day came when God sent John the Baptist to stand in Jordan and baptize those who would repent. And according to John's very own testimony- we can understand what God had told him about how this ancient promise was going to come to pass. Lets' read **John 1:32-36:**

32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

33 "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

34 "I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,

36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

Now I know that Hollywood has glamorized this event many times in movies - but I want you to try to get all of those images out of your mind today because some of what Hollywood portrayed about this event is not true- and I want you to just read what God's Word says about this event.

John the Baptist says that the very same One Who sent him to baptize told him something. Well, who sent John to baptize? God did. So, what did God tell John? Hear what John himself says that God told him:

He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

Now I know that many have shown a dove coming out of the sky and sitting on Jesus' shoulder- but that is not what happened. The Bible doesn't say in **Matthew 3**; and **Mark 1**; and **Luke 3**; and **John 1**; that that the Spirit *was* a dove only that the Spirit *descended* like a dove. In other words- God the Holy Spirit came down out of Heaven and came upon Jesus in the same way that a dove lands- very graciously and softly.

But notice what John said. God told John that he would see this event happen. In other words- John saw God the Holy Spirit come down and come upon Jesus with his own natural eyes.

But it didn't stop there. God also told John that he would know who the Messiah was when he saw the Holy Spirit come down and settle on a particular person and this time- John would see that the Holy Spirit didn't lift off this Man. God told John that he would see the Spirit fall- but this time- the Spirit would remain!

And it was all of these things- the Spirit would sovereignly come upon Jesus and the Spirit would do something that He had never done to any of the Old Testament heroes. This time was different. This man was different. This time- the Spirit remained! This time the Spirit didn't lift off and go away- but He- the Holy Spirit- stayed on Jesus! And it was *this* that proved to John that Jesus was the one and only of the Father. So, when John the Baptist saw this event occur- the Bible says that he made an announcement to the whole world:

Behold the Lamb of God!

And after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven- 120 scared, confused, and dejected people gathered in an Upper Room to wait for the Promise of the Father. They were in that place in one mind and one accord praying that what Moses had talked about 2,000 years earlier and what Jeremiah and Joel and Zechariah and many others had prophesied about hundreds of years earlier and what had happened to Jesus just a few years ago would now come to pass in them.

And the Bible says that suddenly there came from Heaven- a sound of a rushing mighty wind and each one of these people- even Mary- the mother of Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit.

This was the birth of the Church, and the Apostles went down from that Upper Room into Jerusalem; into Judea; into Samaria; and into the utter most parts of the earth preaching and teaching that Jesus Christ is Lord and commanding all men everywhere to repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

From that time on- all believers have God the Holy Spirit dwelling and walking inside them; they are now the temple of God and God has written His law into their hearts- and the Apostle John says that all of these things combined serve to warn genuine believers of the danger of the antichrists and of false teaching and of heresy and this is the very same power that the Christian Church has today to expose and refute and reject the teaching of the antichrist in our day.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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