

SERMON FIRST JOHN MAR. 16-HOW TO “ABIDE” IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our text today has been used by those who think you can loose your salvation. BUT in fact, when look at hermeneutically, proves just the opposite!!!
BTW-YOU WANT TO BE HEAR NEXT WEEK 😊, if you have any doubts 😊

1John 2:18 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 (Messiah)? 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.

1John 2:26 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.

“From the Beginning”, refers back to salvation of believers AND their reception of True Gospel...before false teaching antichrists snuck in and tried to lie and deceive you about the “real” Jesus!!!!

The truth about the anointing of the Holy Spirit was made known to all believers beginning at Pentecost when HE first came to live in every CHILD OF GOD!

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW about the Holy Spirit...

1. **He is greater than Satan** or the antichrists who are in the world
2. **He ABIDES IN YOU**, in fact He is God’s seal of who you belong to forever
3. **He gives you the ability to sort out truth from lies** IF YOU GO VERTICLE making the choice to ABIDE IN HIM!

LET ME PROVE IT TO YOU...

In First John, John ASSUMES you have read HIS "GOSPEL of John"

In John 14:15-31, JOHN records Jesus Promise of sending the Holy Spirit...

John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because **He abides with you and will be "in" you**. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 **"In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.** (This is ultimate Koinonia/Fellowship) 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. (This AGAIN is ultimate Koinonia/Fellowship ...But wait there is more! ☺)

I am getting a little bit ahead of our current place in 1 John, but look at where John is taking us....FROM 1 John 1, John has a desire for every believer to have Koinonia/Fellowship with God the Father, with Jesus the Son AND with the Holy Spirit, who is placed inside every believer at the moment they in faith receive Jesus as their Savior! **IN OTHER WORDS, OUR TRIUNE GOD WANTS THE "KOINONIA/FELLOWSHIP THAT HE HAS WITH HIMSELF....TO ALSO BE WITH HIS CHILDREN WHO ARE "BORN OF GOD"! ADDITIONALLY, THE SAME FELLOWSHIP WE HAVE WITH GOD IS TO BE SHARED WITH THE "FAMILY" OF GOD.....AND IT CAN AND DOES HAPPEN WHEN WE ARE LOVING OTHERS IN THE SAME WAY GOD LOVES US..... THIS IS WHY AGAPE LOVE IS SO IMPORTANT FOR GOD WHO MADE LOVING OTHERS A COMMANDMENT AND...."NOT" A SUGGESTION!!!!!!**

1John 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. ²⁴ The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

JOHN WILL THEN EXPAND ON THIS TRUTH A CHAPTER LATER...

1John 4:1-4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He (God the Father, God the Son AND God the Holy Spirit) who is in you than he who is in the world.

IN OT...Spirit came upon other temporarily

IN NT...Spirit placed inside EVERY believer FOREVER beginning at Pentecost

Practical tips on how to listen to, hear and abide in the Holy Spirit

Do you ever feel like you're missing something in your spiritual life?

If so, it might be time to focus on your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is often the unsung hero of the Trinity. We talk a lot about God the Father and Jesus the Son, but the Holy Spirit is just as important. In fact, He's the one who dwells within us and guides us on a daily basis.

The Holy Spirit is your comforter, your guide, and your source of power.

When you choose to make your home with Him or choose to ABIDE IN HIM, since He has chosen to ABIDE IN YOU, *open yourself up to His "transforming" work*. So how do you listen, hear and abide in Him?

Glad you asked!!!! ☺

1. The Holy Spirit speaks through God's Word.

We learned last week talking about the "Armor of God" that the Bible is called the "*sword of the Spirit*" (Ephesians 6.17), because through the Bible, the Holy Spirit reveals the truth that equips us to fight against the lies that come at us from *all directions*.

Approaching the Bible with a teachable heart is critical to understanding its meaning. THIS IS WHY I AM AN ADVOCATE FOR SERMON BASED HOME FELLOWSHIPS!!!!!!

James 1:22 encourages us to not only hear the word but also to do what it says...Which for most of us takes time to "process" what we hear on Sunday...I'm going to gently ask, Do we need another Study during the week if we are not applying what we learn on Sunday when we all come together...Perhaps it's time to spend more time with others during the week all working out the practical "application" of God's Word, that leads us to "essential" transformation!!!!---REMEMBER TO REPLAY SERMON!

2. The Holy Spirit who was placed inside every believer by God speaks to our human spirit or consciousness.

There are times when the Spirit will speak directly to us Romans 8.15-17, *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"* ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

And there are times when the Holy Spirit speaks to us in our dreams, in order to prompt us to do something in faith. *He may tell us to say something that someone else needs to hear, if it is the truth spoken in love*, but everything must be first run through the "filter" of the Word of God! JUST DON'T GET AHEAD OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...CAUTION HERE!!!!

3. Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks through circumstances.

When all the signs around you are pointing in the same direction, it's a good bet that the Spirit is using them to get through to you or direct you. We often call this "Open or Closed doors" as we following obediently to His message or God's direction!

4. Sometimes things will happen that can only be explained by

acknowledging the Holy Spirit's intervention: Acts 16:6-10 PAUL AND

TIMOTHY passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; ⁷ and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; ⁸ and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

5. The Holy Spirit speaks through other believers.

Just as **you** might be the spokesperson for the Spirit in someone else's life, **someone else** might stand in as the Spirit's spokesperson in your life

1Th. 2:13 *For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*

It's possible to think the Word spoken to you was just someone's opinion, when the source of the voice came from the Holy Spirit! That's why 1

Thessalonians 5 says, **1Th. 5:19-21** ***Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good***

When in doubt, these three questions will help you out:

- Does this message or *path under consideration* glorify Jesus?
- Is this in *path under consideration* in agreement with God's Word?
- Is this *path under consideration* consistent with God's character?

If the answer to each of these questions is yes, then you can feel confident you've heard from the Holy Spirit.

6. Cultivate a posture of listening in prayer.

Remember, prayer is designed as a dialogue with God, not a monologue!

God gave His children discernment to test the spirits so you can distinguish between God's voice, the enemies voice and your own voice

At first you may not hear anything, but with practice and silence you become a better listener and you WILL hear The Holy Spirit speak to you!

7. Make sure you seek wise counsel.

Don't think God speaks exclusively to you. He also speaks to those around you! The book of Proverbs talks a lot about the "necessity" of seeking wise counsel. When you think the Holy Spirit might be speaking to you, seek someone out (a spouse, a mentor, a parent) and get their input. Say something like, "I think the Holy Spirit is telling me to do this, am I crazy?"

God many times affirms The Holy Spirit's voice through the wise counsel of those around you.

This is perhaps my favorite tip for ABIDING in the Holy Spirit! 😊

8. Do the last thing you know God The Holy Spirit told you to do! 😊

You can't expect the Holy Spirit to talk to you, if you are grieving or quenching His voice regularly! 😊.

In the book of Acts, the word "spirit" appears 67 different times.

I believe the reason the Spirit was so active in the early church was because believers were "*listening*" and obeying His direction.

BTW...If God hasn't spoken to you in years, perhaps it's because you didn't obey the last thing God told you to do, like you're waiting for another option. *AND, what is the definition of insanity?* 😊

QUESTION: When the Holy Spirit speaks, do you think it is a suggestion, or a command...after all HE IS GOD!

If you want the Holy Spirit to continue to speak to you, **obey Him when He does speak...IN OTHER WORDS, "Remember to Surrender"!**

9. Cultivate the fruit of the Spirit? Did you know *you can cultivate or grow fruit?* While the Holy Spirit produces fruit in you...Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Gentleness, Goodness, Faithfulness and Self-Control, **YOU HAVE AN IMPORTANT PART TO CULTIVATE HIS FRUIT!**

It takes intentional effort from you to see His fruit in your life AND a healthy reliance on God's grace. We can pray to the Holy Spirit for His help in developing these *fruit* qualities **AND we can also seek the support of other believers to hold you accountable.**

For example, if we struggle with self-control, we can ask a trusted friend or mentor to hold us accountable and pray with us.

When we practice kindness perhaps with others help and accountability, we become more attuned to opportunities to serve others and share God's love with them.

And when we practice faithfulness, we become more committed to God's purpose for our lives.

In short, walking in the fruit of the Spirit is a lifelong process that requires effort and dependence on God. *But as we cultivate these qualities, we become more open and receptive to the Holy Spirit's leading and more effective in our service to God and others*

This is why KOINONIA with other believers is SO important...

Church is a TEAM SPORT. THE "BODY" OF CHRIST IS DESIGNED BY GOD TO BE **INTERDEPENDANT** ON EACH OTHER...**And if you are there for others, others will be there for you....AMEN? AMEN!**

10. FINALLY, Surrendering To The Will Of God is PROOF you are listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit!

Listening to the Holy Spirit requires us to trust in God's plan for our lives and let go of our own desires and plans.

Three key aspects of surrendering to the will of God.

1. **Trusting in God's plan for our lives can be difficult** when we are faced with uncertainty or difficulty.

However, as we seek to listen to the Holy Spirit and follow His leading,

we can have confidence that God is in control and working all things together for good to those who love Him and called according to HIS PURPOSE (Romans 8:28).

2. Trusting in God's plan for our lives requires us to lay down our own desires and plans and place our faith in H/S...*TAKE UP YOUR CROSS!*
3. Surrendering to the will of God means letting go of our need for control and allowing H/S to guide us. *This can be challenging, as humans, we often want to take matters into our own hands and make our own plans...*

HOWEVER, IF we surrender to God the Holy Spirit's leading,

1. We can experience the freedom and peace that comes from trusting in Him! AS LONG AS we ask the H/S for *His* wisdom and guidance *before* we make decisions and trust that He will lead us in the right direction.

Communion-Come Holy Spirit