



# Anointed with the Spirit

A SUMMER SERIES ON THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

Ezekiel 37:1-14    1 John 2:20-29    John 15:1-8

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In the Epistle of 1 John, the Apostle John is concerned about his churches in the Asia minor area of the Roman Empire. They are in danger from **false teachers** who deny that Jesus is the Christ and who appear to live ungodly lives; in fact the Apostle even calls these false teachers *antichrists*<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the Apostle has warned about the dangers of the **secular world**<sup>2</sup>. With powerful words, he has exposed the world's pride and lusts as hostile to Christ and contrary to the love of God the Father. **The Apostle of Christ is clear: we are not to follow false teachers; and we are not to get entangled with the sinful world.** The danger for those early Christians was great; that same danger is now immense for us!

So John wants to encourage his people and us; and he teaches how we can live surrounded by such *imminent danger*. John teaches you and reminds you that you are **filled with the Holy Spirit!**

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth 1 John 2:20

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<sup>1</sup> To understand the author's use of the term Antichrist we must note that this is more than just someone who opposes Christ, but one who seeks to replace Christ, that is, a counterfeit Christ. This is precisely the idea in Mark 13:22 where Jesus warns His followers about "false Christs and false prophets" who will arise before His return, working signs and wonders in order to deceive (see 2:26), if possible, the elect. [1, 2, 3 John Comfort And Counsel](#)

[For A Church In Crisis](#), Dr. W. Hall Harris III, Bible.org    This understanding is inherent in the definition of the Greek word ἀντί.

<sup>2</sup> 1 John 2:15-17: "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

This “anointing from the Holy One” is John's way of talking about the Holy Spirit. You were anointed with the Holy Spirit when you were baptized; God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to you so you could believe in His Son Jesus through the water and the Word of Holy Baptism. The Holy Spirit remains with you; He dwells in you and lives with you. The Holy Spirit has given you faith and He sustains you in that faith. The Holy Spirit has sanctified you; He has set you apart as belonging to God through faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit empowers you to holy living. One of the things that John highlights is that the Holy Spirit works to guard and protect you from the lies and deceptions of **false teachers**, and the pride and the lusts of the **sinful world**. *The Holy Spirit keeps you from following false teachers; he leads you so you do not get entangled with the sinful world.*

The way the Holy Spirit guards and protects you is by teaching you the truth of God's Holy Word. John writes, *you have been anointed by the Holy One and you have all **knowledge**. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.* The Holy Spirit who lives within you has enlightened you through His Word to have Godly **knowledge** and know the **truth** of God's Holy Word:

- ⇒ You know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of the world. You know and believe that Jesus' death on the cross forgives your sins; and in His resurrection from the dead on the Third Day, you are declared righteous and given eternal life.
- ⇒ From God's Holy Word you have learned *to avoid the sinful world and its pride and its lusts. If anyone loves the sinful world, love for the Father is not in them.*

The Holy Spirit has taught you these things from Holy Scripture: a person without faith does not have the Holy Spirit nor do they understand Holy Scripture. In fact, they think that it is foolishness. But not you! The Holy Spirit is at work within you giving you Godly knowledge and teaching you the truth of God's Holy Word!

## God ALWAYS works through His Word.

That is one of the most fundamental truths of the Kingdom of God; it always has been that way since the Creation of the world. **God works through His Word.** So it is no surprise that John teaches us to *abide* in God's Word.

As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning *abides* in you. If it does, you also will *abide* in the Son and in the Father. 1 John 2:24

The word *abide* means to “remain, to stay close;” it means not to drift away<sup>3</sup>. When you *abide* in God's Word, you *make your home* in His Word. The Word *forms* you and *shapes* you; you spend time with the Word and are comfortable with it. You know your way around a Bible; you understand chapter and verses; you know the people, history, and stories of Scripture – in both the Old and the New Testaments; and you are continually learning the teachings and doctrines of Christ and His Kingdom. The *Holy Spirit* works within you so that you can *abide* in Christ and His Word; so that you can *make your home* with Christ and His Word.

Jesus is telling believers to *abide* in **God's Word!** He means to let it soak into their minds and shape their lives.

Make sure that you are *abiding* in Christ and His Word! That happens with every contact you have with *Holy Scripture*. It happens in worship. It happens in devotions. It happens when you memorize Scripture. It happens in Bible Study. Bring God's Holy Word into your life; *abide* in Christ and His Word!

This is how the *Holy Spirit* works to guard and protect you from the lies and deceptions of **false teachers**, and the pride and the lusts of the **sinful**

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<sup>3</sup> The basic picture here is Christ's Word as our home, the place where we reside with Him, our fixed location in a changing world. If we *abide* in His Word, it does not just go in one ear and out the other; we memorize, retain, and keep paying attention to it. By *abiding* in Christ's Word, we *abide* in Him, staying in touch with Him, attached to Him, and receiving life from Him. He, in turn, *abides* in us, staying with us and making Himself at home with us. By abiding in Him, His life giving Words *abide* in us, making us spiritually fruitful, like healthy branches on a good vine stock. We then *abide* in Christ word . . . in such a way that it keeps on speaking to us and doing its work in us. Grace Upon Grace, John W. Kleinig, p.107

**world.** *This is how the Holy Spirit keeps you from following false teachers; and how He leads you so you do not get entangled with the sinful world.*

One special way that the Holy Spirit has promised to work is through Holy Communion. In Holy Communion, you have a Holy Fellowship with the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When you “take and eat,” and “take and drink” of Christ’s body and blood in the bread and the wine, your sins are forgiven, your faith is strengthened, you are assured of eternal life and the resurrection of the dead, and God promises to abide in you and empower you so that you can abide in Him and His Word. Holy Communion is God at work in your life! Holy Communion is the Holy Spirit continuing to sanctify you; to set you apart from the sinful world and from false teachers; to enlighten you in the truth and to empower you in holiness. Holy Communion is a powerful way that the Holy Spirit continually works in your life! Holy Communion is one of the ways that the Holy Spirit works to keep you from following false teachers; and to leads you so that you do not get entangled with the sinful world.

The danger from the lies and deceptions of **false teachers**, and the pride and the lusts of the **sinful world** surround us just as it did with the people in St John's day. The danger is real; the temptations are immense; and it is unrelenting.

**BUT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FEAR.**

God has anointed you His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift of salvation that has been freely given to you! The Holy Spirit lives within you to enlighten you with the truth of God's Holy Word; He strengthens you with Holy Communion, and He empower you to abide in Christ and His Word.

Amen!

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Holy Spirit, light divine,  
shine into our hearts  
the truth of your Holy Word.  
Help us to live holy and godly lives  
and protect us from false teachers  
and the sinful world.  
Give us a hunger and thirst for  
your Holy Word, so that we may  
abide in Christ our Savior  
and live lives that bring glory to  
God our Father.  
In Jesus name we pray, Amen

## **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” 4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath[a] enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’” 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. 11 Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”

## John 15:1-8

[Jesus said,] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, as I also abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



## **1 John 2:20-29**

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.[e] 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life. 26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. 28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.