

Do You Know God? A Look at 1 John

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WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF 1 JOHN?

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Within modern-day scholarship two distinct and disparate views have developed concerning the message of 1 John. They have arisen as a consequence of two variant perceptions of the purpose of the epistle. These are the Tests of Life (Salvation) and Tests of Fellowship (Practice of Life) views. The purpose of this article is to describe these views and how they are defended and to evaluate each view.

TESTS OF LIFE VIEW

THE VIEW DESCRIBED

The Tests of Life view, the older of the two positions, commands the majority of scholarly support.¹ The basis of this view is the dominance given the purpose statement in 1 John 5:13 in determining the overarching message and controlling the interpretation of difficult passages. According to this view John's pur-

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¹ Proponents of this view include Raymond Brown (*The Epistles of John*, The Anchor Bible [Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1982]; *John Calvin (The Gospel according to St John 11-21 and The First Epistle of John, Calvin's New Testament Commentaries*, trans. T. H. L. Parker [reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959-61]; C. H. Dodd, *The Johannine Epistles*, Moffatt New Testament Commentary [New York: Harper & Brothers, 1946]; D. Edmond Hiebert, *The Non-Pauline Epistles and Revelation*, rev. ed., vol. 3 of *An Introduction to the New Testament* [Chicago: Moody, 1977]; idem, "An Expository Study of 1 John," *Bibliotheca Sacra* (April 1988 through July 1990); Robert Law, *The Tests of Life: A Study of the First Epistle of St. John* [Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1909; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989]; John F. MacArthur, Jr., *The Gospel according to Jesus* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988]; I. Howard Marshall, *The Epistles of John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978]; John R. W. Stott, *The Letters of John*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964]; and Brooke F. Westcott, *The Epistles of John* (reprint, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1966).

✧ 1 John 2:3 ✧

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.



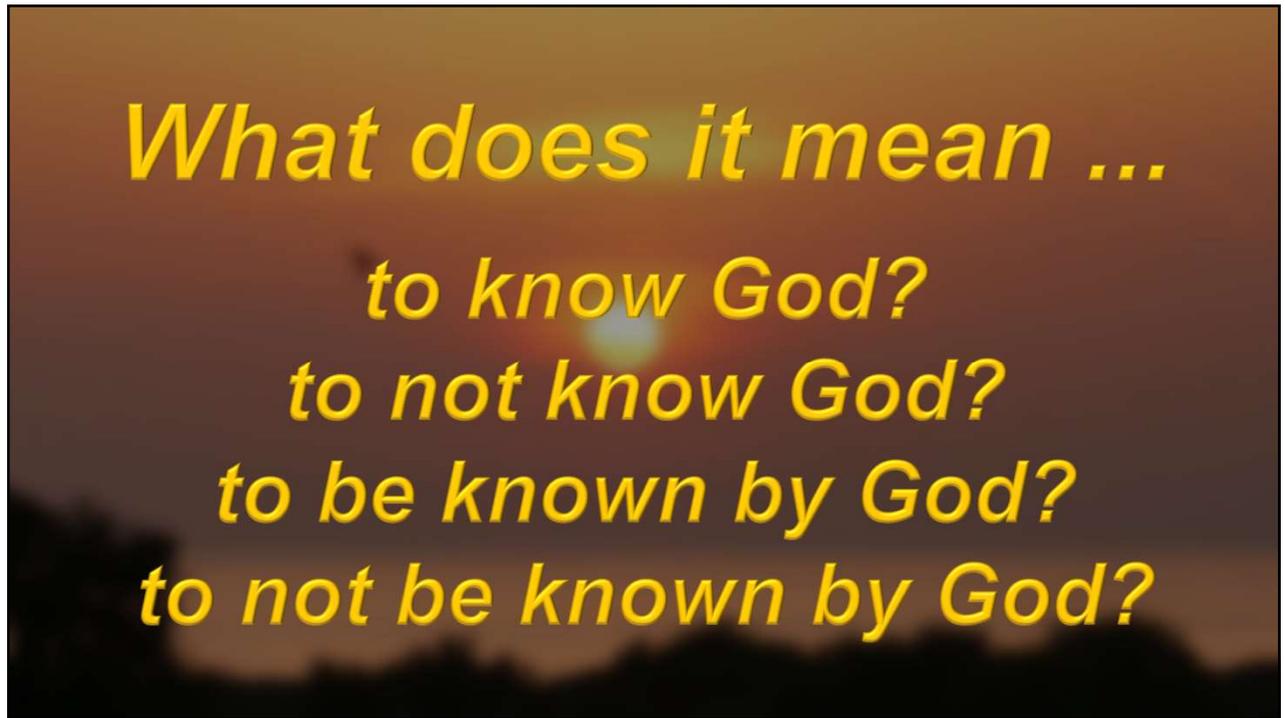
What does it mean ...

to know God?

to not know God?

to be known by God?

to not be known by God?



Knowing God: Creator

☞ Romans 1:18-21 ☞

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, {19} because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. {20} For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, {21} because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.



Knowing God: Eternal Life

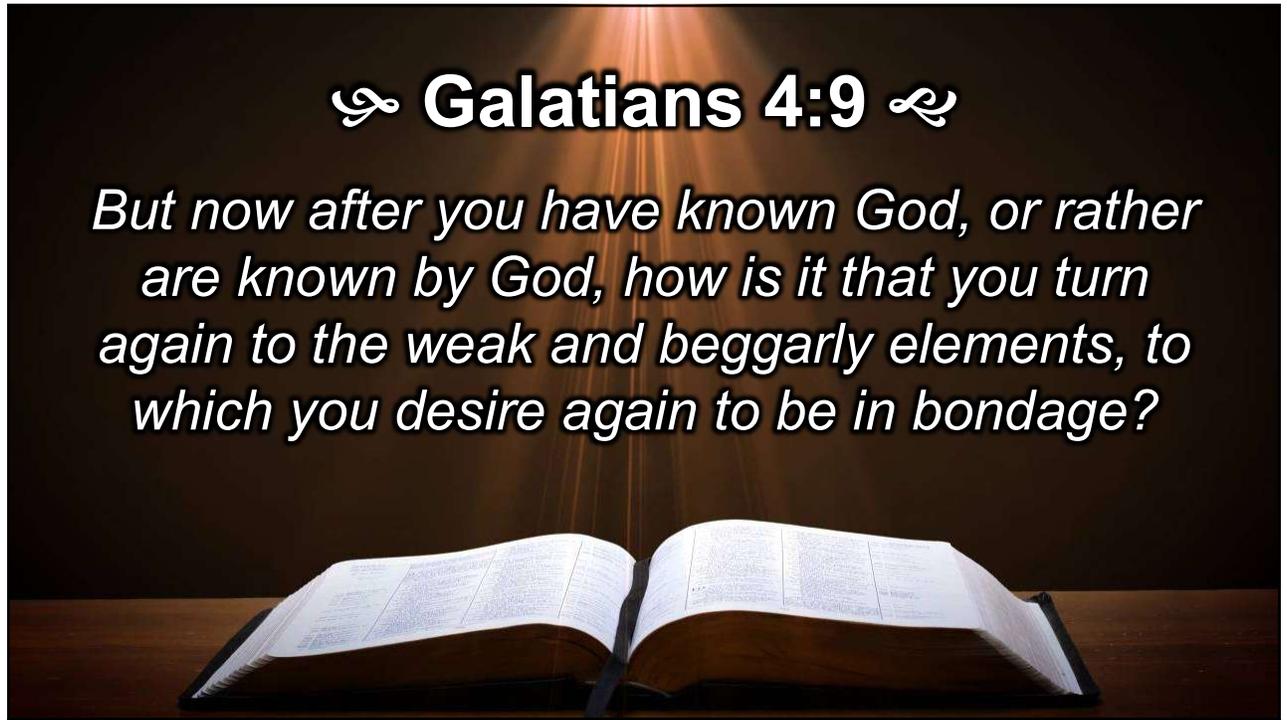
☞ John 17:3 ☞

*"And this is eternal life, that they
may know You, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom
You have sent."*

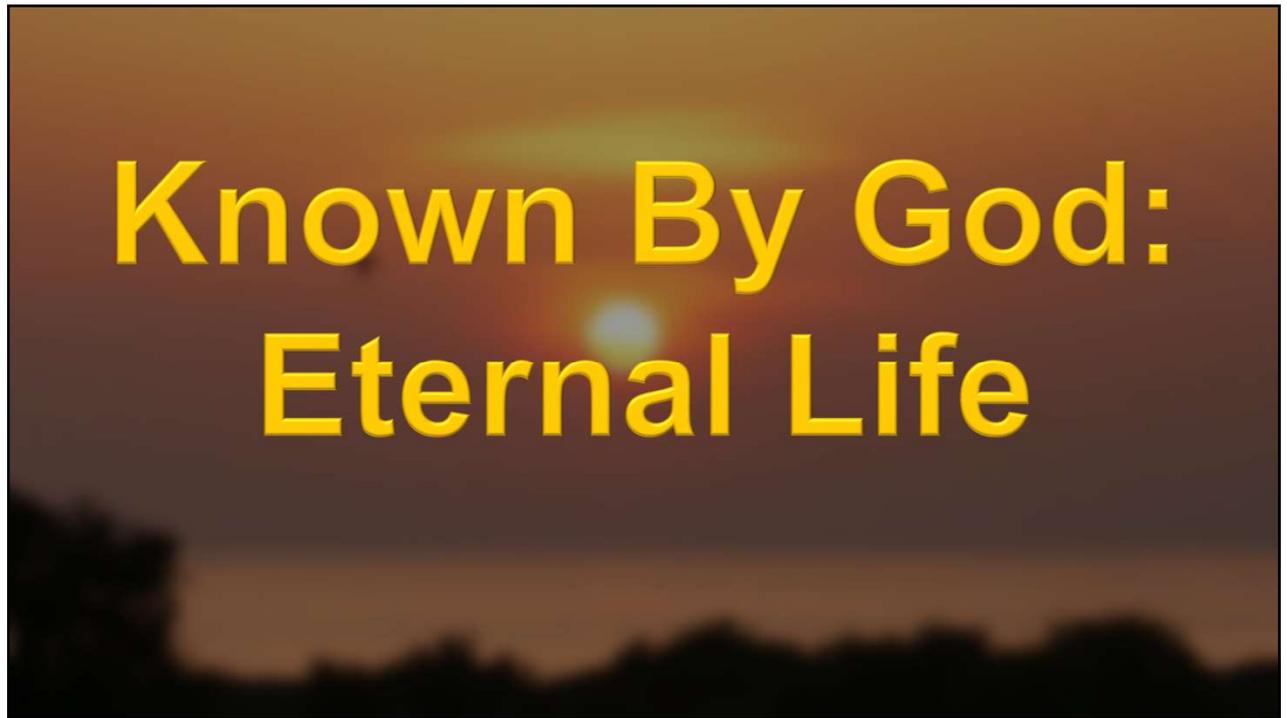


∞ Galatians 4:9 ∞

But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?



**Known By God:
Eternal Life**



☞ Galatians 4:9 ☞

But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?



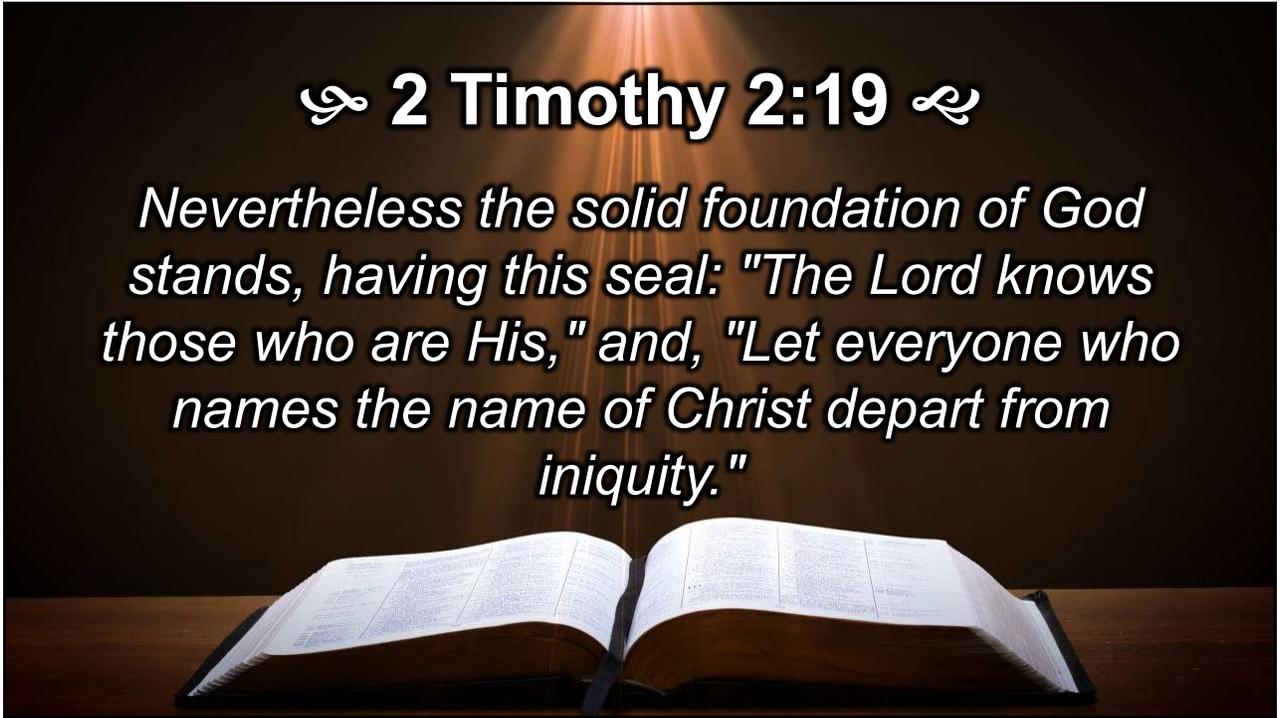
☞ John 10:27-28 ☞

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. {28} "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

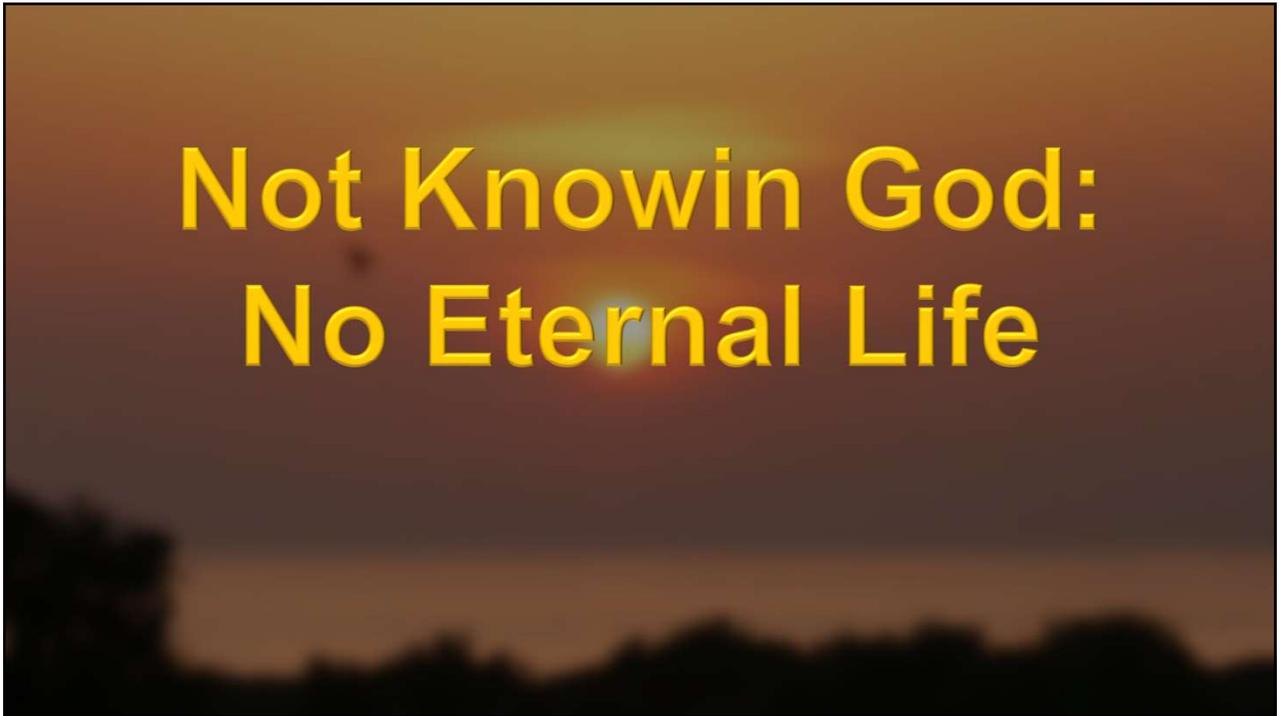


☞ 2 Timothy 2:19 ☞

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."



**Not Knowin God:
No Eternal Life**



☞ Galatians 4:8 ☞

But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.



☞ 1 Corinthians 1:21 ☞

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.



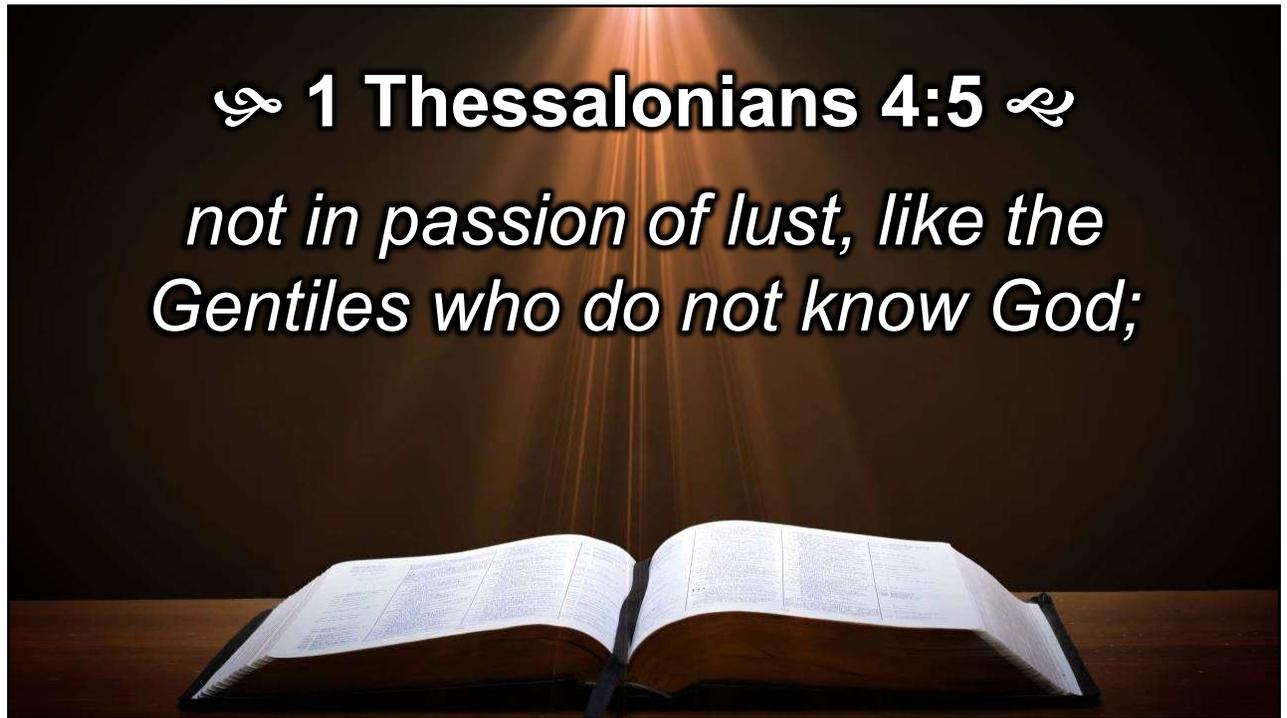
✧ 1 Corinthians 2:14 ✧

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.



✧ 1 Thessalonians 4:5 ✧

not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;



✧ **2 Thessalonians 1:8** ✧

in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.



✧ **Titus 1:16** ✧

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.



☞ 1 John 3:1 ☞

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

**Not Known by God:
No Eternal Life**

☞ Matthew 7:23 ☞

"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"



☞ Luke 13:24-28 ☞

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. {25} "When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' {26} "then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' {27} "But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' {28} "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out."



Knowing: Intimacy

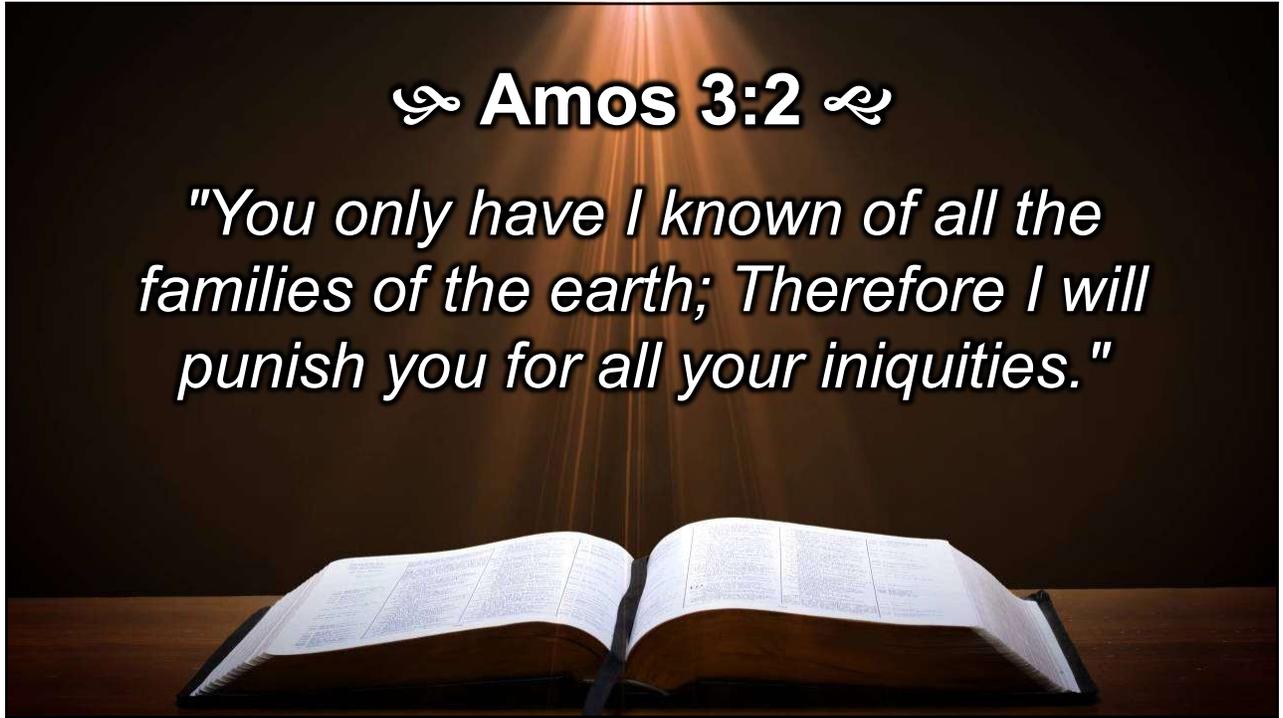
☞ Genesis 4:1, 17, 25 ☞

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." . . . {17} And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son; Enoch. . . . {25} And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."



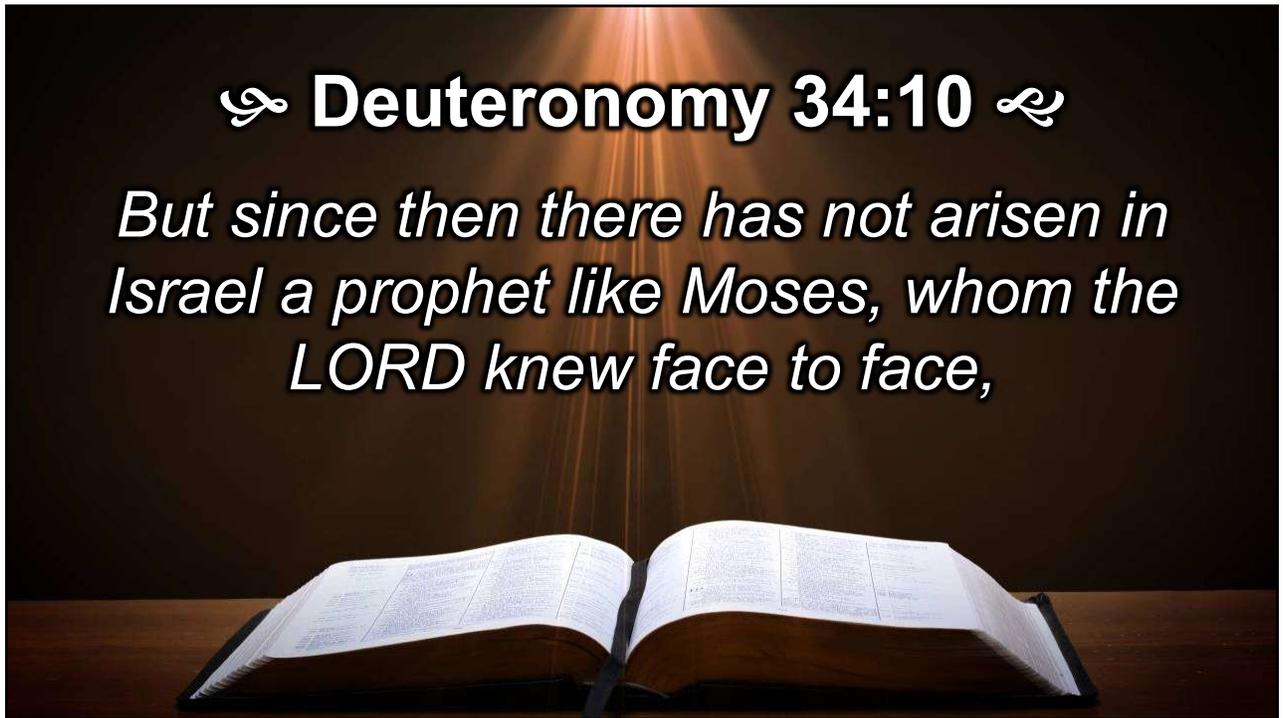
☞ **Amos 3:2** ☞

"You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."



☞ **Deuteronomy 34:10** ☞

But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,



Knowing God
as Creator (all people)

Knowing God / Known by God
eternal life (only the saved)

Not Knowing God / Not Known by God
no eternal life (only the lost)

Knowing God / Not Knowing God
intimacy / no intimacy

How is John using
the expression "that
know Him [God]" in
1 John 2:3?

This is the first of ten "by this we know" statements in 1 John.

☞ 1 John 2:3 ☞

Now **by this we know** that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

☞ 1 John 2:5 ☞

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. **By this we know** that we are in Him.

☞ 1 John 2:18 ☞

Little children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, **by which we know** that it is the last hour.

☞ 1 John 3:16-17 ☞

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

☞ 1 John 3:18-19 ☞

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (19) And **by this we know** that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

☞ 1 John 3:24 ☞

Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And **by this we know** that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

☞ 1 John 4:2-3 ☞

By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh that spirit is not of God

☞ 1 John 4:6 ☞

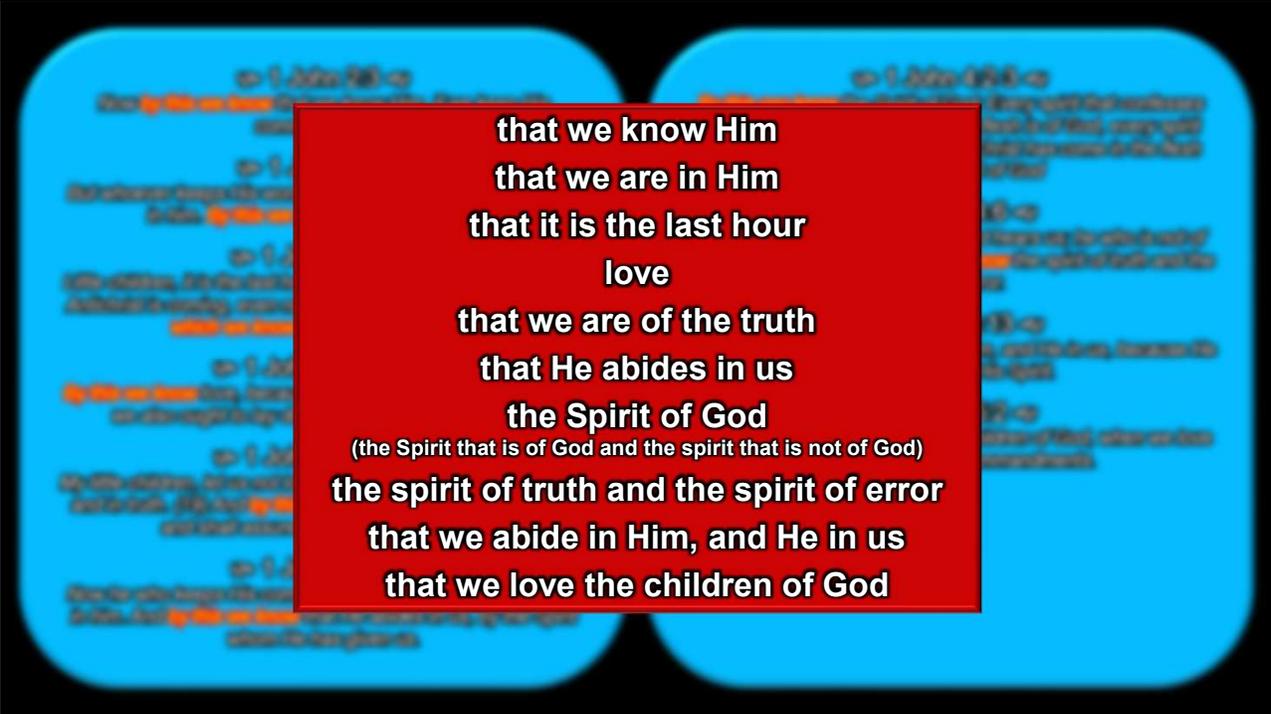
We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. **By this we know** the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

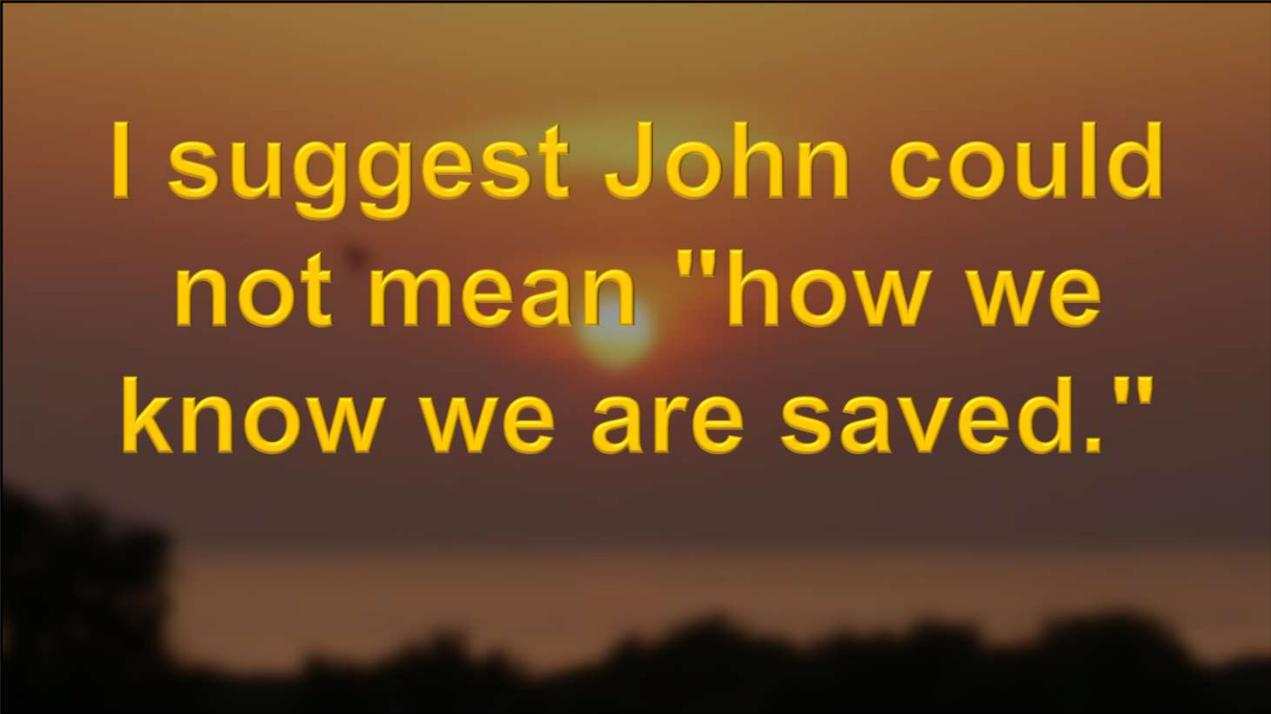
☞ 1 John 4:13 ☞

By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

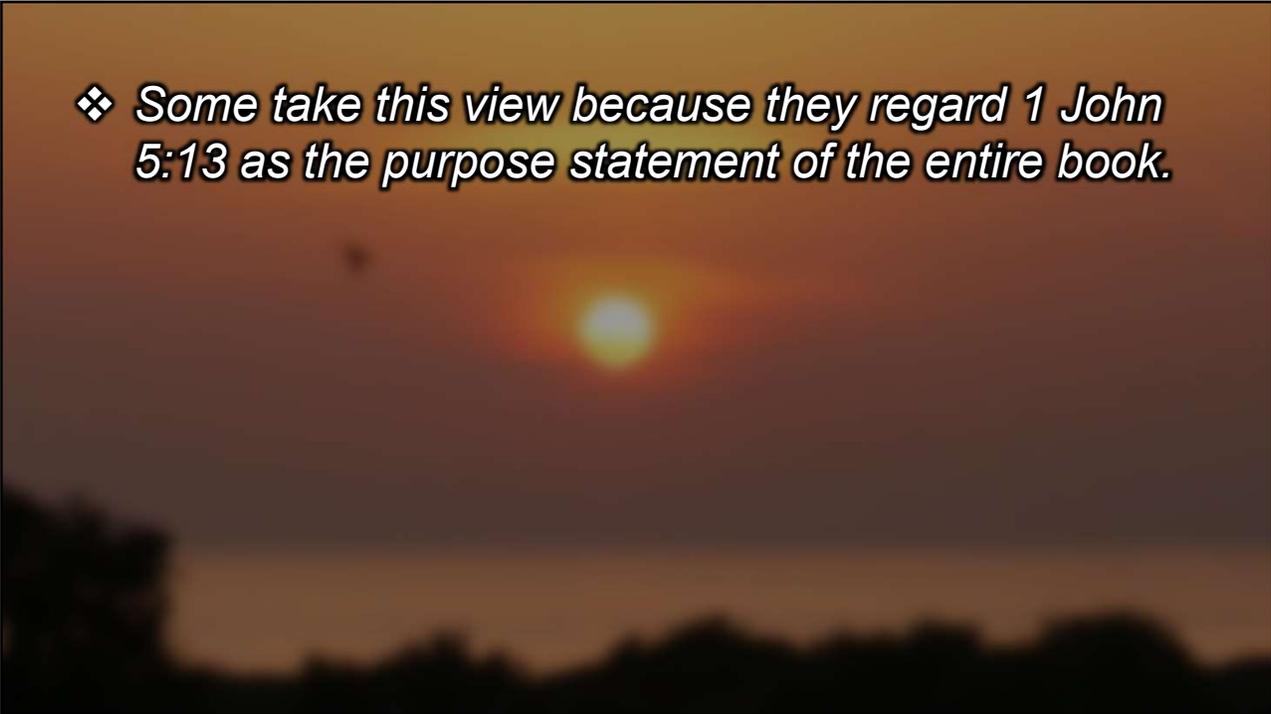
☞ 1 John 5:2 ☞

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.





I suggest John could not mean "how we know we are saved."



❖ *Some take this view because they regard 1 John 5:13 as the purpose statement of the entire book.*

✧ 1 John 5:13 ✧

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

- ❖ *Some take this view because they regard 1 John 5:13 as the purpose statement of the entire book.*
- ❖ *Thus, they take the message of 1 John to be how we can have assurance of eternal life.*
- ❖ *I submit that 1 John 5:13 is not the purpose statement of the entire book, but only the purpose statement of the immediate context.*

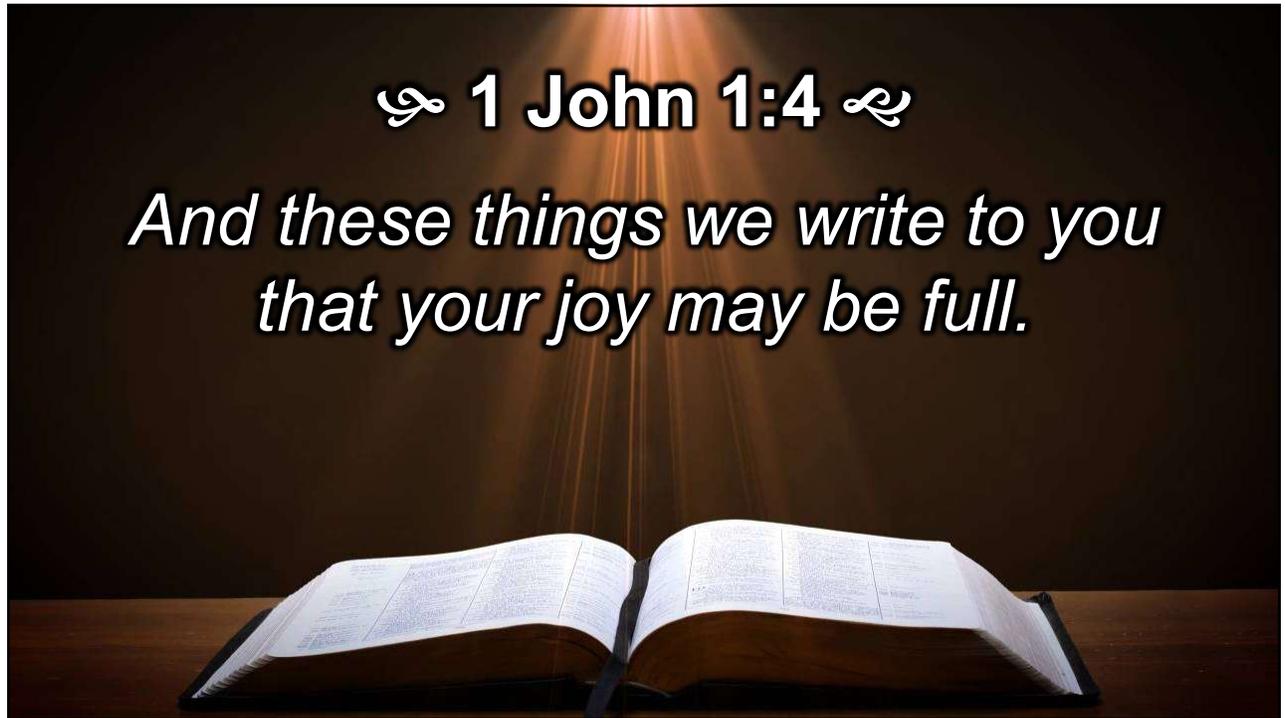
✧ 1 John 5:9-13 ✧

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. {10} He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. {11} And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. {12} He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. {13} These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

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- ❖ *Thus, they take the message of 1 John to be how we can have assurance of eternal life.*
- ❖ *I submit that 1 John 5:13 is not the purpose statement of the entire book, but only the purpose statement of the immediate context.*
- ❖ *There are several other "purpose" statements in 1 John.*

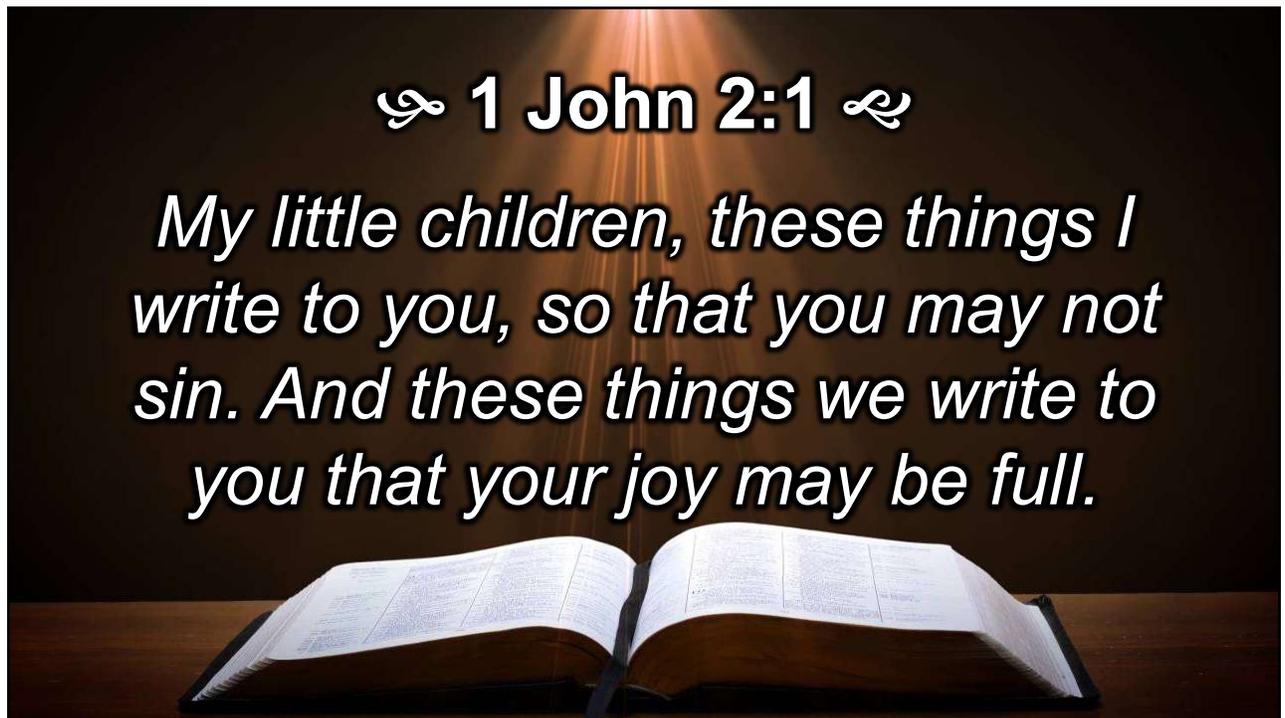
☞ 1 John 1:4 ☞

*And these things we write to you
that your joy may be full.*



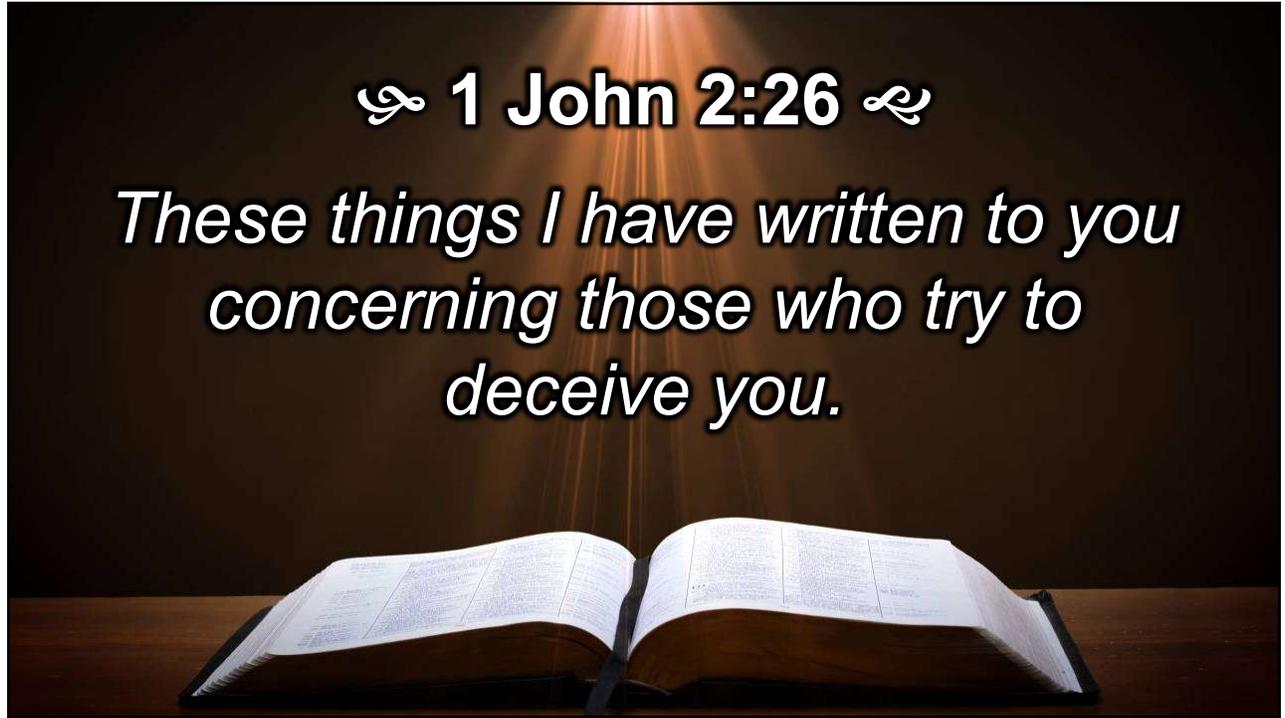
☞ 1 John 2:1 ☞

*My little children, these things I
write to you, so that you may not
sin. And these things we write to
you that your joy may be full.*

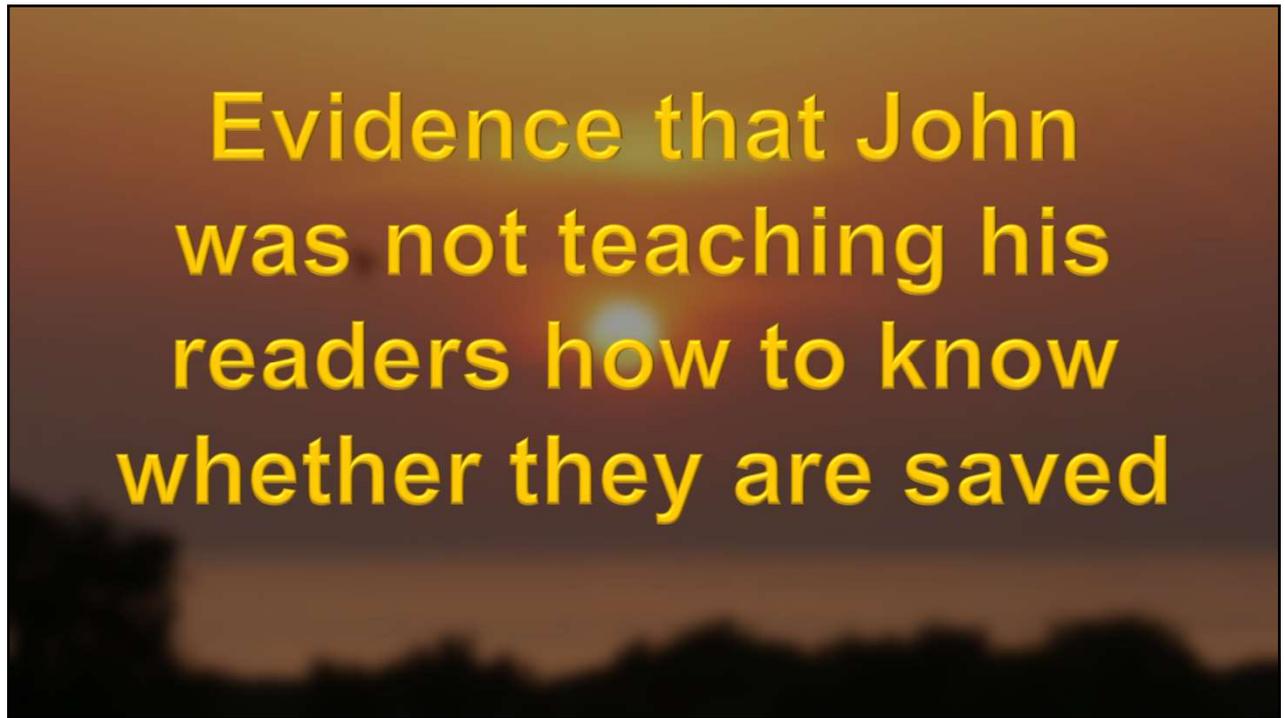


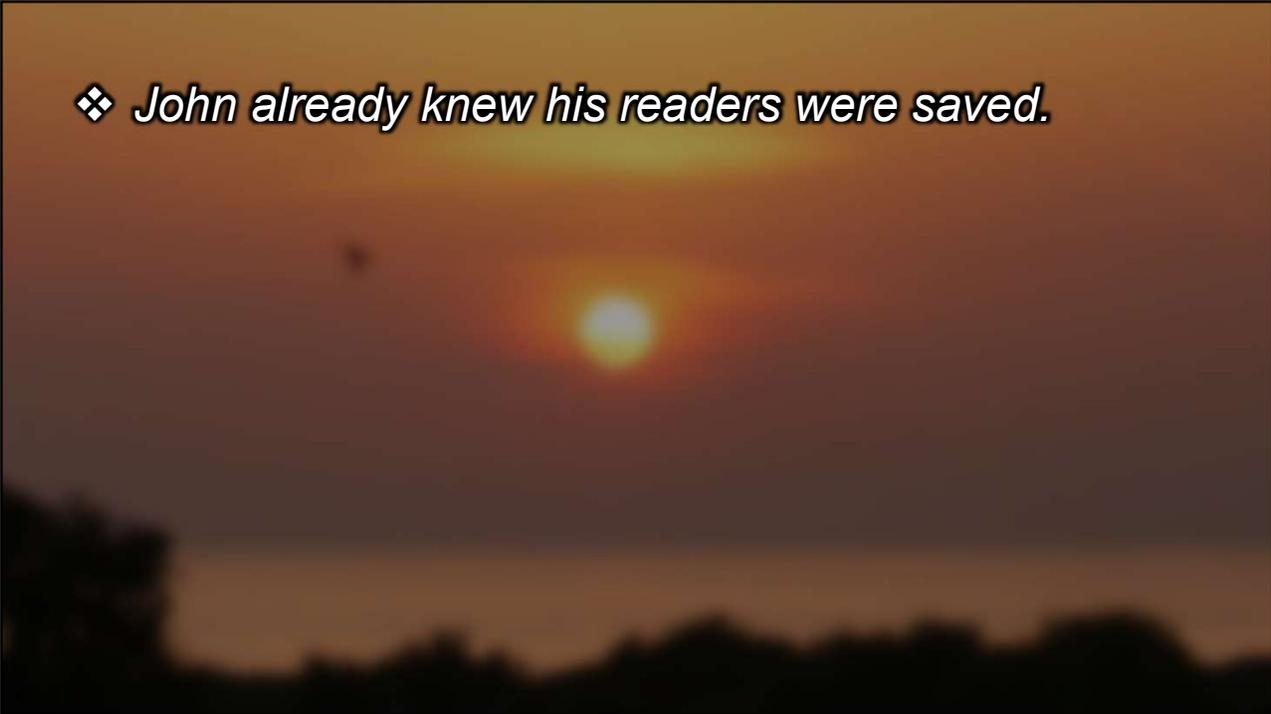
✧ 1 John 2:26 ✧

*These things I have written to you
concerning those who try to
deceive you.*

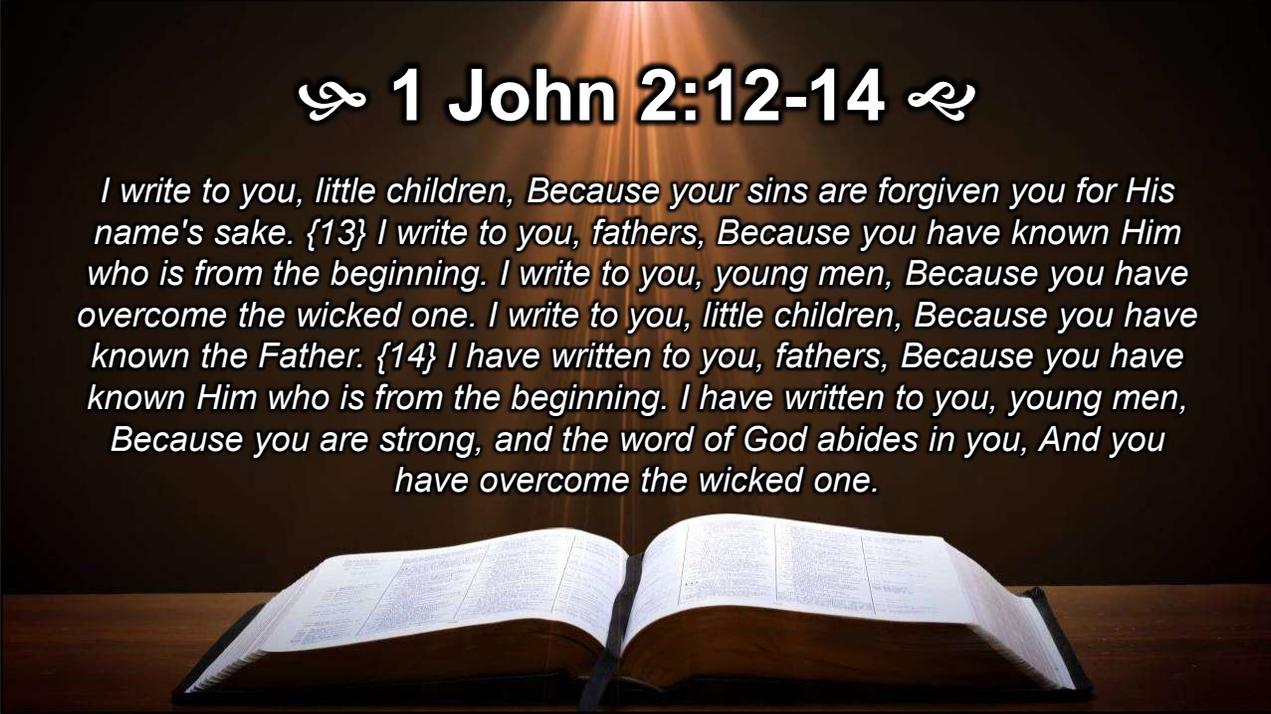


**Evidence that John
was not teaching his
readers how to know
whether they are saved**





❖ *John already knew his readers were saved.*



∞ **1 John 2:12-14** ∞

I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. {13} I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. {14} I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

☞ 1 John 2:21 ☞

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



☞ 1 John 2:27 ☞

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.



- ❖ *John already knew his readers were saved.*
- ❖ *John refers to his readers as 'brethren' indicating they were Christians.*

❧ 1 John 2:7 ❧

Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.



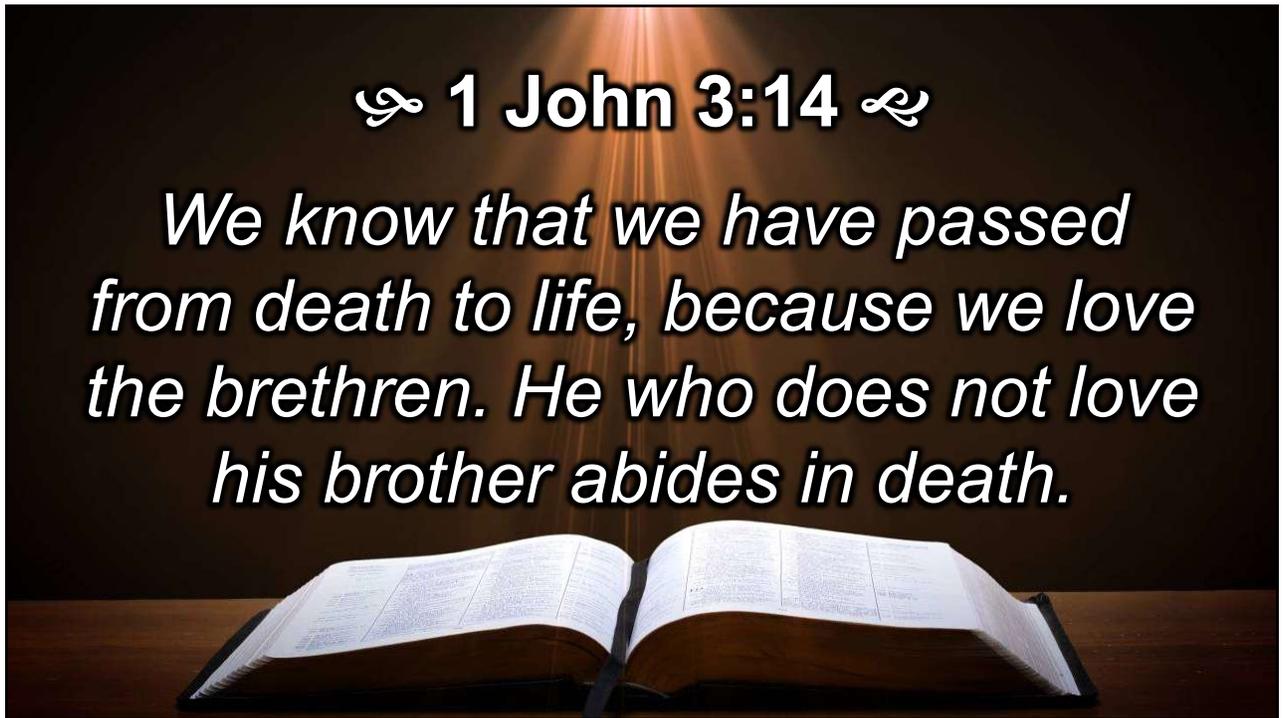
☞ 1 John 3:13 ☞

Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.



☞ 1 John 3:14 ☞

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.



- ❖ *John already knew his readers were saved.*
- ❖ *John refers to his readers as 'brethren' indicating they were Christians.*
- ❖ *Our assurance is based upon the promises of God.*

☞ **John 6:37** ☞

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."



☞ John 20:30-31 ☞

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.



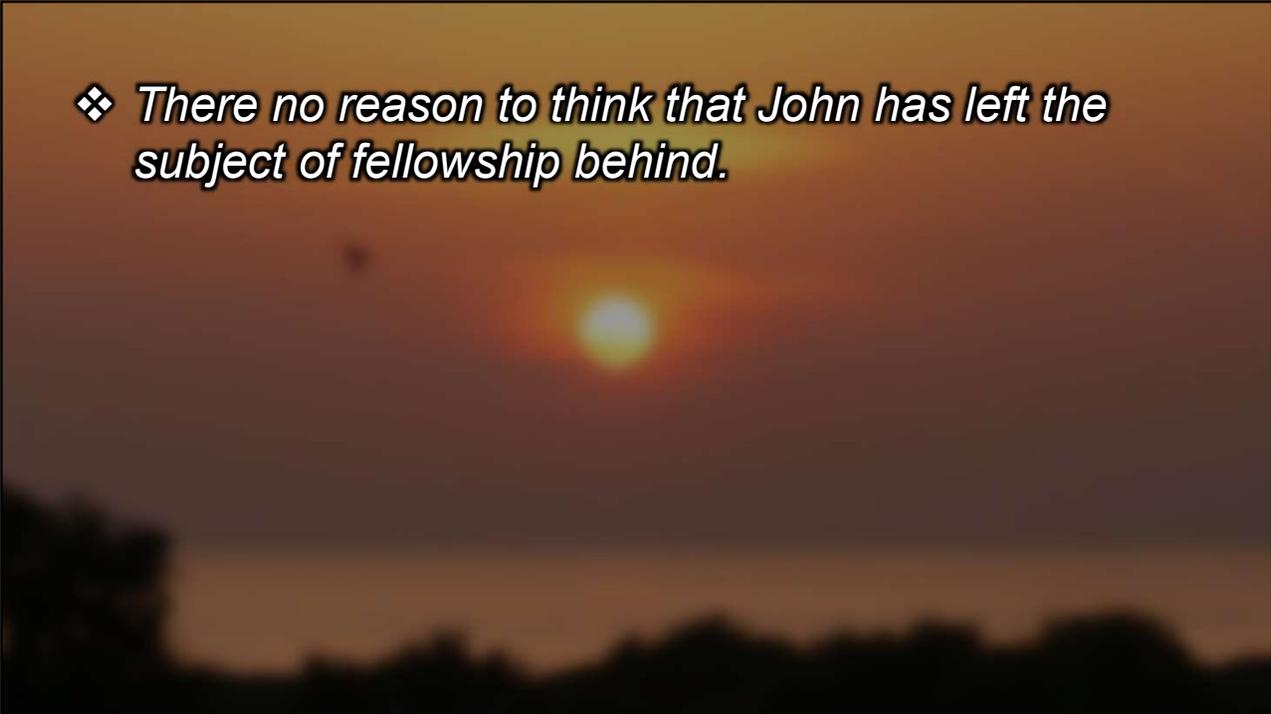
☞ Acts 16:31 ☞

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."



- ❖ *John already knew his readers were saved.*
- ❖ *John refers to his readers as 'brethren' indicating they were Christians.*
- ❖ *Our assurance is based upon the promises of God.*
- ❖ *If assurance is base upon our keeping His commands (as some take 1 John 2:3) then should we doubt our salvation every time we sin?*

I submit that the message of 1 John is how we can know that we have developed intimacy with God.



❖ *There no reason to think that John has left the subject of fellowship behind.*



❧ **1 John 1:3** ❧

that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

☞ 1 John 1:6-7 ☞

*If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. {7}
But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

- ❖ *There no reason to think that John has left the subject of fellowship behind.*
- ❖ *It seems more reasonable, given that John already knew that his readers were saved and given that John had been discussing fellowship in the context, that knowing God here has to do with fellowship / intimacy with God.*
- ❖ *One can be a Christian and still not "know" God.*



✧ Ephesians 5:25-32 ✧

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, {26} that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, {27} that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. {28} So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. {29} For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. {30} For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. {31} "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." {32} This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

☞ 1 John 2:3 ☞

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.



Other Phrases in 1 John

- ❖ *keeping His word (2:5)*
- ❖ *abiding in Him (2:6)*
- ❖ *walking as Jesus walked (2:6)*
- ❖ *abiding in the light (2:10)*
- ❖ *not loving the world (2:15-17)*

∞ John 14:21-23 ∞

He who has My commandments and keeps 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." {22} Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest 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 home with him.

- ❖ *Some commandments are no longer binding, e.g., sacrifice.*
- ❖ *Some commandments were never binding on us. (Matt. 21:2)*
- ❖ *What are some of God's commandments?*

Believe on Jesus (John 6:29; 1 John 3:23
John 6:29)

Worship (John 4:20-24)

Praise (eb. 13:15)

Be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

Rejoice always (1 Thess. 5:16)

Give thanks (Eph. 5:20; Col. 3:15, 17; 4:2; 1
Thess. 5:18)

Prayer (Luke 18:1; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:17)

Repentance: from unbelief to belief (Acts
17:30; 20:21; 26:19-20); from dead works
(Heb. 6:1); from sin (2 Cor. 12:20-21)

Work (1 Thess. 4:10-12; 2 Thess. 3:10)

The rich not to be haughty but to share (1
Tim. 6:17-19)

Esteem others better than yourself (Phil. 2:3)

Look out for the interests of others (Phil. 2:4)

Sanctification, abstain from sexual
immorality, keep your vessel in sanctification
and honor (1 Thess. 4:3-4)

Doctrinal purity in the Church (2 Thess. 3:6)

Receive the weak (Rom. 14:1)

Avoid those who are contrary (Rom. 16:17)

Do all for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31)

Love (1 John 4:8; John 13:34-35; 15:12)

What does it mean to love one another?

Visit widows and orphans (James
1:27)

Provide for brothers and sisters
(James 2:15-16; Rom. 12:13)

Esteem others better than yourself
(Phil. 2:3)

Serve (Phil. 2:4)

Restore (Gal. 6:1)

Forgive (Matt. 18:21-22)

Be kind (Eph. 4:32)

Have compassion (Col. 3:12-13)

Love without hypocrisy (Rom. 12:9)

Be kindly affectionate and give
preference to one another (Rom.
12:10)

Speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15,
25)

1 Corinthians 13

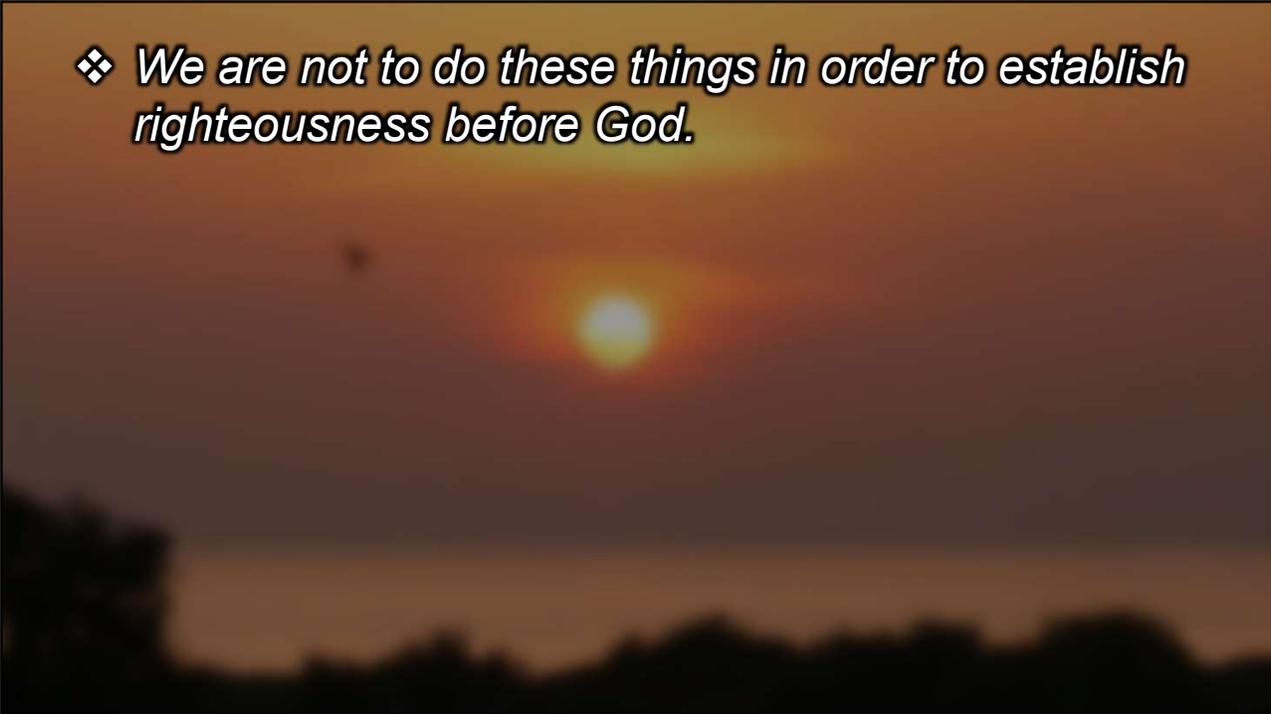
How is all of
this possible?

∞ 1 John 5:3 ∞

*For this is the love of God, that we
keep His commandments. **And His
commandments are not
burdensome.***



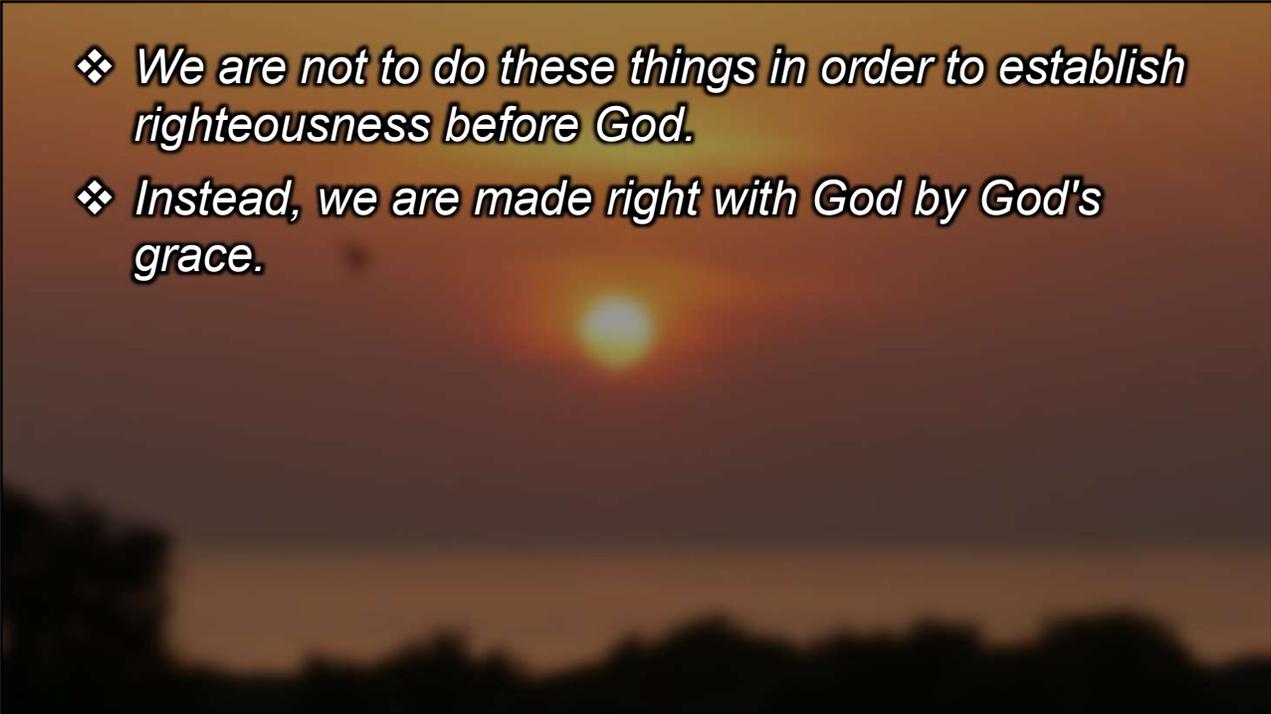
❖ *We are not to do these things in order to establish righteousness before God.*

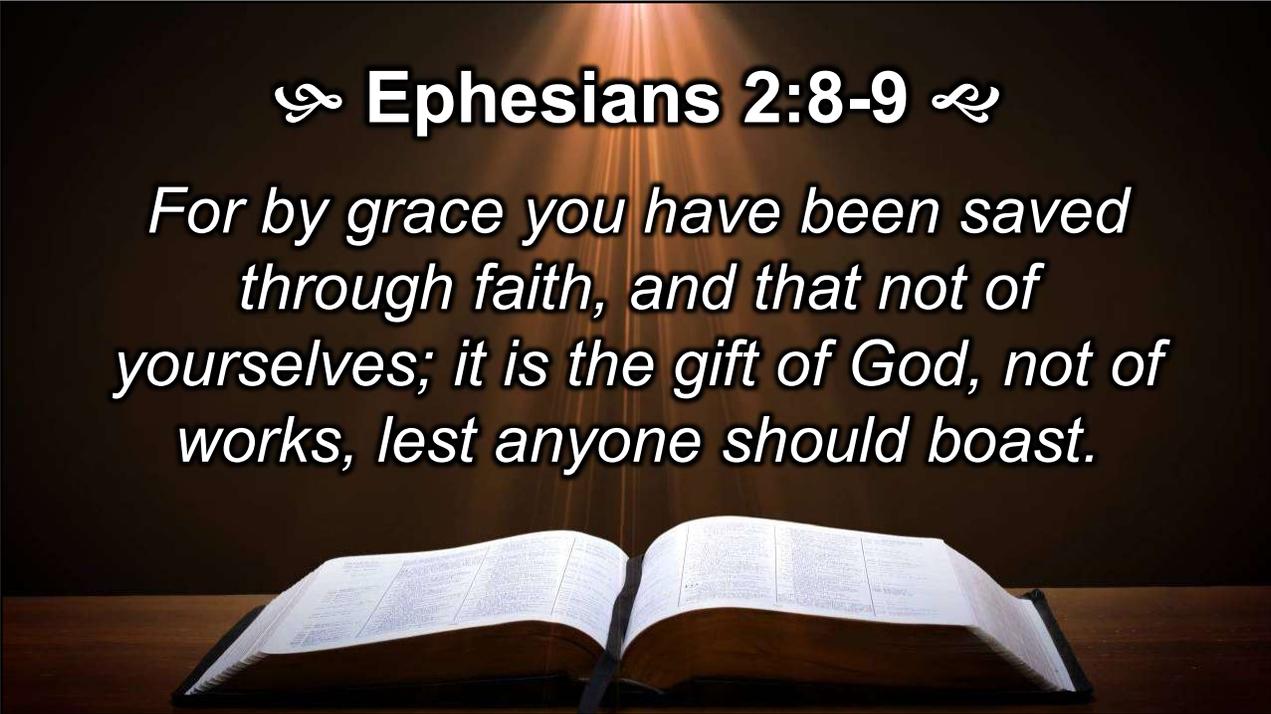


∞ Romans 10:1-4 ∞

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. {2} For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. {3} For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. {4} For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.



- 
- ❖ *We are not to do these things in order to establish righteousness before God.*
 - ❖ *Instead, we are made right with God by God's grace.*



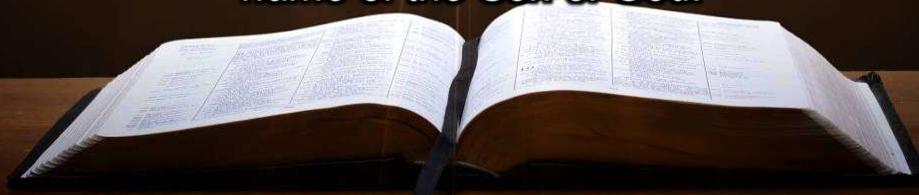
❧ **Ephesians 2:8-9** ❧

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- ❖ *We are not to do these things in order to establish righteousness before God.*
- ❖ *Instead, we are made right with God by God's grace.*
- ❖ *We have assurance of that salvation based on the veracity (trustworthiness) of God.*

✧ 1 John 5:11-13 ✧

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. {12} He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. {13} These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.



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- ❖ *We have assurance of that salvation based on the veracity (trustworthiness) of God.*
- ❖ *Failure in our lives does not undo the faithfulness of God.*

☞ 2 Timothy 2:13 ☞

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.



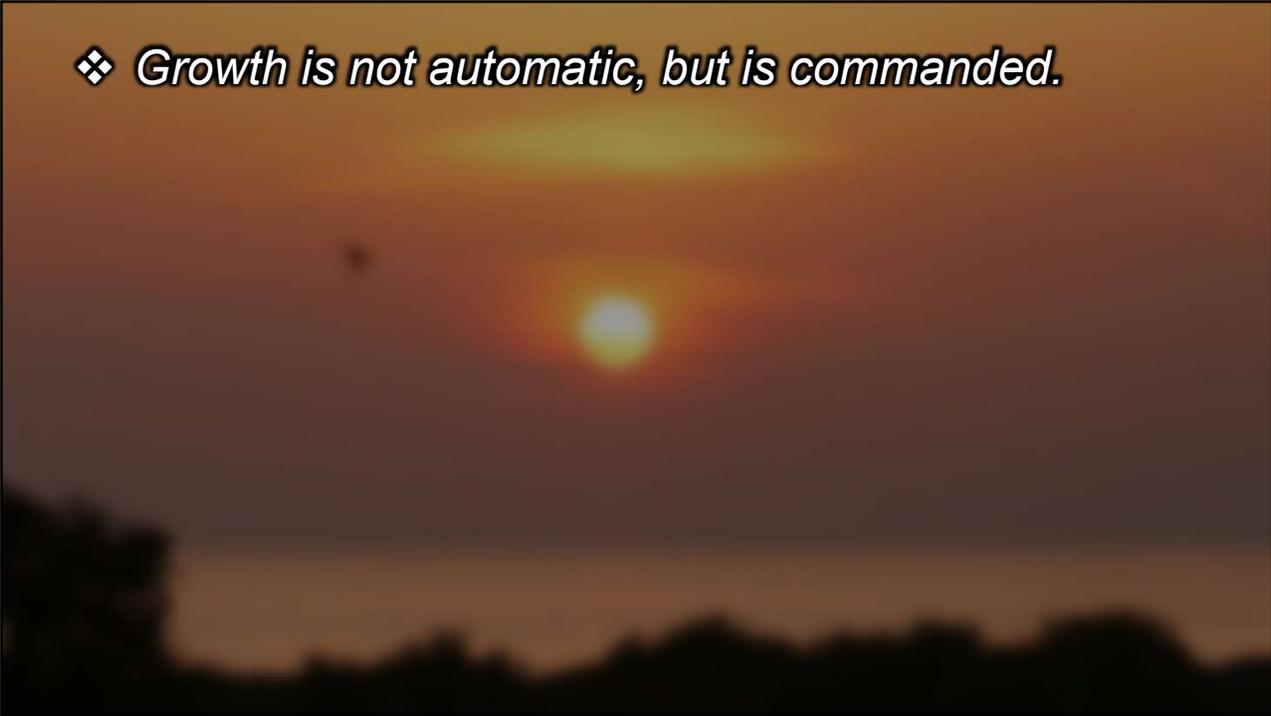
- ❖ *We are not to do these things in order to establish righteousness before God.*
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- ❖ *We have assurance of that salvation based on the veracity (trustworthiness) of God.*
- ❖ *Failure in our lives does not undo the faithfulness of God.*
- ❖ *We are set free, therefore we can with liberty set ourselves to do good because we want too.*

✧ Galatians 5:13 ✧

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.



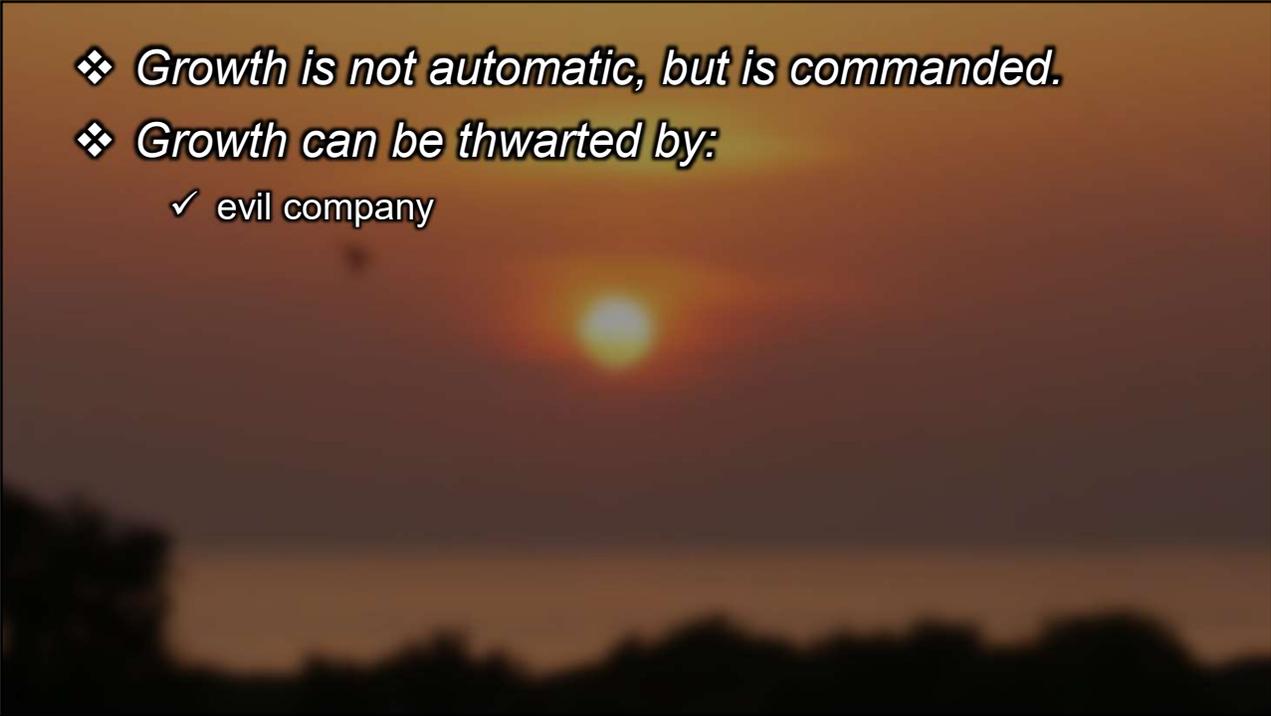
❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*

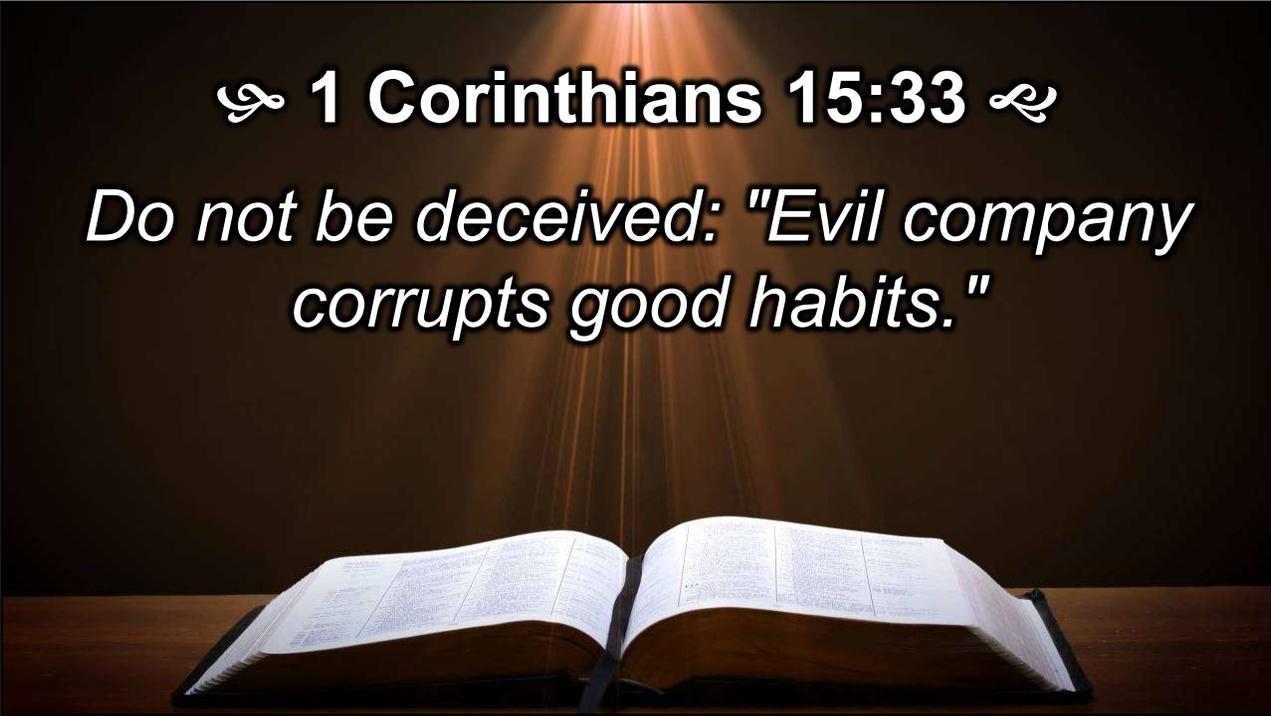


☞ 2 Peter 3:17-18 ☞

You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; {18} but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

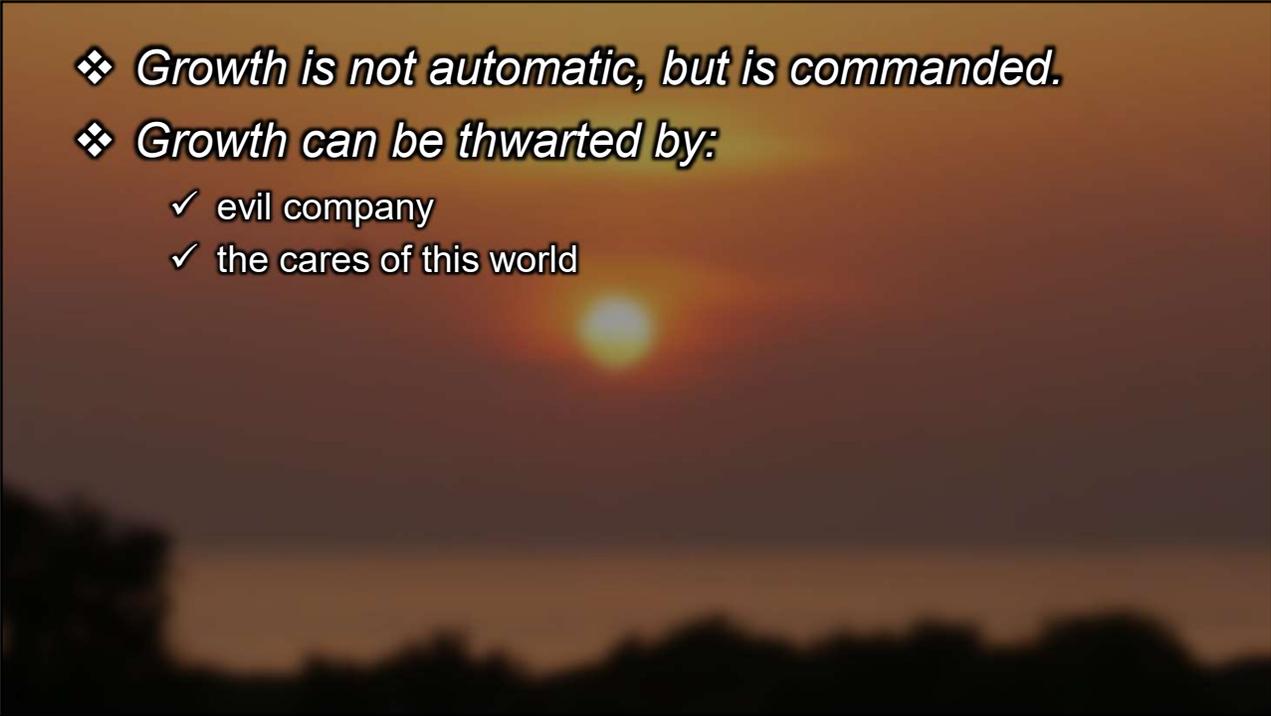


- 
- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
 - ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
 - ✓ evil company



☞ **1 Corinthians 15:33** ☞

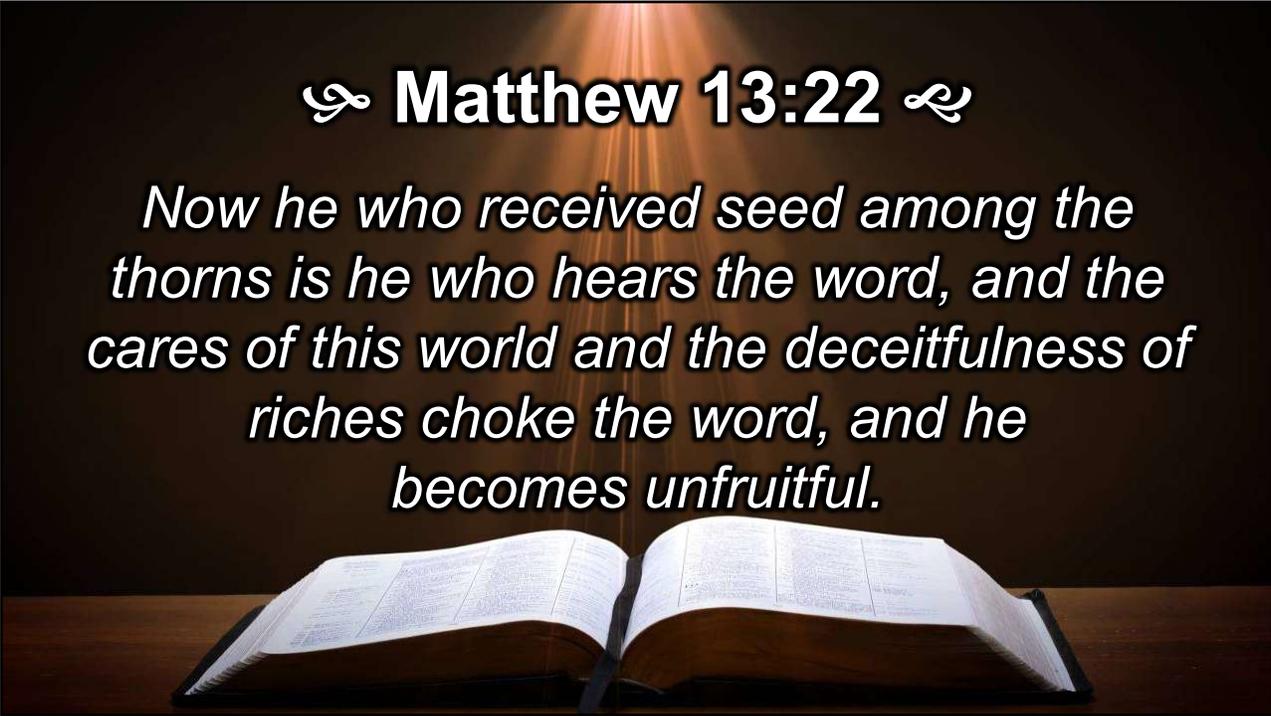
*Do not be deceived: "Evil company
corrupts good habits."*



❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*

❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*

- ✓ evil company
- ✓ the cares of this world



✧ **Matthew 13:22** ✧

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*

❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*

- ✓ evil company
- ✓ the cares of this world
- ✓ false doctrine

☞ 2 Timothy 2:17-18 ☞

*And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, {18} who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they **overthrow the faith of some.***



❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*

❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*

- ✓ evil company
- ✓ the cares of this world
- ✓ false doctrine
- ✓ lack of self-discipline

✧ 1 Corinthians 9:27 ✧

But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.



❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*

❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*

- ✓ evil company
- ✓ the cares of this world
- ✓ false doctrine
- ✓ lack of self-discipline
- ✓ forgetfulness of our own sin

✧ James 1:22-25 ✧

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. {23} For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; {24} for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. {25} But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.



Deuteronomy 8:10-20

When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. {11} "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, {12} lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; {13} and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; {14} when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; {15} who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; {16} who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—{17} then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' {18} "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. {19} Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. {20} As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*

❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*

- ✓ evil company
- ✓ the cares of this world
- ✓ false doctrine
- ✓ lack of self-discipline
- ✓ forgetfulness of our own sin
- ✓ forgetfulness of our salvation in Christ

✧ 2 Peter 1:8-9 ✧

*as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, {4} by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. {5} But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, {6} to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, {1:7} to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. {8} For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has **forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.***

- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
 - ✓ obedience to God

☞ **John 14:15** ☞

*If you love Me, keep My
commandments.*



☞ **1 John 2:3** ☞

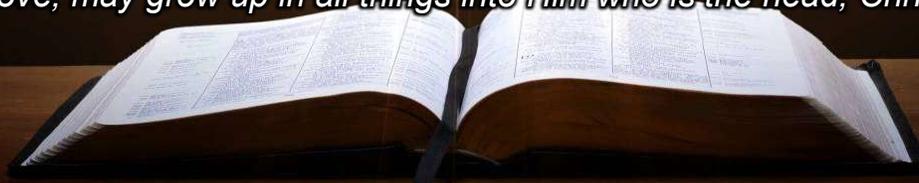
*Now by this we know that we know
Him, if we keep His commandments.*



- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
 - ✓ obedience to God
 - ✓ increased doctrinal understanding

☞ Ephesians 4:11-15 ☞

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, {13} till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; {14} that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, {15} but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ;



- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
 - ✓ obedience to God
 - ✓ increased doctrinal understanding
 - ✓ increased moral discernment

☞ Hebrews 5:13-14 ☞

For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. {14} But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.



- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
 - ✓ obedience to God
 - ✓ increased doctrinal understanding
 - ✓ increased moral discernment
 - ✓ increased knowledge of God

∞ Colossians 1:9-12 ∞

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; {10} that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; {11} strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; {12} giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.



- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
 - ✓ obedience to God
 - ✓ increased doctrinal understanding
 - ✓ increased moral discernment
 - ✓ increased knowledge of God
 - ✓ increased love

☞ **1 Thessalonians 3:12** ☞

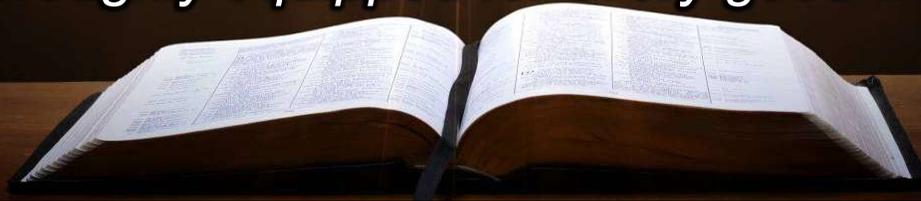
*And may the Lord make you
increase and abound in love to one
another and to all, just as
we do to you,*



- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
- ❖ *Growth is accomplished:*
 - ✓ by the study of Scripture

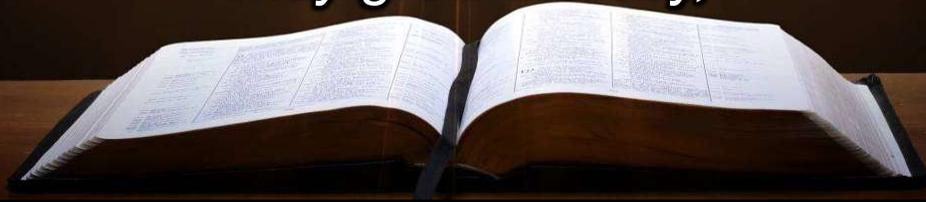
∞ 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ∞

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



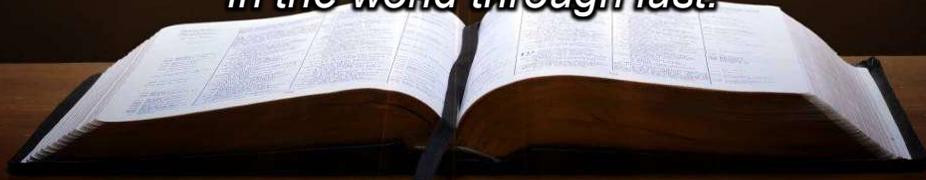
✧ 1 Peter 2:1-2 ✧

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, {2} as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,



✧ 2 Peter 1:3-4 ✧

*as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, {4} by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*



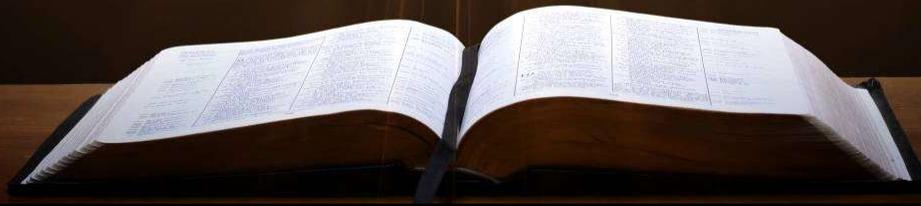
☞ Hebrews 12:10 ☞

*For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be **partakers of His holiness.***

- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
- ❖ *Growth is accomplished:*
 - ✓ by the study of Scripture
 - ✓ within the body of Christ (i.e., not by ourselves)

☞ Ephesians 2:19-22 ☞

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, {20} having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, {21} in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, {22} in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.



☞ Ephesians 4:16 ☞

from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.



- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
- ❖ *Growth is accomplished:*
 - ✓ by the study of Scripture
 - ✓ within the body of Christ (i.e., not by ourselves)
 - ✓ from God

☞ **Colossians 2:18-19** ☞

Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, {19} and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.



- ❖ *Growth is not automatic, but is commanded.*
- ❖ *Growth can be thwarted by:*
- ❖ *Growth is characterized by:*
- ❖ *Growth is accomplished:*
 - ✓ by the study of Scripture
 - ✓ within the body of Christ (i.e., not by ourselves)
 - ✓ from God
 - ✓ by God's chastening

☞ Hebrews 12:6-11 ☞

For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." {7} If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? {8} But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. {9} Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? {10} For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. {11} Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.



God's Will for Our Attitudes

Is ...	Not ...	Key Verses
Love	Lust	Mark 12:28-31; Romans 14:13-19; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; Romans 13:14
Reliance	Independence	Proverbs 3:5-6; Galatians 5:16
Humility	Pride	James 4:6; Philippians 2:5-8
Gratitude	Presumption	Colossians 3:17
Clear Conscience	Guilt	Romans 14:22-23
Integrity	Irresponsibility	Colossians 3:17, 22
Diligence	Laziness	Colossians 3:23
Eagerness	Compulsion	1 Peter 5:2
Generosity	Selfishness	1 Timothy 6:17-19
Submission	Self- advancement	1 Peter 5:5-6
Courage	Cowardice	John 16:33; Matthew 10:26-28
Contentment	Greed	Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11

The Will of God

sanctification	<p style="text-align: center;">☞ 1 Thessalonians 4:3 ☞</p> <p>For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;</p>
giving thanks	<p style="text-align: center;">☞ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ☞</p> <p>in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.</p>
doing good	<p style="text-align: center;">☞ 1 Peter 2:15 ☞</p> <p>For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men;</p>
obedience to authority	<p style="text-align: center;">☞ Romans 13:1 ☞</p> <p>Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.</p>
believing in Jesus	<p style="text-align: center;">☞ John 6:29 ☞</p> <p>Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."</p>
everlasting life for the believer in Jesus	<p style="text-align: center;">☞ John 6:40 ☞</p> <p>"And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."</p>
eternal security of the believer in Jesus	<p style="text-align: center;">☞ John 6:39 ☞</p> <p>"This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day."</p>