

Gleanings of Grace

1 John

Lesson 23

1 John is a letter that provides great assurance to the believer. Throughout the letter, John used the word *know*, mostly the translation of the Greek word “gnosko” which means to know by experience, not simply intellectually. John presents various behaviors that prove our *knowing* and belonging to God. These behaviors should be consistent in the life of believers. We will not always find ourselves as God would have us and there are times we find ourselves where God would not have us. But our lifestyle will reflect lives that love God and love others. We are approaching this homework differently than our usual pattern as we will be looking at every verse in 1 John that contains the word *know*. May your study of this epistle produce in you a sweet assurance of who you are to Jesus.

OBSERVATION: Scan the verses listed on the Observation Worksheet

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After scanning these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. As the intention of this lesson is to understand what we as believers can *know*, mark the word *know* in each of the verses.

Background:

1. According to 1 John 1:1-3, what are John's qualifications for writing this epistle?
2. Using the following verses, record why John declared that he wrote.
 - 1 John 1:4
 - 1 John 1:5
 - 1 John 2:1

1 John 2:8

1 John 2:12

1 John 2:13

1 John 2:21

1 John 2:26

1 John 5:13

- a. Choose two of these purposes and express why they are important to you.

Read 1 John 2 verses in Observation Worksheet

1. **1 John 2:3-5** John's first declaration of how we can *know* that we *know God* is that we *keep His commandments*. What did Jesus say was the motivation for *keeping His commandments*? John 14:15
 - a. In what ways has your *love* for Jesus, caused you to *keep His commandments*?
 - b. How does not *keeping His commandments* reveal that a person is *a liar and the truth is not in him*?
 - c. The word *perfected* in verse 5 implies that the *love of God* has achieved its purpose in us. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and explain what it means that we are *saved through faith*, but are saved for the purpose of doing *good works*.
2. **1 John 2:11** What is the result of *hating a brother*?
 - a. In what ways have you experienced these results?
3. **1 John 2:18** According to verse 19, what is evidence of *antichrist* type behavior?
4. **1 John 2:20,21** We have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to reveal truth and to expose deception. In what ways has the Holy Spirit revealed to you something that:
was not of God

was of God

a. Explain what it's like when God reveals deception or truth to you.

5. **1 John 2:29** Using the following verses, define the *righteousness* of God.

Psalm 19:9

Psalm 71:19

Psalm 85:13

a. Read David's proclamation in Psalm 7:17. What do you love about God's *righteousness*?

b. Consider the words of 1 John 3:9. How does the Holy Spirit cause you to want to walk in *righteousness* and *not sin*?

Read 1 John 3 verses in Observation Worksheet

1. **1 John 3:1,14,16** Read through these verses and mark with a heart, the word *love*.

a. List what John wrote about *love*.

b. In what ways has your *love* for others changed since you became a believer?

c. Verse 1 exhorts us to *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us*. Describe the love of God towards those who are His. (Challenge: use Scripture to support your answers.)

d. Bask in the fact that you are called a *child of God*. What privileges does that afford you?

e. According to 1 John 3:16, why do we *know* God *loves* us?

1.) Why is this better proof of His love than **anything** else?

2.) How are we to respond to *knowing* God's *love* for us?

a.) Consider your own life. What are some practical examples of *laying down our lives for the brethren*?

2. **1 John 3:2** According to 1 John 3:3, what is the result of this *hope*?
 - a. How does the *hope* of seeing Jesus change you?
3. **1 John 3:5** Why is it important to know this?
 - a. Rejoice in the words of Hebrews 4:15 as you write them.
4. **1 John 3:15** This is a strong statement. In what ways are *hate* and *murder* alike?
5. **1 John 3:19** Consider the previous words of verses 16-18. What *assurance* do you experience when you walk in the ways of these verses?
 - a. Read 1 John 3:20. Our hearts often *condemn* us and tempt us to doubt our relationship with God. What is the promise of this verse?
 - 1.) Why is it important to believe God's word about our salvation above the messages of our *heart*?
6. **1 John 3:24 (and 1 John 4:13)** In what ways does *abiding* in Christ assure you that you belong to Him?
 - a. Record the sweet assurance of Galatians 4:6.
 - b. Describe your experience of how the Holy Spirit has confirmed that you belong to God.

Read 1 John 4 verses in Observation Worksheet

1. **1 John 4:2** What do we know when we *confess* that *Jesus Christ has come in the flesh*?
 - a. What did John proclaim about Jesus in John 1:14?
2. **1 John 4:6** This verse states one way of identifying those who belong and those who do not belong to Him. What is it?
 - a. What did Jesus say in John 8:45-50 that confirms this?
3. **1 John 4:8** Knowing God produces in us a likeness of Him. In what ways is God *love*?

4. **1 John 4:13** What does the Holy Spirit produce in the believer? Galatians 5:22,23

a. Why are these only possible because of the work of the Holy Spirit?

Read 1 John 5 verses in Observation Worksheet

1. **1 John 5:2** Just as much as our love for the people of God reflects our love for God, our love and obedience to God is a demonstration of love to the body of Christ. In what ways is loving people, evidence that we love God?

2. **1 John 5:13** John's goal is that we who *believe in the name of the Son of God*, **know** that we *have eternal life*. What is the promise of John 3:16?

a. Define the word *believe*.

b. How does *knowing you have eternal life* affect your life?

3. **1 John 5:15** What condition precedes this promise? 1 John 5:14

a. What are some ways we can know we are *praying according to God's will*?

b. Think of a time you prayed contrary to God's will. What are your thoughts now?

4. **1 John 5:18** One effect of being *born of God* is that we no longer live a lifestyle of committing *sin*. What does it mean to *keep* ourselves?

a. Rejoice in the words, *and the wicked one does not touch him*. The word *touch* has the sense of "does not attach himself to". What does this truth mean to you?

5. **1 John 5:19** In the previous verse, we have the promise that *the wicked one* does not attach himself to the believer. What contrary statement is made in verse 19?

a. In your own words, explain the phrase, *lies under the sway*.

b. Record the promise of Galatians 1:4.

1.) How have you personally experienced this promise?

6. **1 John 5:20** List what we *know* according to this verse.

a. Note *understanding* is *given*; it is not achieved. What *understanding* do you have now that you didn't have before you were a believer?

b. John closes his epistle reminding us of the importance of *fellowship* with Jesus. What does John proclaim about this *fellowship* in 1 John 1:3,6, and 7?

1.) What have you discovered about this *fellowship*?

c. Profess the truth of the last sentence of 1 John 5:20 by writing it with bold letters.

1.) This proclamation refers to Jesus. He is both *God* and *eternal life*. What did Paul state about Jesus in Titus 2:13?

2.) Who do you believe Jesus is?

REVIEW of 1 John

1. List five things you are grateful to *know* that you have gleaned from this study of 1 John.

2. What does it mean to you that God has revealed so many things to you that you can rely upon?

*for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly
into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

- 2 Peter 1:11

Observation Worksheet

1 John

1 John 2:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2:4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

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 2:11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

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 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

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 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

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.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

1 John 3:5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

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.

1 John 3:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:16 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 3:19 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 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is 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 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

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.

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.

1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

1 John 5:18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.