



8/14/25

So... in case you were wondering when I go through these passages, especially if you're one of the ones who notices the email coming in right at 5:00am... I go through the passage the day before, and I set it up to go out the next morning. And... I often write a little greeting with each email. But yesterday, there was no greeting. That's because I was EXHAUSTED when I set up the email to go out. It was a happy exhausted, but still exhausted. We had a joint birthday party for my two granddaughters, Alaya and Taya the night before. The theme was "Girls just want to be one." It was a blast... and seeing them enjoy their smash cakes was the best. So... right now as I write this, I'm not exhausted. I'm just thankful... thankful for where the Lord has me... thankful for you. Have a great, fulfilling day.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 John 3:1-10

When I read this passage, I freak out little... Is this saying I can lose my salvation if I sin? Or that I'm not really saved because I still struggle with sin? I know from 2 chapters earlier that this is NOT the case. John did not fall and hit his head and start contradicting himself. In chapter 1, verses 8-9, he said, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He (Jesus) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

So what is John saying here in chapter 3? He's talking about PRACTICING sin. When I was in college, I took voice lessons and I had to practice my vocal training every day... in order to become proficient with my voice. Practice may not make perfect, but it does make permanent. So... if I PRACTICE sin, I choose to make it a permanent habit in my life. Whatever I practice becomes permanent.

With that in mind, I'm able to study 1 John 3:1-10 without fear.

Vs. 1-3 ~ Phew! Before John wants to tell me about not practicing sin, he wants to make sure

my filter is on... Let everything he says from here on out be filtered through the fact that God the Father loves me and has made me His child. "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."

If I judge the Father's love by how the world treats me, I may get confused and question the authenticity of His love... until I filter everything through His word. His word tells me that the world didn't know Jesus, and so it won't know me. The world didn't experientially understand who He was, so it won't understand why I follow Him? But what really matters is this... My FATHER in heaven KNOWS me... experientially... and I experientially KNOW Him.

Here's what I know... right now, at this very moment, I am a child of God. That will never change.

Here's what I don't know... what I'm going to be like when Jesus takes me home. All I know is that somehow, seeing Him in all His glory will complete my transformation so that I'm like Him. Philippians 3:20-21 explains, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself." This is my future. I need to filter everything in my life through this promise.

I do not have to make myself worthy of the transformation and purification God is doing in me. My job is to put my hope, my confident expectation, in Him. This is how I will be purified and sanctified... not fixing myself but hoping in the one who fixes me. O Lord, please help me to filter EVERYTHING through this!!!

Vs. 4-10 ~ Here's where practicing comes in. I either PRACTICE sin, or I PRACTICE righteousness.

To practice sin... which ultimately is choosing to serve self rather than God... is to say like the devil, "I will be like the Most High God." I don't think he was meaning that he wanted to be like Jesus in the way Jesus wants us to be like Himself. The devil was saying, "I want to dethrone the Most High God. I want to take His place." That's what I do when I choose self over Him. So... to PRACTICE that mindset is to ~

- *Practice lawlessness... which only leads to more lawlessness (Romans 6:19). Lawlessness is simply breaking God's commandments. What are His two greatest commandments? Love Him with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love my neighbor as myself. To practice sin is to choose not to love, even I want to call it love.*
- *To practice sin is to choose not to abide in the Lord... to not be in relationship with Him.*
- *To practice sin is to choose to keep on sinning.*
- *To practice sin is to choose not to see Him or know Him.*
- *To practice sin is to be deceived.*
- *To practice sin is to be "of the devil." Jesus spoke of this in John 8:44 when He confronted people who claimed to believe in Him but only wanted what they could get*

out of Him... He said, "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." Jesus came to destroy the devil's lies and works, not to empower me to practice them.

- To make a practice of sin is to NOT be born of God, because having God's seed in me makes it impossible for me to celebrate the sin. For those who struggle with believing their salvation because of how much they fail, I believe this is a sign that they truly are saved. They wouldn't feel the conviction of sin if the Holy Spirit was not dwelling in them.*
- To practice sin is to justify not loving other believers. O Lord, please help me with this! Please destroy the desire to accuse others and feel superior to them, and grow my divine, supernatural love for them that only comes through You!*

So then... what does it mean to practice righteousness?

- To practice righteousness, I turn away from sin and turn to the Lord for help. When I sin, I confess it. How often does a heart grow cold simply because it refuses to acknowledge its sin and ask God for His cleansing power? O Lord, please remind me to confess daily, regularly!*
- To practice righteousness is to abide in fellowship with Jesus. That brings a flooding of His love, peace, joy, and hope into my heart!!! Yes, Lord! I want this!*
- To practice righteousness is to see Him and know Him experientially.*
- To practice righteousness is to NOT be deceived! Amen!*
- To practice righteousness is to be more and more righteous... because Jesus has declared over me what He is now doing in me... "He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified... purified... made wholly righteous" (Hebrews 10:14).*
- To practice righteousness is to be of God and make room for Him to destroy the deceptive, evil works of the devil in my life.*
- To practice righteousness is to sin against God less and less as He transforms my life.*
- To practice righteousness is to be a child of God... because HE is righteous. There is no deception in God... NONE.*
- To practice righteousness is to love my brothers and sisters in Christ. When I'm secure in God's love, I can more freely love others.*

Let me not forget my filter... My choice of what I practice will be decided by how I filter the truth. Do I believe that God is my Father and that He loves me? The more I practice being with Him and letting the Holy Spirit transform me, the more my filter gets rid of the impurities that threaten to deceive me. Whether my filter is clean or dirty, the truth of who God is remains the same. O Lord, please help me to practice the righteousness that Jesus gave

me as a free gift when I believed that His sacrifice was for me, and when I confessed Him as Lord and received salvation through Him. I am a child of God! He adopted me, and the devil cannot destroy me ever again. I will practice this truth.