



5/21/26

You know what blows me away? People in the world... like in the movies... who want to say they don't believe in God, but they spend a ton of time trying to give other explanations for the supernatural character of God. If they really don't believe He exists, why even bring Him up? I'm always shocked by statements people make in the movies like, "The universe is trying to tell you something." No, my friend. The universe is created by the spoken word of God, held together by the word of His power. I pray that you and I will not be ashamed of our relationship with the Lord in any way. I pray that we will say with Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." Amen!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 John 2:18-27

This week we're learning about spiritual oneness IN CHRIST. What completely destroys spiritual oneness in Christ? Trying to replace Christ... being anti-Christ. Sadly, even as a believer I have often looked more like an anti-Christ than I have looked like Christ. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to change me so that I will never ever be confused in word, attitude, or action with someone who lives as a functional anti-Christ.

THE antichrist, who John tells us specifically about in the book of Revelation, will try to be the ultimate replacement of Jesus. But he will lose. He will disguise himself as an angel of light. He will not have a red cape or horns on his head. He will try to look like Jesus, but his lies will be exposed, dismantled, and destroyed. Praise the Lord!!!

So what does this passage about someone who stands against Jesus teach me about the spiritual oneness God wants me to have with Him and others?

Vs. 18-19 ~ "Children..." I love how John refers to believers as "beloved, children, fathers, young men..." These are all words of affection and family. That's the beauty of relationship with God. I get to be with Him AND I get a whole new family.

"Children, it is the last hour..." The moment Jesus rose again and then ascended to heaven, it became "the last hour." The first hour was the time between creation and Jesus' death. The last hour is the time between His resurrection and His return. (It's a very long hour. 😊) I would think that when He rose again, the devil and all his demons would have packed up shop and gone home with their tails between their legs. Death was defeated forever. But they doubled down. They have so much hatred that they continue to try to cause as much destruction as they can. They're blinded by arrogance, hatred, and consuming greed for power.

THE antichrist IS yet to come. But until he does, he is sending many little antichrists. 1 Timothy 4:1-3 describes them as "deceitful spirits" and "demons" who use "the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared" to teach lies and demand obedience to them. I should not be surprised by them. I should not be unaware of them. I should not be afraid of them. I also need to recognize that many of them try to infiltrate the church!

Vs. 19 says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us." They went out from US... the church. They came in with plans to distract, dismantle, and destroy our faith. They do it by trying to lure the desires of our flesh into taking the throne of our hearts. These are liars whose consciences are seared. They don't realize or care that they're hurting people. Either when they cause as much damage as possible OR when they realize that they won't win... they leave. They're not genuinely remorseful for what they do. They're not true believers in Christ. If they were really believers, they would continue with us in the faith, not shifting from the hope of the gospel as Colossians 1:23 describes. Their departure makes it clear that they aren't really of us.

This is why it's so important that we have spiritual oneness IN CHRIST in the church, in our families, and in our marriages! Not all of us have the gift of discernment. We need the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us. We need the biblical support, encouragement, and even admonition from believers who will help guide us in the truth of God's word.

I personally don't trust myself AT ALL!!! I NEED the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to me and to help me humble myself before Him. I NEED other believers to point me to Christ when I'm tempted to go in the wrong direction. I NEED others to even enlighten me with God's word so that I KNOW that I'm drifting in the wrong direction.

What better place for an antichrist to distract, dismantle, and destroy than in a marriage! It's like bowling. He rolls that ball down the lane and if he can get to a marriage, he can bring down so many more pins than just aiming for one person. The antichrist will go after anyone, from the most gullible to the most discerning. But if he can take down the leaders, he can take down multitudes.

O Lord, Your word says that my heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick (Jeremiah 17:9). Please help me to take that to heart and allow Your word, Your Spirit, and

Your people to help me to pursue spiritual oneness and not be taken down by liars.

Vs. 21-22 ~ Here is the beautiful news... I "have been anointed by the Holy One." The Holy Spirit has sealed me through my faith in Christ. He has consecrated me for the Lord. He gives me and every believer knowledge... an awareness of the truth. I HAVE it. I need to USE it!

John said, "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." I KNOW the truth. God's word is truth. Jesus is truth. NO lie is of the truth.

This is so important for me to understand. NO LIE is of the truth. If there is any speck of deception, the WHOLE thing is deception. God does not lie or deceive in ANY way. So if anyone tells me only a partial truth, it is a LIE. If I tell someone a partial truth, it is a lie. I have spoken with women who had to confront someone because of their omission of facts, and the person tried to manipulate the facts to get what they wanted... to distract, dismantle, and destroy using flattering words. I've talked with women who were confused because someone SAID all the right things, but their actions didn't line up with the right thing. Actions speak louder than words. How do I know if someone is of the truth? They speak truth... they admit when they don't... and they "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8). The evidence of bearing fruit that keeps with repentance takes time. On top of that, in Matthew 10:16, Jesus called us to "be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." O Lord, please help me to completely align myself with You. When I don't, help me to admit it and repent. And give me wisdom not to be trapped by the antichrists who disguise themselves to try to look like Jesus.

Vs. 22-23 ~ What is one of the telltale signs that someone is a lying antichrist? He denies that Jesus is the Christ. How does that happen in the church? I know that the demons called Jesus out as the Most High sent from the Father. Isn't that acknowledging Him as Christ? No. They never confessed Him as Lord. If someone in the church does not acknowledge Jesus as Lord of their lives by the way they live, they aren't really calling acknowledging Him as Christ. They not only deny Jesus, but they deny the Father because Jesus and the Father are in complete unity. And Jesus is the way to the Father. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father but by Me."

When I confess Jesus, I have the Father. What does that mean, "confess Jesus"? Romans 10:9 says that it means I confess Him as LORD, Master of my life, the One in charge.

Vs. 24-25 ~ Here is the beautiful thing about the confession of my faith in Jesus. It opens to me a whole new world of spiritual oneness! I get to abide in Jesus and the Father... in relationship. What's my part? LET what I heard from the beginning... that Jesus is the truth, the life, and the way... continue to abide in me. Let the gospel be on my mind, on my heart, and what leads me through my day. As I do this, I will be reminded over and over again about the promise I have from God, a promise that will never be forgotten or forsaken... I have eternal life WITH God! If I don't understand how huge this is, I need to keep stepping closer to Him and His word. I need to ask the Holy Spirit to keep me walking in the light. O Lord, please make

it so!

Vs. 26-27 ~ Let me not miss this. There are people who are actively trying to deceive me, to lead me away from the Lord for their selfish gain. They will do whatever they can to make living for self look more enticing than living for God. They're liars, and I am easily persuaded if I don't stay close to the Lord.

But I don't have to be afraid!!! God is greater than the liars. I have the Holy Spirit who has sealed me, who strengthens me, who transforms me AS I offer myself to Him as His obedient disciple. I want to be the kid who sits at the front of the class taking notes and learning everything I can, asking questions and asking for help. I DON'T want to be the kid who sits at the back of the room passing notes, ignoring the teaching, and thinking the subject is boring or culturally irrelevant. There is a liar, an antichrist, in the room who is offering every student a chance to cheat... and nothing good comes from that.

The anointing I've received from the Lord DWELLS in me, ABIDES in me. He dwells in every believer. I "have no need that anyone should teach" me. This is confusing. Should I not listen to my pastor or other teachers? Clearly, that's not the meaning because John is TEACHING believers through this letter. Let me remember the context of this passage. There are people who are trying to deceive. They are "teaching" things that don't align with scripture. The anointing I've received from the Lord teaches me how to examine the scripture to see if what people say aligns with scripture. I don't need anyone to teach me anything that goes beyond what scripture teaches.

I remember talking to someone who was Mormon several years ago. He told me that he believes that God has sent new prophets into the world that don't necessarily align with scripture. They get "new revelations" from their god that may go beyond what scripture teaches. They say their god is evolving. But my God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He doesn't change.

I need to rely on the Holy Spirit to teach me. HE teaches me. Whatever He teaches me will always align with God's word. My job is to learn from His word. I pray that I will be so aligned with God's word and so surrendered to the Holy Spirit that I'll allow Him to reveal to me when someone is really a wolf in sheep's clothing. I pray that I will pursue spiritual oneness with the Lord and with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray that we together will help encourage each other and spur each other on so that none of us will be distracted, dismantled, or destroyed by the liars. May it be so!