

Sermon Series in 1 John

Man's Victory – God's Grace and Mercy

*1 John 5:17-21*

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**1 John 5 verse 17 (continued)**

<sup>17</sup> All unrighteousness is sin,  
and there is a sin not *leading* to death.

Verse 17 parallels 1 John 1 where Christ is faithful to forgive Believers who humbly confess their sins. **The sin that does not lead to death is confessed sin from a contrite heart who actually repents (turns from sin). That's the Believer!** All Believers confess sin. False followers of God do not confess sin and do not repent. Non-believers have not surrendered to God, our Creator, Who has revealed Himself through the creation from the beginning (Romans 1:18 and following). These do not receive forgiveness and live with the consequences. Their practice of life does not include Jesus' beatitudes that are principle elements in the life of citizens in the kingdom of God. The very first blessing is to the person who is poor in spirit meaning that their spirit is second to God, and they humble themselves to God's will in their life. Without this foundational building block of regeneration, man is without hope, lost and doomed to an eternal separation from God, His people and His Heaven.

**Matthew 5:3-12**

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when *men* cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

<sup>12</sup> "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Remember, the Sermon on the Mount is the first address God, as Jesus, gave to the multitudes. Here, He outlines His mission and how to gain entrance into the kingdom of Heaven. Those who will be “Blessed” are those who will start with humbling themselves to God, those who will surrender to God, those whose heart has been cut or circumcised by responding to God’s Holy Spirit conviction. These people are committed to a practiced-life as God has planned for them. These people commit sins from time-to-time not leading to death. But, due to their faith-relationship with God, they confess their sins and are forgiven.

Note that it is the teachings of God through Jesus and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit that we become a person of faith. All three functions of God take place in order for there to be peace between God and man and man with his neighbor. Man has the choice to respond to God’s initiative of salvation.

The Bible is clear about righteousness and unrighteousness. Right acts are acts that are consistent with God’s plan for humanity. The Beatitudes in Matthew 5, Gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12 and the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5 all are attributes in the Believer’s life. Acts and habits that contradict these elements of the Christian life are not righteous.

One of the ways to stay in the practice of righteousness is to stay in fellowship with other Believers. Corporate worship is God-ordained. In Hebrews 10, we read.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way

which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience

and our bodies washed with pure water.

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

<sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another

to love and good deeds,

<sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together,

as is the habit of some,

but encouraging one another;

and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

#### Application of Hebrews 10:19-25

We are Holy Spirit-filled and learn to hold fast to the teaching in Hebrews 10. Here, we find a good outline for a righteous life, righteous living and confidence by the blood of Jesus. Therefore, Hebrews 10:19-25, in a condensed format, we:

1. hold to the inauguration of the Cross
2. witness that we have a great priest
3. draw near to God and each other
4. have sincere hearts
5. have full assurance
6. do not have an evil conscience
7. have faith through God who washed us with pure water  
(i.e.: sinless Jesus)
8. do not waiver on the confession of our hope
9. know God does not waiver for His promise is faithful
10. stimulate one another to love and good deeds
11. worship together as a habit/practice in life
12. encourage one another

### **Continue in 1 John 5 . . .**

<sup>18</sup> We know that no one who is born of God sins;

but He who was born of God keeps him,

and the evil one does not touch him.

There are three parts to this verse.

**Part one:** No one born of God sins.

**Part Two:** He, Jesus, God incarnate, keeps us.

**Part Three:** Satan cannot touch Believers.

### **Discussion of Part One: no one born of God sins.**

**The sin-fallen nature of man verses**

**the sinless resurrected power of God working in man.**

We receive 1 John 5:18 in the full context of the Bible receiving [1 John 1](#), [John 3](#), [Isaiah 53](#) and [Ecclesiastes 7](#) as God's declaration to us that even though we sin as saved people He is still there to forgive us due to our faith that was brought to us by

our surrender to Him. God forgives a contrite heart. God restores a faith-filled man to Him by the blood of Jesus that paid the price for our sin. God's will from Adam was for man not to sin. God gave the choice for sin and warning in Genesis 2:17. However, sin was chosen and therefore God created a way for Believers to have the effects of sin diminished in their lives. In God's omniscience, He knows that Believers will sin in this fallen-world environment. God anticipates Believer's sin. Jesus proves this point in the Sermon on the mountain when he tells the Jews that if they even look at another woman with lust they are guilty of adultery (Matthew 5:27, 28). The point being, God can see into the heart of a person. Being right with God is more than keeping an outward appearance of faith. Being right with God is having a cut heart (Acts 2:37)/rebirth (John 3) which drives the Believer to live for God and keep His commandments. And bring his deeds to the Light to be examined. It is mathematically impossible for man to go through life and control his intimate thoughts one-hundred percent of the time. Ecclesiastes 7:20 applies to situations like Jesus describes in the Sermon on the Mount. This leaves man with one option to make himself right with God. Surrender to God's love, grace and mercy. Seek forgiveness and repentance. Allowing God to reorder man's heart gives man a chance to live a peaceful civilized life as God intended. Without this re-structuring, man assigns himself to death and destruction; that is, "hell on earth." Man's historical past is factual evidence of this "hell on earth" truth. In the practice of life in God's creation, sin can be diminished but not illuminated, because free will choice is also built into the creation. God's desire for us is to choose His love over sin. This gives us the ability to taste peace in this life and prepares us for an eternal life in His Heaven.

John 3:16 <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

1 John 1:8-10 <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Isaiah 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,  
Each of us has turned to his own way;  
But the LORD  
has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

With these Scriptures in mind, how can Believers live who are called to be perfect (Matthew 5:48), knowing they are at peace with God? Man is purposed by God to be sinless, but the allowance, the reality, in a fallen world is that sin abounds even in the lives of the people of God. From Adam forward everyone sinned. Enoch (Genesis 5) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) were taken by God. Is not recorded that they died a death like all men, but the text does not say they were sinless. The incarnate God, Jesus Christ, is the only sinless one. All the patriarchs sinned. Even Noah became drunk (9:21). Through Noah, God allowed mankind to continue, but obviously still have the potential to sin. Sin will not go away in this life, but it can be cornered and not have the ability to be a master over a person. Cain is told that sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it" (Gen. 4:7). In other words, sin will be present but you must have a control mechanism over sin.

The Cross is a general atonement for all mankind who has ever lived. This includes all the Old Testament people. And, yes, this includes all people throughout the world. The Cross applies to Jews, Christians and the rest of humanity. The

application of the Cross to a person is dependent on a person surrendering to God. It is advisable to interject here God's covenant with Abram that was to all the nations so that they shall be blessed (Genesis 12:3). In addition, Romans 1:18 and following says that God has revealed himself through the creation to men from the beginning. Prior to verse 18, Paul says in verse 14 that He is under obligation to both Greeks and barbarians, and to the wise and foolish. In addition, he writes in verse 16 that he is to witness to the Jew first and also to the Greek. So, Paul received a universal commissioning. And, like Abram, Paul's commissioning is intended to go into the whole world.

In Romans 1:18, and the rest of chapter one, God is intentional to declare that He has not left anyone out of His revelation. God has revealed Himself to all mankind from the beginning. There isn't anyone who can say that they were born on the other side of the ocean, river, or mountain that the missionary never reached.

Romans 1:18-20 <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

<sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

There is an innate need built into man. Man's search for love, grace, mercy and forgiveness is innate. All these bring peace to man. Peace between God and man and man with his neighbor. To achieve this life of peace, man must surrender to God. Call it what you may, a person must have a change to accomplish this peace. Therefore, we use Biblical terms like "circumcision of the heart" (Deuteronomy 10:6) and "re-birth of Spirit" (John 3) that are necessary for the

Cross to apply its saving powers. God does these things in a person who has surrendered to His Holy Spirit conviction. There isn't any automatic universal salvation. Salvation only benefits those who surrender to God, thereby creating a circumcised heart, and, in other words, a re-birth of spirit. After this takes place, a person can see and enter the kingdom of God and do the works of kingdom people. This is what Jesus told Nicodemus (John 3).

The Cross makes man a new creation because he is born of God. Every time we confess our sin, God restores and builds upon our mistakes from our past, and we grow more into His image. This is the life of the Believer, a constant growth pattern. The confessional-life of the Believer is why John can write that no one **born of God** sins. He speaks of the "born of God" which is the same as "re-birth" here as in John 3. In the context of the entire Bible, no one born of God *practices* sin. People have sinful days and sinful seasons in life like Abram, Moses, Aaron, David and the rest of the Old Testament leaders. However, reading the texts noted, it is obvious that even people who are Believers and have surrendered to God still sin. It would be a lie not to admit this fact. However, no one born of God wakes-up in the morning and plots to do evil things as a practice in life. This is the difference. When Believers stumble, they seek forgiveness and bring their deeds to the light so that God can deal with them, and then we grow.

John 3:20-21 <sup>20</sup> "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> "But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

So, we Believers bring our lives to the light so that our general practice in life can be seen to be in-line with God's plan for our lives. And, if after we bring our actions and statements to the Lord's light, we find that they are not contrary to God's



will then we make corrections. We confess, receive forgiveness and chart a corrective new path. Our “spiritual” intent is to practice the will of God in our lives. We have been given the ability by God’s Holy Spirit indwelling us to be successful in the practice of the Beatitudes that Jesus taught not only in Matthew 5, but throughout His ministry time. Repeating from a previous a lesson, Believers are gifted with spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12) and practice these gifts with the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5).

All people sin, saved or not saved. How do we diminish sin and the effects of sin in our lives? The answer starts with accepting our fallen condition and how we got here. When we accept who we actually are then we “should see” that we need God to save us, to restore us, to replenish us. This “seeing” does not mean that we can see the kingdom of God, but that we know something is out there for us. The conviction of the Holy Spirit is the voice to lost man that there is something present that can elevate him from his fallen state. There is an empty feeling in a person when he hates, lies, or takes what is not his; this is the voice of the Holy Spirit. The “should see” depends on our level of pride and if we can humble ourselves to God and acknowledge and mourn for our sins and our neighbors’ sins. The one thing God gives us, even in a lost state, is the knowledge that something is not right; we are missing the power to overcome this fallen world.

All people should accept that they owe a debt to God. Obviously, this is not true. Many ignore this debt at their own peril. God paid our debt at the Cross. **For God so loved the world** He incarnated himself (John 3:16). He did this to provide an opportunity for those who choose to believe. Believers have their hearts cut (Acts 2:37, Deuteronomy 30:6); they are reborn of Spirit (John 3); they are spiritually active and ongoing with their faith. Believers just do not agree that God is God like the demons do (James 2:19). Believers have **more than** a *punctiliar* (one-time) experience. Salvation is not a one-time realization. Salvation takes hold and moves

a person forward with God's Holy Spirit working inside of them. After they realized their need for regeneration (salvation), they capitulated their life to the Lord. They surrendered to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and thus received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:39). This re-ordered their lives and gave them the ability to overcome. However, where struggles of sin persist, God/Christ is there to forgive them (1 John 1:8-10), because their base-practice in life is to live for the Lord. Believers bring their deed to the Light (John 3:21). The "Parable of the Seed" (Matthew 13) tells the story.

Combining the teaching of Ephesians 2:4 & 8, Titus 3:5, 1 John 1:8-10 and John 3:20-21 proclaims that we (Believers) are **not** saved by our deeds but through God's grace and **not** what we did in righteousness but due to **God's mercy**, because He loves all mankind. He accomplished salvation in us by the washing of regeneration (re-birth) and thereby creating in us the ability to have a renewing (active growth-process sanctification) by the Holy Spirit that has been poured upon us abundantly through Jesus Christ (Example: Jesus Christ breathed Holy Spirit into disciples – John 20:22). Thus, we are **justified by His grace**. God justifies our unrighteousness, because we confess our sin to Him; He then cleanses us from all unrighteousness. This makes us heirs to eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7

- <sup>5</sup> He saved us,  
     not on the basis of deeds  
     which we have done in righteousness,  
     but according to His mercy,  
     by the washing of regeneration  
     and renewing by the Holy Spirit,  
<sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly

through Jesus Christ our Savior,

**7 that being justified by His grace**

we might be made heirs

according to *the* hope of eternal life.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

**Part Two: He, Jesus, God incarnate, keeps us.**

Colossians 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

Philippians 1:6 *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

God did not incarnate himself and go the Cross to leave His salvation task incomplete. God's sovereign power finished the work on the Cross (John 19:30). His power of love, grace and mercy are sufficient to complete our spiritual growth in this life preparing us for an eternity with Him.

So, we stand condemned without God. God demonstrated His love, grace and mercy at the Cross of Jesus Christ. God's love, grace and mercy put forth His forgiveness to those of us who have surrendered to Him and capitulated to His Holy Spirit conviction. The incarnation made all this possible. There has to be the incarnation for there to be a Cross. The Cross is the visual for all mankind throughout history to see God's love, grace and mercy. These three (love, grace and

mercy) always existed with God. Since God is Love, His grace and mercy extend from Love. The Cross brings a light to God's love, grace and mercy.

Did the Cross apply to those who lived before the Cross took place? Yes! Able, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and the rest were saved by God's love, grace and mercy which were lit-up at the Cross. Their faith made them righteous and justified to God (Hebrews 11). Faith is a gift from God to Believers. Therefore, faith is a product of God's love, grace and mercy. The Cross is the exclamation point in history. The Cross could have taken place in any century. God's sovereignty chose the time. God's love, grace and mercy have always existed in Him for He is the Alpha and the Omega. The Cross had to take place at some point to accomplish and demonstrate to man that God desires to absorb the price for our sins. This is the full display of His love, grace and mercy.

### **More on how God keeps us**

We are constantly in the sanctification process for it is the Spirit-power of God working in us, and therefore we live a life of *fear and trembling*, because His supernatural goodness is coming forth through us on a daily basis. Paul writes to the Believers in Philippians (2:12-15) that in his absence the Lord is present, working in them, while they live their lives in the middle of a corrupt and perverse generation among whom they appear as lights.

God encourages the Believers in Corinth through Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:1 that their faith, proclaimed by Paul in the testimony of God, does not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. It is this power of God that transcends to human hearts the ability to overcome the world and stand in front of Him **not condemned**. For it is God's power of indwelling Spirit working in the hearts and minds of the **surrendered** man (Romans 8:1-2) that saves him and builds him towards glorification.

Glorification is a state of our being not achieved in this life, but in the next. We are changed in the twinkling of the eye (1 Corinthians 15:52 and following).

Again, in this life, we stand **not condemned**, and we are judged as perfect through our **advocate Jesus Christ**.

**1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

We are called to be perfect (Matthew 5:48), which on our own we cannot be. This directs us to the power of God's love, grace and mercy exhibited at the Cross of Christ. This power of God keeps us for it is God at work in us (Philippians 2:13).

**<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (Romans 8:2)**

God's power elevates man to a new status that prepares man for an eternal life in God's Heaven. Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:10 are some of the most declarative text in God's Word that proclaim man will sin, saved or not, saint or sinner; sin will take place in a person's life. However, with the power of God working inside of us, sin should not become our master as it did with Cain (Genesis 4:7). Instead, we are to allow God to master the law of sin and death working in us. However, this mastery of sin and death is impossible without God's Holy Spirit working inside our hearts and minds. Again, going back to Paul's confession in Romans 7, how sin defeats him, to his claim of victory in Romans 8, how he stands not condemned because of the power of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set him free. To this victory Paul writes to the Believers in Corinth. . .

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

<sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; <sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:12-15 <sup>12</sup> So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing; <sup>15</sup> that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 **1** And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

<sup>2</sup> For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

<sup>5</sup> that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

Titus 3:3-7 <sup>3</sup> For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,

<sup>5</sup> He saved us,

not on the basis of deeds  
which we have done in righteousness,

but according to His mercy,  
by the washing of regeneration  
and renewing by the Holy Spirit,  
<sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly  
through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
**7 that being justified by His grace**  
we might be made heirs  
according to *the* hope of eternal life.

### **Part Three: Satan cannot touch Believers.**

<sup>ASV</sup> 1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is begotten of God sinneth not; but he that was begotten of God **keepeth himself**, and the evil one toucheth him not.

<sup>KJV</sup> 1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God **keepeth himself**, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

<sup>RWB</sup> 1 John 5:18 We know that whoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

<sup>TNT</sup> 1 John 5:18 We knowe that whosoever is borne of god synneth not: but he that is begotten of god **kepeth him silfe** and that wicked toucheth him not.

<sup>YLT</sup> 1 John 5:18 We have known that every one who hath been begotten of God doth not sin, but he who was begotten of God doth **keep himself**, and the evil one doth not touch him;

<sup>ESV</sup> 1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born **of God protects him**, and the evil one does not touch him.

<sup>NAU</sup> 1 John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of **God keeps him**, and the evil one does not touch him.

<sup>NAS</sup> 1 John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of **God keeps him** and the evil one does not touch him.

**NIV 1 John 5:18** We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.

**BGT 1 John 5:18** Οἶδαμεν ὅτι πᾶς ὁ γεγεννημένος ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐχ ἁμαρτάνει, ἀλλ' ὁ γεννηθεὶς ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ τηρεῖ ἑαυτὸν καὶ ὁ πονηρὸς οὐχ ἄπτεται αὐτοῦ.

The difference in the Bible versions above is minor. The focus is on “**God keeps him**” (NAS, ESV, NIV) and “but he that is begotten of God **keepeth himself.**” The point being that the older translations (KJV, TNT-Tyndale, ASV, Young’s Literal) lends to God is at work in a person who still has a choice to sin. The other translations lend to God made me do it; I had no control. God gives Believers the ability to overcome sin and death with His Spirit power working inside their hearts and minds. Believers are not programmed robots. This is the continuation of free-will-choice in the lives of Believers. Believers can see the kingdom of God and how it works. If Believers chose to apply God’s will (kingdom principals – Example: Fruits of the Spirit Galatians 5) in their lives they can and this is how they operate most of the time. However, we see Believers still sin but not with malice and premeditated forethought as a practice in life. Believers are not capricious. Satan does not have the ability to take hold of and fasten onto the Believer. This is the expanded meaning of “the evil one cannot harm him” or “that wicked toucheth him not.” Jesus proclaimed that no one can take a Believer out of the Father’s hand (John 10:29). Paul proclaims that Believer’s, are sealed in the promise of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). The ultimate harm to a person is to be separated from God for an eternity. Believers live through the effects of sin and death in a fallen world and are not immune themselves. However damaged and battered we may become, at the end of living through this sin and death environment, God still holds onto us. We are not children of perdition. We are Children of forgiveness due to our faith as evidenced in our practiced spirit-filled lives.

**Watch over, guard; cannot fasten to; cannot take hold of.**

**John knows Believers are of God and in God, and God is in them.** He contrasts this to the evil one who has power in the world. Therefore, Believers are empowered by the One who came, being God as Jesus Christ. This is the second mission of the incarnation. The first was that the incarnation made the Cross possible. The second is that God came to be one of us to demonstrate how it is



possible for us mere humans to possess the living God who can inhabit our being. Man can contain God, and God can inhabit man. This indwelling makes it possible for man to overcome the power of sin and death.

<sup>1</sup>John 1:19 We know that we are of God,

and that the whole world lies in *the power of the evil one*.

So, with this coming of the Son of God (Messianic prophetic term), we have an understanding that continues. John personally received this understanding-continuum directly from the resurrected Lord at his commissioning (John 20:19-22).

“Understanding” (Greek: *dianoia*) is one of the key psychological needs man has. Remember, the English word “soul” in Greek is “psyche.” This “psyche” denotes our inner being. It is our heart and mind and in a larger degree attempts to assign our being to a human definition but fails to encompass the fullness of who we are, because the fullness of who we are as Believers transcends our current world to God’s Heaven. Our soul/psyche inhabits our mind, and therefore they are joined. Jesus said that He and the Father are one (John 10:30), and that He was in the disciples and the disciples were in Him. The Greek word “*dianoia*” means the mind as a faculty of understanding. In John, use of the word conveys that the mind can house or contain God’s message to us; that is the Gospel Message. Our minds have the capacity to understand God as He wants us to understand. God’s desire is for us to see enough now to choose Him. In the future state of Heaven, we will see fully as He intends.

**Soul:** Strong’s 5590 ψυχή *psuche psyche*

**Meaning:** breath, the soul

**Understanding:** Strong’s 1271 δίανοια *dianoia* {dee-an'-oy-ah}

**Meaning:** 1) the mind as a faculty of understanding, feeling, desiring 2) understanding 3) mind, i.e. spirit, way of thinking and feeling 4) thoughts, either good or bad. **Origin:** from 1223 and 3563; **Usage:** AV - mind 9, understanding 3, imagination 1

1 John 5:20

And we **know** that the Son of God has come,

and has **given us understanding**

so 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.

**There is no better way to describe what John is saying here than to go to the Gospel of John and read these words. . .**

John 14:10-21 CSB

<sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> "Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

<sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

<sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commands.

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.

<sup>17</sup> He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

<sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too.

<sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you.

<sup>21</sup> The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him."

### **Last Verse in 1 John 5:21**

**Little children, guard yourselves from idols.**