

Transforming Truths of 1 John 1

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1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life

Here's a reference to the discipleship of John the Apostle under Jesus Himself, years earlier. John had spent more than three years in the presence of Jesus, being taught spiritual truths, being groomed for the ministry, & being loved on by Jesus! John had experienced some powerful revelations in His life & ministry that enabled him to be a powerful force of grace all of his days, including the writing of the Gospel of John, the three Epistles of John, & the Book of Revelation. John had experienced the love of God, the grace of God, & the power of God for himself, first through Jesus, then by the Holy Spirit, for many years of ministry. John had lived in the strength of God's love, & that love led him safely through many years of ministry, & John had the privilege of being the sole member of the twelve disciples that wasn't martyred.

2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us

Jesus is the life of God in human form. John lived in the presence of Jesus, ministered along side Him, & carried on His ministry by the same Spirit of Truth that anointed Jesus. John, along with the other apostles that Jesus raised up & sent forth after His ascension to Heaven, preached the Gospel, ministered to people around the nations he visited, planted churches, & led people to Jesus, through the revelation of salvation through Christ Jesus. John had dedicated himself to revealing the Jesus that he knew & loved to the world-at-large, along with the realities of the Fatherhood of God. The awareness of unconditional love that had filled John during his days with Jesus was still flowing from his heart many years later!

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.

Here's the heartbeat of Christianity: "join the party of eternal life, & participate in spiritual fellowship with the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit!" A vital & functional aspect of Christianity is fellowship. The love & heart of God is still inviting people into that fellowship, as we all know, through the gift of eternal life, & by the agency of the Holy Spirit for us, to us, in us, with us, & through us! What an unspeakable joy we have access to, to have unbroken fellowship with the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, and the Body of Christ! Everyone has access to this fellowship, & 'the more the merrier'!

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

As the written Word of God is revealed to us, manifested in our understanding, & we interact with it, then it becomes the living Word, & it activates the fruit of the Spirit in us! As we receive the Word of God, feed on it, believe in it, act upon it, & become dependant upon it, our life will be changed from glory to glory, by the living Spirit of Truth.

Experiencing the transforming power of grace brings excitement, motivation, & unlimited joy up from within us & will wash over us!

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Here's the foundation of evangelism: speak the truth of God, the whole truth, & nothing but the truth. The Gospel of Jesus is 'The Message'! Our message is that God isn't mad at the world, He reconciled it to Himself through the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus, & He has conquered all of the works & powers of darkness, once & for all of time! God is light:

He's pure, holy, perfect, & loving, for God is love! When we were Born-again, we received the nature of light, & became the bearers of that light!

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

When we're dead in sin, cut off from God, & are Hell-bound, we don't know God, we don't have union with Him, & we can't comprehend Him in spirit & in truth. For anyone that's in spiritual darkness & declares they walk with God, & yet haven't been Born-again, they are deceived! God is light, which is spiritual life, while sin is spiritual darkness, & is separated from the life & light of God. To be cut off from God is to be bound in spiritual darkness, & to be void of the reality of eternal life. So anyone that is Born-again is in the light of God, while anyone that isn't Born-again is under the shadow of darkness, not by what they do, but by the life that is in them!

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.

Walking in the light isn't referring to Christians maintaining a spotless life, for who can do that in the natural by the power of the flesh? This phrase 'if we walk in the light' is referring to coming into the light of salvation through receiving Jesus. If you come into the light of salvation, then that same life in you keeps you in the light of God, for His own life dwells in you! Contrary to what most Christians assume about this passage, it's not dependant upon your works, it hinges upon the life of God being in you, to put you into the light & the light of God being placed into you! Because God is light, you became a child of light, & because His Spirit is in you, He walks you in the light of redemption. Coming into the light of redemption is to come into the position & benefits of salvation, & entering into fellowship with the Spirit of God & with the Body of Christ. The blood of Jesus that was poured out at Calvary for the sin of the world did, does, & always will keep you forgiven & cleansed from sin! His blood, through one sacrifice, doesn't have to cleanse you repeatedly, it has cleansed you eternally!

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

To be dead in sin, cut off from the life of God, is the ultimate form of deception. Anyone who is willing to live life with the nature of sin in them & to not have the life of God in them, is deceived to the utmost! This verse, in the context of this chapter, doesn't refer to the performance of Christians, it reveals the nature of people that aren't Born-again, versus the nature of those who have been!

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most of us, when we received Jesus, did so through praying what we call the sinner's prayer. In the midst of admitting that we're sinners, we acknowledge our shortcomings, & admit having fallen short of God's glory & having committed various sins. Whatever we've done, it's all been washed away by the death of Jesus, which His blood keeps us in remembrance of. Being Born-again brings cleansing, forgiveness, & redemption, one-time-forever. This doesn't tell us that we have to keep acknowledging our sins of omission or commission as Christians, on an on-going basis, for if it meant this, then Jesus would have to be sacrificed over & over!

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Once again, to be cut off from God, bound for Hell, & dying in our sin, is to reject the salvation & redemption that the Holy Trinity has provided for us, & is to be lost in spiritual darkness. To not have His word in us, is to not have the life of God in us, plain & simple!

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