

THROUGH THE BIBLE

1 JOHN 1-2

1 Corinthians 13 ends, “Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

If Paul was the apostle of faith, and Peter was the apostle of hope, then *John* was the apostle of love.

At the end of his Gospel, John identified himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” John was a person who knew the thrill of being loved by God - and in return, John had a passionate love for God himself.

John was the only one of the 12 apostles who was spared a martyrs’ death, but it was not because the Roman Emperor *didn’t try*. Domitian ordered John to be turned into a *french fry*. He had him boiled in oil.

Miraculously though, the Lord delivered John...

And since Domitian couldn’t kill him... he was banished to “Patmos” - a rocky island off the coast of Turkey from where John received the Revelation.

After Domitian’s death John was freed, and ended his years pastoring the church at Ephesus. *As it turned out, God had preserved John for a very important job...*

A dangerous heresy was spreading, and God knew a man of John’s stature would be needed to squelch it. The evil doctrine of Gnosticism had raised its ugly head, and John writes this letter to stop it in its tracks.

Chapter 1 begins, “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 in verse 1 John refers to Jesus as the “*Word*” or “the *logos of life.*” The Greeks observed the order and symmetry in the universe, and from it they deduced there had to be a *cause* behind the *cosmos*.

The Greek philosophers coined a term for this unknown force. They called it the “*Word*” or “*Logos.*”

And here John shocks his readers by reporting that he has seen the Logos! In fact, he’s *handled it, heard it, even hugged it!* What the Greeks thought of as an *impersonal force*, John knew as a *personal friend*.

John knows the *reason behind all reality* is not an “*it,*” but a “*He*” - and his name is Jesus. And he writes this letter so we too can know Him, and experience the joy and love that’s found in hanging out with Jesus.

Verse 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...”

The meaning of life - the purpose of all eternity - is not some cryptic, hidden, mysterious secret. The “*Logos*” has been revealed. And John had the privilege to meet Him and spend 3.5 years by His side.

“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.” Recall verse 1, Jesus is *“the Word of life.”* He’s as alive today as when John embraced Him.

And John’s intent in writing this letter is for us to enjoy the same relationship Jesus, John experienced.

I think it’s crucial we identify God’s top priority for our lives. What if I asked you a multiple-choice question, **“Which is most important? 1) To get to heaven. 2) To serve God. 3) To do God’s will. 4) To know God more.”**

Think about these four choices for a moment...

First, it’s important to get to heaven, but what about until then... and after you’re there what will you do?

Second, we all want to serve God, but all work and no refreshment sets a person on the path to burnout.

Third, certainly life goes better when we live in God’s will for our lives - but once we’re there, then what?

That’s why the correct answer is # 4... **To know God more.** This is why John writes... that we might have **“fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.”**

I’m glad I’m going to heaven - and I love serving the Lord - and I desire with all my heart to walk in His will...

But the deeper purpose in my life is to know God - and to fellowship with the God who created me!

And when we forget the ultimate goal, it produces a frustration - a disappointment. God's purpose for you is not a *location*, or a *vocation*, or a *situation* - Jesus died so you could have communion with the Almighty God.

The first man, Adam, walked with God in the garden.

Adam lived his life in a conscience awareness of God's presence. And this is also God's desire for us!

When *knowing God more* is our #1 goal we find the greatest fulfillment. And John puts it, "And these things we write to you that your joy may be full." A deep-down, abiding happiness is the byproduct of knowing God and living your life in the awareness of His presence.

Verse 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." God is a person, but He has characteristics similar to the properties of light... *Light invigorates and illuminates. Light warms. Light drives out the darkness. Light produces color and beauty.*

God is not like the light of the moon - *a reflected light*. God is like the light of the sun - *a radiant light*.

He's the source for all love, and purity, and truth, and beauty. He doesn't just abide by the standard. God is the standard. He sets the standard. God is light!

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

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.”

Here’s how we grow as Christians - we walk in His light. Plants grow by a process called “photosynthesis.”

A plant has cells that transform light into energy. It absorbs light and uses it to process food and grow.

Likewise, a Christian grows by “a spiritual photosynthesis.” Our spirit is designed to absorb the light of God. The presence of Jesus in my life is the catalyst by which I become more godly, and good, and loving, and kind, and pure - more Christlike.

2 Corinthians 3:17 explains this process, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Living in God’s presence has a mirror effect. The more I hang out with God the more He rubs off on me.

Remember, it’s not up to the plant to grow. The light causes its growth. And it’s not up to the Christian to grow himself. Our job is to stay in the light - and the light of Christ will fuel a steady and perpetual growth.

Christians need to be *spiritual bugs*.

Look at the porch light in the summertime, and watch the moths and bugs hover around that light. We need to be like spiritual bugs and live in the light of God.

We need a spiritual tan. Some of you sport a nice tan in the summertime. And a tan requires very little effort.

Find a nice spot on the beach, stretch out on a towel, do the rotisserie turn from time to time - and before you know it you're *baked and beautiful*. All it took was time and availability. And this is how you grow in Christ...

Just spend daily time in the light of God's presence - *and the God-beams, His glory* - will rub off on you. His light is absorbed into your character and disposition.

Live in God's presence and the blood of Jesus provides a slow burn. It's continually purifying us.

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

Here's what hinders the light of God from having its effect on us - its our dishonesty. When you don't maintain a repentant spirit. When you hide your sin, and cover it up, and act self-righteous - and think you no longer need to be changed and purified - such self-deception acts like a 45 sunblock. It shuts out the light.

There's no such thing as sinless perfection.

No matter how mature you become in your faith - as long as we inhabit sin-stained bodies, and live in a sin-infested world at times will sin. A Christian is a person who *sins less and less*, but none of us become *sinless*.

It's been said, **"The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job application form."**

In reality, we all sin.

But, verse 9, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. But “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”**

Once a Catholic priest was hearing the confessional of an older lady. She was hard-of-hearing, and would shout out her sins so loud everyone could hear her.

The priest suggested from now on she could just write down her sins and just hand him her list.

The next week she entered the confessional booth and handed the priest her list. He looked at it, and said to her, **“Mam, I’m sorry, but this is your grocery list.”**

She shouted, **“Oh dear, I left my sins at Publix.”**

Well, we really can leave our sins with Jesus.

If we fess up, ***“He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”***

It’s been said, **“The only sin that God won’t forgive is an unconfessed sin.”** Whenever we sin we need to immediately ask for God to forgive us and cleanse us.

Verse 9 prompts an interesting question... **If the moment we’re saved God forgives all our sins - past, present, future - why do we still need to confess them?**

And here’s the answer - *our confession maintains a repentant attitude.* As far as God is concerned our forgiveness is assured by the blood of Jesus, but our repentance is nurtured by honest, humble confession.

Confession keeps our heart in the right posture.

Chapter 2, “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.” Don’t ever think, “O, since God promises to forgive me I can go out and sin.” John is assuring us of God’s forgiveness so we won’t sin. His forgiveness should make us thankful.

If God loves us enough to forgive us our sin - then our love for Him should encourage us to not to sin.

Always remember, sin is not so much breaking *the laws of God*, as it is breaking *the heart of God*. If you and I really love God we’ll want to please Him!

But, “if anyone (does commit) sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

1 John has written so we won’t sin, but if we do we have an “*Advocate*.” The word means “*attorney*,” one who pleads our case. Meet Jesus Christ, esquire!

Jesus is our attorney in the court of God.

On the other side of the courtroom sits Satan. Revelation 12:10 refers to Satan as “*the accuser of the brethren*.” The Greek term “*devil*” means “*slanderer*.” Satan is the prosecutor who wants to condemn you.

And understand, Satan has mounds of incriminating evidence - *video tapes of your private sins, recordings of hateful statements, and surveillance of evil thoughts*.

But just when Satan approaches the bench to present his evidence, our attorney, Jesus, jumps up and objects! He declares the evidence “*inadmissible*.”

He's already paid its penalty. Because of Jesus' work on the cross our sin is totally forgiven and forgotten.

Verse 2, "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." The word translated "*propitiation*" means "*place of mercy*." Its Hebrew equivalent was the word "*kipporeth*" - which in the OT is translated "*mercy seat*."

The mercy seat was the solid gold lid on the Ark of the Covenant. It was on this lid the Priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice that staved off God's judgment.

Over the mercy seat hovered God's glory, under the mercy seat sat the two tablets of the Law. His glory was the concentration of His love. The two tablets declared His righteous Law. But between the demands of His Law and Love sat the blood-stained mercy seat.

It was here that *God's kindness* and *God's justice* was reconciled... by the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

In the OT the mercy seat was the one place on Earth you could go and be assured that your sins would be forgiven and you would obtain the mercies of God.

But here John declares a new and radical truth - that God's mercy seat is no longer *a lid*, it's *the Lord*.

Jesus Himself has become our mercy seat!

He's our "*propitiation*," or place of mercy. In Christ the Law and love of God are reconciled. Jesus is now the one place on earth where all peoples - as John puts it, "*the whole world*" - can obtain mercy from God.

If you've sinned, then come to Jesus and find mercy!

Verse 3, **“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”**
In 1789 Benjamin Franklin penned the immortal words, **“Nothing is certain, but death and taxes.”** But John would disagree.

A relationship with Jesus is also a certainty we can count on. The word *“k-n-o-w”* appears 39 times in 1 John. He writes so we'll know that we know God.

When the Christian scientist and statesman, Michael Faraday, was dying, a journalist came to his death bed, and asked him a question, **“Mr. Faraday, would you care to comment on your speculations on the afterlife?”**

Faraday answered, **“Speculations! I know nothing of speculations. I am resting on certainties. I know my Redeemer lives, and because He lives I will live also.”**

Well, in the next 9 verses John wants us to know that we know, so He provides **A Christian's self-test kit.**

When a woman wants to know for certain whether she's pregnant she can purchase **a self-test kit.** And likewise, if you're wondering if you're really a Christian, John provides a test that will let you know for certain!

And the Christian's self-test kit is two-fold.

First, verse 4-6. **do you keep God's commandments?** And second, verses 7-11, **do you love your brother?**

John says in 2:4, “He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” God has such a potent persona it’s impossible to know Him and not be influenced by Him.

Occasionally we run into charismatic people who have a profound impact on us, but this is nothing compared to the hold God takes on a person’s life.

If you’re *not enchanted by His love*, and *intrigued by His ways*, and *desirous of God’s kindness*, and *longing for His character* - if you don’t want to follow God and become more like Him - then John says there’s only one explanation - *you’ve never really met Him!*

Verse 5, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.” In Hosea 11:4 God said of His influence on Israel, “I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love.” God’s love has this endearing, drawing effect on people. It’s His love that produces a desire to follow.

And the more God’s love spreads out into my life the wider its web - the more I get caught up in wanting to please Him. When God’s love fills my life - my heart melts, and my utmost desire is to keep His Word.

John says in verse 6, “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

Verse 7, “Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.” The Law of Moses in Leviticus 19:18 taught the Hebrews to love. It declares, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself...”

But Jesus put a new spin on love. He loved His enemies - loved unconditionally. His love honored truth and grace... He loved with no-strings-attached, yet His love was a leash that pulled lost sinners back to God.

Human love is clumsy. When we love it looks like a sack race - but Jesus turned love into a beautiful ballet.

To love the Jesus-way made it a new commandment.

Thus John writes, “Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.” If the God of love, lives in you how can you harbor hatred?

“He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.” The light of God will shine out the rays of love into a man’s heart.

I am a son of the South - born and bred in the heart of Dixie - raised amidst racial prejudice and bigotry.

I’m ashamed to say it, but I had relatives who were in the KKK. As a child I grew up with hatred in my heart.

But when I met Jesus He filled my life with love! And He filled it so full, there was no longer any room for the hatred I once harbored. Instantly, my attitude changed.

I had a love for all people regardless of their color.

Some Christians talk about being instantly delivered from alcohol, or tobacco, or a vile temper, or drugs - *I was instantly delivered from bigotry and prejudice!*

If you want to know for sure you're a Christian there is a two-fold test: *Do you keep God's commandments? And do you have a love for your brother?* Hear again in verse 11, "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."

John has a two-fold test we can use to know for sure we're a child of God. But just *knowing I'm a Christian* doesn't mean *I'm growing as a Christian*. And verses 12-14 are intended to help us measure our growth...

Here John depicts three stages of spiritual maturity.

If you were to go to any family reunion you'd expect to see some *older folks*, some *adolescents*, some *kids*.

A healthy family would have representatives at all three stages, and the same is true of the family of God.

When we come to church and meet for our *weekly family reunion* we should always be able to find people at all three levels - there'll be *little children*, *young men*, and *fathers* (*spiritual parents*). And here John identifies the various characteristics indicative of each stage...

As we go through these next few verses try to pick out *where you are* and *where you need to be headed* in your own spiritual growth and development...

John's song has two stanzas, and he reveals tidbits in each stanza. Let's read it all, then break it down...

Verse 12, “I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one”

First, John mentions the “*little children,*” or *new believers*. They’re basking in their newfound freedom. They’re still relishing the thrill of God’s forgiveness.

They’ve also come to know God as their Father, and they’re learning they can take their needs to Him!

Little children - both age-wise and spiritual kids - are full of enthusiasm, but they’re also vulnerable and naïve - they need to grow up, and develop a maturity.

Which brings up “*young men*” - *spiritual adolescents*.

John says they have a hunger for God’s Word. They feed on it daily. They’re armed with the Word, and they do spiritual battle with the devil. They relish the fight.

Yet they’re *adolescents*. The hubris and naivety of youth can make them divisive. They assume they know more than those in authority. They can do it better.

Mark Twain once said, “When I was 16 I thought my dad was the biggest fool on Earth. When I turned 21 I was amazed at what the old man had learned in 5 years.” Here’s hope for the adolescent. Given time and patience he’ll grow. He’ll learn to appreciate his elders.

That's who John mentions next - the "*fathers*" - the spiritual parents. John writes of the fathers "**because (they) have known Him who is from the beginning.**"

Spiritual kids are enthralled with *God's immanence*. We call Him "*Father*" - he's *nigh* to us. But the spiritual parents are captivated by *God's transcendence* - He's *high* over us. Unlike kids and teens, the adults seek God not only for what He can do, but for who He is!

John calls them "*fathers!*" A dad is a man who's stopped living for himself. He now lives for his family.

I heard a *father* defined as, "**A man who now carries pictures where he once carried his money.**" A spiritual dad goes to church *not to get, but give*. His priority isn't how he can be blessed, but how he can bless others.

Each of us is at one of these stages of growth.

Are you *a little child, a young man, a spiritual father?* Wherever you're at, I hope you're moving forward!

Verse 15, "**Do not love the world or the things in the world.**" The world system consists of the priorities and forces around us - *that which makes the world go round* - and it's diametrically opposed to godly values.

This is why John can so boldly conclude, "**If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**"

And then John explains what attitudes constitute “*the world*,” Verse 16, “**For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh** (*I want to feel great*), **the lust of the eyes** (*I want to look great*), **and the pride of life** (*I want to be great*) - is not of the Father but is of the world.” Feeling great - looking great - being great - this is the world!

Here’s another way to think of this worldwide web...

“*The lust of the flesh*” lives for physical pleasures rather than spiritual fulfillment... “*The lust of the eyes*” fixes on external appearance rather than internal beauty... “*The pride of life*” seeks to make a mark on the here and now - the temporal not the eternal...

George Orwell once illustrated “*the lusts of the flesh.*” He wrote about a wasp, “He was sucking jam on my plate when I cut him in half. He paid no attention, merely went on with his meal, while a tiny stream of jam trickled out of his severed esophagus. Only when he tried to fly away did he grasp the dreadful thing that had happened to him.” People get so consumed with porn, drugs, boos they don’t realize what’s happened to them - the steep price that their lust will cost them.

“*The lust of the eyes*” is just as tragic. *Image ain’t everything.* Celebrities today get by on smoke and mirrors, rather than groom inner character and beauty.

And “*the pride of life*” believes the here and now is all there is! It denies there’s another world waiting where we’ll be held accountable for how we lived this one. One day the real living will begin. *The biggest need for some people is to see an eternity in their future.*

John is wanting Christians to come out of the world and its web - and show people a different way to live...

Real satisfaction doesn't come by gratifying physical desires, but in a spiritual relationship with God...

Real beauty isn't about glitz and glamour, but reflecting God's glory... And **real meaning** isn't found in temporal pursuits, but in a life that counts for eternity...

John writes in verse 17, **“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”** After a time in prison Charles Dutton became a successful Broadway actor. When asked how he transitioned from prison to plays he explained, **“Unlike the other inmates, I never decorated my cell.”**

Dutton believed his prison cell was a temporary situation. He refused to let himself to get comfortable.

And this needs to be our attitude. This world is *passing away*, and I'm just *passing through*. Rather than get caught up in *worldliness*, let's seek *godliness*.

Verse 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.”** The Antichrist is the ominous villain John warns us about in the book of Revelation.

This evil ruler pares his claws after the Church is raptured. He leads the world in a revolt against God - but he's the culmination of many, many predecessors.

In Matthew 24 Jesus predicted one of the signs of God's final judgment will be a proliferation of teachers who are *anti-God* and *anti-Christ*. John saw a rise of this deception in his day, and it's only escalated since.

John speaks of these false teachers, "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 they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us." So often a false teacher starts out in a sound, Bible-believing Church, yet he becomes proud - he bends, strays, and deviates from the truth.

His goal is to be novel, instead of faithful.

He tries to draw numbers, instead of help people.

He lives to inflate his ego, instead of glorify God.

In some cases the problem he went out from us, but never had the proper foundation in the first place. He *confessed Jesus* - but never really *possessed Jesus*.

If you're shooting a bow and arrow at a target 100 yards away, but you're a fraction off in your aim you can miss the target by 10 yards. A fraction off at the site can cost you 10 yards at the target. The same is true spiritually. Just a little error in a foundational doctrine can cause an enormous deviation later on.

Verse 20, "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things." Here's the believer's safeguard against spiritual deception - *the Holy Spirit*.

Throughout the OT the anointing of oil was a symbol of the outpouring of the Spirit - and to each of us the Holy Spirit has been given to teach us and instruct us.

Jesus promised in John 16:13, “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.”

The Spirit is our spiritual watchdog. It's His job to help us sniff out and detect lies and deception. He's like Google Maps - get off course and He'll recalibrate us.

“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. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.” Earlier I mentioned God preserved John to combat a dangerous heresy known as Gnosticism. And its central feature was its denial of the deity of Christ.

We'll learn more about the Gnostics, but know they built fanciful tales and intriguing theories to support their ideas. They were wrong - *but they sounded good*.

Here, John is telling his readers not to get suckered.

They know the truth - *God's Word* and *God's Spirit* agree on the nature of Jesus, so don't cave in to a lie. If a man denies the Son of God he's denied the Father!

“Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.” Don't be swayed by nuevo, avant-garde religions. Don't look for the new truth, hold on to the truths you've heard and learned from Jesus.

“And this is the promise that He has promised us - eternal life.” The words of Jesus alone give eternal life.

And remember “*eternal life*” is not just *longevity of life* - it also speaks to a *quality of life*. Jesus puts His Spirit in you. Your life swells with His resources...
He lives out His love and joy and power in you...

His smile shows up on your face.

His laugh is heard in your voice.

His compassion flows through your hands.

Eternal life doesn't begin when you die - eternal life begins the moment you give your whole heart to Jesus!

“These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.” John had great confidence in the power and abilities of the Holy Spirit to help us discern truth from error - and grow up in the knowledge of God's Word.

God could've set up one church, or one office, to be the official arbitrator of divine truth. But that's not what He did. Rather than entrust the interpretation of His Word to an *Institution*, or a *Priest*, or a *Pope* - He gave each of us His Holy Spirit! God's truth is conveyed through a personal anointing available to all believers.

Look at the Church through the centuries - it's been saved from countless heresies - the truth has been safeguarded - not by the faithfulness of one sect, or a single order, or a particular denomination.

No, whenever orthodoxy is threatened the Holy Spirit stirs up a revival that corrects the problem and brings truth back into focus. When the message gets distorted the author Himself restores the true interpretation.

If someone ever tells you can't really understand the Bible unless you read their literature - *beware!*

This is an indicator of a cult. John tells us all we need to grasp the *Word of God* is the *Spirit of God*.

Good Bible teachers *can be helpful*, but they *can also be wrong*. God doesn't want you to put your trust in any human teacher, but in the Holy Spirit. This is why God has puts His anointing within your own heart.

Pick up your Bible on a regular basis, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart personally.

Don't always read the Scriptures through the grid of what you've been taught by someone else. Let the Spirit speak to your heart afresh. He is our teacher!

Verse 28, “**And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.**” Jesus Christ is coming back, and we need to be ready to meet Him!

“If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.”

Country singer, Paul Overstreet, had a song I've always liked. It's entitled, "*Seeing My Father In Me.*"

The chorus goes, "I'm seeing my father in me, and that's how it's meant to be. And I find I'm more and more like him each day. I walk the way he walks. I talk the way he talks. I'm starting to see my father in me."

And this is what John sings! If I'm born again by the Holy Spirit of a righteous God, I'll end up living a righteous life... *Others will **see my Father in me!***