



Declare Him

“All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God .”

1 John 4:15 NLT

To make a declaration means you believe whatever it is that you are declaring, you are aligned with it, and you agree with it. You could also say that it is a decision. A decision that will give you life. Declaring that Jesus is the Son of God means you truly believe it and you aren't ashamed of it, you love that He is your Savior! Every man who opens his mouth and declares Jesus is Lord is proof of His life in them. Shout His name with no hesitation. God lives in you and you in Him! He gives you love, wisdom, knowledge, and kindness, everything you need to be like Christ.

Just believing in His name and declaring it means He is there. Right inside. Not far off somewhere else. Not waiting for you to clean yourself up first, because you can't fix you, only He can fix you. He is right there, dwelling in you, because His Son dwelt among us. He is moving in you, working through you every single day. So wake up every day filled with His Holy Spirit and declare that He is Lord, and He will give you all that you need.

Reflect

Are you declaring Jesus as Lord with your mouth and your life, or are you keeping your faith quiet when it matters most?



He Is

“We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands . He is the Word of life.”

1 John 1:1 NLT

Before creation, time, and nature were created, Jesus was there. Jesus was also flesh and bone, walking, breathing, bleeding, existing before the beginning. If this doesn't prove to you that He is God, then you must study John 1. Think on it, reflect on it, and most importantly, ask God to open your heart and bring you to a place of such humility that you are able to put aside your own opinion. Because at the end of the day, it just comes to a point where you are flat out rejecting that He is God, and that's a choice, not something you don't have enough evidence for. It's your own pride getting in the way. We wouldn't be able to exist in a holy manner and live out a whole life if Jesus was only a man. He is the man with all authority, He is the man with all life, He is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega, and nothing can stand in His way.

So when you begin to walk like Christ, you're not walking like some man who had good morals and taught what was right, you are literally walking in the light of God (1 John 1:7). He came in the flesh to give us a representation of holy and righteous living, not to just exist as a man. Every step you take in your life as a believer under His authority is also under His will, and you get to express the essence of Him. You get to live out a Christlike life because He chose to strip Himself and humble Himself into human form. So have the same humility, strip everything that is not of God, and put on this new flesh, which is Christ's body.

Reflect

Have you stripped off everything that isn't of God, or are you still wearing your old self alongside Christ?



The Heart Problem

*“Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. **All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true** . Those who don’t believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don’t believe what God has testified about his Son.”*

1 John 5:9-10 NLT

We as Bible-believing Christians have hidden in our hearts a special gift from God: a soft heart. This softness of heart grants us the ability and freedom to say no to the evils that try to lie to us, and to say yes to the truth. The testimony of God through His Son will always be so incredibly powerful, compelling, strong, and beautiful. And yet it’s hard for some to believe. God knew that it would be difficult for humans in general to believe such a thing, which is exactly why He left us no excuse. He gave witness after witness, the water, the blood, the Spirit (1 John 5:6-8), so that no one could say they never had a reason to believe. This is why rejecting Christ was never meant to be treated as a small thing or a simple difference of opinion. Scripture says if you don’t believe this testimony, you are actually calling God a liar.

That’s the weight of what’s really going on here. God, who cannot lie, testified about His Son with everything He had, testified as a man so that we could have evidence in human form, and the only thing standing between a man and belief is whether his heart is soft enough to receive it, or hard. There are 10-20 manuscripts to prove that Genghis Khan existed, 10 manuscripts to prove that Julius Caesar existed, 7-10 to prove that Plato existed, and there are over 25,000 manuscripts about Jesus, and some still choose not to believe because they can’t give up their sin. A hard heart doesn’t need more proof, because there’s plenty. It just needs the truth. A hardened heart can be shown every miracle, every testimony, every witness, and still find a reason to walk away. The evidence was never the problem. The heart was.

Reflect

What’s stopping you from believing in the truth that has been written in your DNA?



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*“And Jesus Christ was revealed as God’s Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. **And the Spirit, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony.**”*

1 John 5:6 NLT

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him, revealing that Jesus is the Son of God, and an audible voice was heard from the Father declaring Him as the Son of God (Matthew 3:16-17). What stands out about this passage is that Jesus did not reveal Himself until this very moment, and it was precisely then that His ministry began. Before that, He lived a quiet life, working alongside His earthly father, Joseph. This is worth sitting with in our own lives: when you are baptized into Christ, as Christ was baptized, that is when your true life begins. So the next time you find yourself wondering when God is going to move in your life, or when you will begin to impact others through your ministry, remember that Jesus’s own ministry did not begin until He was thirty years old.

You must be willing to walk in humility, work quietly, and remain fervent before the Lord. From there, He moved from a life of obscurity to becoming the greatest miracle worker to ever live, the greatest healer to ever live, the greatest prophet to ever live, and the greatest man to ever live, one with God, with the Holy Spirit testifying. We are also reminded in this passage that Jesus did not cleanse the world from sin through baptism alone, but through His blood. This illustrates that Jesus suffered more than anyone could have ever suffered, for all of humanity, willingly, so that you could share in that suffering with Him. Nor is it through baptism alone that we are cleansed of sin, but through the crucifixion of our flesh, dying the same death with Him (Galatians 2:20).

Reflect

Are you willing to share in the cost of Christ’s suffering?



Shame Is a Prison

*“If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. **But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness .**”*

1 John 1:8-9 NLT

Saying that you have no sin before coming to Christ is like saying the sky is purple. No man can become clean and free from wickedness without reflection, repentance, and confession. You have to hate your flesh, pick up your cross, and forget it even existed, otherwise the work of the cross cannot be brought to its fullness in you. You must submit to Him in order to become free. Never let fear turn you away from confessing your sin, because fear will produce shame, and shame will produce lies, and lies will produce sin, and sin will produce death. As soon as your sin is brought into the light, shame flees, because the spirit of shame has always been terrified of the Holy Spirit, and as soon as you let the Holy Spirit into your heart, shame no longer has a dwelling place, but the Spirit of God does.

Shame was the thing keeping you captive, keeping you a prisoner, running your life, keeping you in the same cycle of sin. Thank the Lord God that He has given you the power to break free. “And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death” (Romans 8:2).

Reflect

Will you let the conviction of God give you freedom, or will you continue to let fear and shame control your life?



The Terrifying Truth

“So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth .”

1 John 1:6 NLT

How do you know that you are walking in the will of God, being justified in the sight of God? By living in fellowship with His Son. Your life should look like a life that is fulfilling the will of God, and your life should have so much good substance and be producing life, that it's undeniable you are in the will of God and practicing the truth. The Father should be able to look down and see His Son in you, working within you, making you more like Him. If you say your life is aligned with the will of God and yet you continue to live in sin and darkness, you are lying.

In order for a lie to form, you have to be aware of the truth, and that's what's so scary about this verse, because when a lie is created, it is meant to distort truth that you are already aware of. You are lying to yourself and to the Lord. To live in darkness means you are surrounded by it, it's your home, and it's the only thing you know apart from His love.

Reflect

Are the lies about your circumstances, vices, or sinful behaviors becoming your reality, or is Christ becoming your reality?



God & Man

*“This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. **And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life** . He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.”*

1 John 1:2 NLT

We can see all throughout this chapter that the Word is God, and God is the substance of life itself, He is life. And since no one can actually see God in His fullness (because your mortal body could not handle it), He reveals Himself through His Son, who is God. Jesus took on the form of a bondservant, allowing Himself to look like one of us so that we could see Him physically and proclaim the good news of this perfect man. He displayed the nature of God in the flesh, and then He was crucified so that you could inherit this nature and be free from sin, which was condemned on the cross because He became sin on our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV). And He wasn't just a good guy, no.

Not even only the Son of God, He is eternal life, and all who find their hope in Him will have eternal life. Since the Father was revealed through Christ, as this verse says, then how can we ever deny that Jesus is God? We can't. If Christ is literally life itself, and somehow not God, then how could He possibly share a title that belongs to the Father alone (John 5:26)? And Jesus Christ is the Word, not only is He the Word, He is the Word in flesh (John 1:1), yet again another title that Jesus shares with the Father. No one can share titles with the Father, and Jesus, who is God Himself, also holds these titles and proclaims to be them (John 10:31-33).

Reflect

Do you truly believe Jesus is God, or have you left room for doubt because it's easier?



Under His Light

“But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin .”

1 John 1:7 NLT

Living in His light means we are in fellowship with each other, which ultimately means we are in fellowship with God, and having fellowship with God is the evidence that we live under His light, always drawing close to His nature because of His great love for us, and we know that we are incomplete without Him. Being in relationship with God was never about being a better person or finding niche ways to improve on yourself, it was always about living like Jesus, the One who came to exemplify perfection and completeness to us, and then He died so we could live it out with the help of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:1). If two or more gather under His light, they become connected in a supernatural way. As they continue to walk in His light, pouring into each other, encouraging one another, and loving one another, sin is washed away, because God is in the midst of that fellowship.

Those who aren't living under His light don't gather in His name. They gather in worldliness instead. They are not capable of living this out, because they are not living under the light of God but under the light of the devil. That is a counterfeit light. It is ultimately just darkness. Walk in His light and in His name as He has called you, and do it with others who have the same mind, and you will have the power to pull each other out of darkness. And this power comes from the blood of Jesus, which cleanses us from all sin.

Reflect

Have you actually experienced the cleansing power of Christ's blood through walking with other believers, or has it stayed theoretical?



Silence the Accuser

*“Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. Even if we feel guilty, **God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything** .”*

1 John 3:19-20 NLT

Genuine faith runs on truth, and a life grounded in truth is wholly committed and connected to His divine nature, in constant, unwavering pursuit of His likeness. That doesn't mean you are perfect. What it means is that your life is oriented toward Him, in such a way that even when you stumble, your direction is still set on becoming like Him, not drifting further away. If your life looks like truth in action, then you will have confidence when you are in His presence. This assurance is only made possible by His Son.

Living a life grounded in truth is not easy, because it means you must die to yourself every day, since to be like Christ is to die the same death. So don't let false guilt or condemnation about who you used to be, or some mistake you made along the way, hinder the confidence you have in this union with God, because ultimately, no matter what you feel, He knows you inside and out. Since Christ's character is what should be shining through you, what you feel about yourself doesn't matter, because your flesh is dead.

Reflect

Are you letting guilt drag you down and kill your potential to live like Christ, or are you canceling out the noise and just focusing on Him?



Christ Conscience

*“Dear friends, if we don’t feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. **And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him .”***

1 John 3:21-22 NLT

Bold confidence flows from a person who constantly draws closer to Jesus, and is always experiencing new feats of faith and righteousness. When you come into God’s presence in this manner, guilt is not even part of the equation, because His life is your life, and the sinful past is cut off, dead, done away with. Guilt is the sign of foggy judgment of yourself, placed there by yourself. Christ died for you to walk in a redeemed light, not a light of shame and condemnation, which only drags you back down into sin.

When your life is structured this way, then what you ask of God will be given to you, because your life is in accordance with His will and His nature. So whatever you are asking flows from a heart submitted to God, not a heart that plays by the rules of the world. Your desires are now set on the future of the kingdom, so when you ask for things, they will be granted to you, because they will benefit the body of Christ instead of your flesh.

Reflect

Are you living with a Christ conscience, or a guilty conscience?



Anti Antichrist

*“But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because **the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world** .”*

1 John 4:3-4 NLT

Anybody who resists that Jesus is from God and is God is denying Him and calling Him a liar, and we know God cannot lie. This same person might even admit that He was real, but they would never actually commit their lives to Him, because that requires sacrifice, and it would require them to fill the godless void in their heart. It's a sad thing that a lot of people have made up their minds about who Christ is, and their hearts are forever hardened. This is the spirit of the Antichrist. It is here, and it is alive and active, dividing our nation, our world, and our churches. Don't let it deceive you. Despite this, we are offered freedom in Christ, and we will not be harmed by this evil spirit, rather we will be able to war against it.

And this is a war that has already been won. Jesus did it on the cross. He willingly gave His life for the people who wanted Him dead, so think about the believer who calls Him Lord and actually leads a righteous life. The Antichrist can't grab you, can't touch you, can't afflict you. You belong to Christ. You are His child, His loved one. Believe that this is who you are. Believe that this is where your hope lies. Believe that the freedom you get to wake up in every day is yours. He gave you victory over evil. You are already walking in His freedom. And nobody, not even the greatest evil, can take away what Christ has already accomplished.

Reflect

Do you actually believe the war is already won, or are you still living like you have to fight for victory?



Discernment Doesn't Mean Judgment

*“Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. **This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God .**”*

1 John 4:1-2 NLT

In a world where there are endless podcasts, endless books, and endless theological opinions on social media, it's unfortunate that we can be tricked into thinking that some people do speak by the Spirit when really they don't. This is not to say that you must suspect that everybody is a wolf in sheep's clothing, but that you should take into consideration that not everybody speaks from the Spirit. Often it comes from emotional circumstances and experiences, people claiming they had conversations with God and such. So how do we test people who claim to speak with spiritual knowledge but don't? We must heavily rely on the Spirit that God has given us to recognize what is true and what is not. When the Lord is working in your heart in this way, and He has lifted the veil, it will be almost effortless to notice those who speak on behalf of themselves or the devil, and those who speak on behalf of the Spirit. Those who speak on behalf of the Spirit will never deny that Jesus is Lord, and they know of Jesus's testimony as if it is their own.

As God continues to reveal His character to you, and as you get to know Him more, be careful with this discernment that God is giving you. Don't use it as an excuse to call out every single tiny problem that doesn't determine somebody's eternity or that doesn't match your theology exactly. Rather, if a friend or pastor says something you disagree with, something that doesn't determine your salvation, don't let it change how you see them. If you both believe that Christ is Lord, then the smaller theological differences don't matter. The enemy wants to make you feel like you're doing God a service by defending your theological stance, when in reality you're just causing the division that Satan wants. If you let somebody seeing theology differently than you affect your fellowship with them, then you've already lost, and you don't even know it.

Reflect

Are you testing what you hear while also taking what you can from a message or a word from a friend, or are you abusing the discernment God has given you and judging every opinion?



God So Loved

*“I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. **For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie** . So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.”*

1 John 2:26-27 NLT

The Word has been written to us, and we have gained the Holy Spirit as a gift through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, to see the world that surrounds us, so that we are not led astray, and so that nobody can deceive us. What is contrary to God’s Word will stick out like a sore thumb when you ask for His eyes. The glory of the Holy Spirit, which lives in you, gives you the understanding you need in a world so far from God. As Christ followers, we must continue to draw close to Christ in order to see the truth. If this is not an active effort in your life, lies from the devil are going to pull the rug out from under you. Praise God that the Holy Spirit teaches only what is true. There is no fault, there are no lies, there is no imperfection, because the Holy Spirit gives you the perfect knowledge of the gospel, so that you are able to remain in perfect unity with Christ. Those who are thirsty will want to be brought into this fellowship, so share it. Don’t just use the Holy Spirit as a shield.

This way of life will either attract the world or be rejected by it, but either way, you can’t lose preaching the gospel. Christ has won. The reason we behave this way is because of the Holy Spirit, which was given to us through Christ. Since we have real, true knowledge that comes from the Holy Spirit, we will not be led astray by false teaching. This truth that the Holy Spirit has planted in our hearts will bring us purpose. A purpose to lead our family, to lead our friends, and to lead others we don’t know, people we otherwise wouldn’t have met, unless the Holy Spirit put them in our life for a reason. True purpose is found in Christ, and the world must know. God loved the world so much, despite all of its evil, He sent His only Son so that the world could actually become set apart. God wants to look down on you and see His Son Jesus dwelling in you and living out His purpose. This is the will of God, that every man should come to Him, because God so loved the world.

Reflect

Are you taking for granted what the Holy Spirit provides and only using it for yourself, or are you showing others that it’s possible for them too?



Truth Is Your Hope

*“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and **you know all things** . 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.”*

1 John 2:20-21 NKJV

What a beautiful and reaffirming thing, that the Holy Spirit has anointed every single one of His children with truth. His truth. We believers carry that same consecration that kings, priests, and prophets carried when they were anointed with oil. He has given us the ability to know all things, which is rooted in God’s eternal nature and glory. He created us with physical bodies, but whether we go to see Him in His kingdom or are separated from Him in Hades, we are eternal beings. We must be grateful and humble, so that we can take on the knowledge of God that comes from drawing near to Him, not just merely stacking up head knowledge. The moment you received the anointing of the Holy Spirit was the moment truth became your life. Nobody needs to tell you where your hope is found, because your hope lies only in Christ Himself.

Truth and lies cannot coexist. That is why, when the Holy Spirit teaches you versus when somebody is lying to you, the difference is not hard to notice. The truth is rooted in what God teaches. God convicts of sin, reminds you that you belong to Him, and holds you securely, wrapped in His love. The enemy can’t touch you with lies and deception, because Jesus defeated it. This ability to know what is true, because of who God is, should make you scoff at the schemes of the devil. The devil can barely keep his head above water, he grasps at straws every day. The devil thought he’d won when Jesus died on the cross, but death for Him was the doorway into everlasting life.

Reflect

Does the devil’s defeat actually change how confidently you walk today?



Testimonium Vincentis

“So we have these three witnesses— the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and all three agree .”

1 John 5:7-8 NLT

Baptism is a declaration of faith, an expression of Him who has saved you, and now you get to make a declaration through the water. Your new life is a representation of a life found hidden within Christ. He has saved you because of His blood, and the water is the declaration of His saving grace. You have been washed by His blood, willingly shed for you on the cross, and now you can be victorious over death because of Him. You now identify with the work of Christ. You are stepping into a battlefield where the battle is already won, and Jesus is there with the head of your enemy crushed beneath His feet. As you go about your day in Christ, it is no longer just an ordinary day. Every step you take, no matter how small, should be dedicated to Him, a continuation of the victory He has already given you. He has gone before you to defeat the enemy, and He will never stand against you. This is who you are proclaiming to be your God. It must never be taken lightly.

This is the life that Christ lived, and now He has given you the ability to live it through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit testified of all the things that Christ did, and after Christ's death, the veil was torn. Before Christ did this, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, and only once a year. But now, anybody who calls Christ their Lord can live like this any day, at any time, because Christ, our Great High Priest, became the perfect fulfillment for all. This is where the power of the Holy Spirit comes from, it comes from the work that Christ did to break down the wall. The law was fulfilled in Christ, the work is done, and now He can be your life. No more empty rules that could never save you. Now it's only about believing in Christ, stepping into His victory, and allowing the Holy Spirit to be the only thing you depend on to live out the will of Christ. This is the testimony that has carried you this far, and it's the same testimony that will carry you the rest of the way.

Reflect

Do you believe that the power of the Holy Spirit has given you the ability to start over, with a new record, a clean conscience, and an entirely new life?



Fruit, the Evidence of Truth

*“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is **bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives** , just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.”*

Colossians 1:6 NLT

The effectiveness of the gospel is evident within the lives that become changed and produce fruit. This is not just some minor change that we are talking about. We are talking about a life that becomes completely transformed, dedicated to the One who became the Word in the flesh and dwelt among us. We don't just understand this gospel by examining what it's done in us. We understand it by watching the same fruit, the same renewal, show up in the lives of people around us. If we do this, not only will it keep us in a state of humility but also in a state of gratitude. We should always be grateful for the way that God works in the lives of other people.

This gratefulness for the work of Jesus in our lives and in other people's lives is the byproduct of good fruit. It shows that we are all part of the same family. The family of God. Since this gratitude and humility stems from the same place, you will have perfect fellowship with others who also bear good fruit. If you claim to hold fast to this truth, then there must be tangible evidence of a change. Instead of just saying with your lips that you believe He has made a change in you, actually live out the change He has made. Don't let the truth of the gospel just go in one ear and out the other. Hear it. See it. Understand it. Believe in it. Once you can understand and truly believe it, then you will see God and yourself in a different light.

Reflect

What would someone see if they watched your life for evidence that Christ has changed you?



Infinite Mystery

*“This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: **Christ lives in you** . This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.”*

Colossians 1:26-27 NLT

This mystery of God has been revealed to us through Christ. What does Paul mean by 'mystery'? He certainly does not mean a secret society reserved for a select few, something that requires you to climb a hierarchy of spiritual success to access, the way many mystery cults of his day operated. This truly is not the case. Everything that continues to be revealed is a mystery because of its deep, infinite value. A mystery in the sense of 'how can this be?' Is it me who is feeling the love of Christ? Is it really Christ who chooses to live within me? Christ who lives in us is the great mystery. Why you? Why me? Why us? His deep, profound, immense love is why. His love is the reason we can find out the answers to our questions. His love is a love that is beyond understanding and beyond full human comprehension. This is part of the hope we find in Christ. The fact that we aren't going to know everything is what keeps us hoping for more of Him. We get to experience this mystery day by day. When we go to meet with Him, even then we will continue to watch the mysteries of God unfold. As they unfold, we will have no other choice but to worship Him. Not because of obligation, but based solely on who God is. This is His love, which is beyond comprehension. We will experience it like new every day because He is infinite!

In order to understand this mystery, you must press in and continue to live by the hope that is laid up for us. The power of the Spirit is key. It is what allows you to live in freedom, and it will draw you to ask questions. Why me, Lord? Why do I matter? Why do we matter more than all of creation? How are we the greatest among all creatures? You were created to bear the image of God. You hold the most important responsibility: to live out the example Christ left. Jesus Christ is the perfect image. He is the second Adam. He is the image of restored human nature, just as it was in the Garden of Eden. Jesus came as a man so that you could look to Him with awe and say: 'now I understand.' You were made to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. You were made to bear the image of God. You were made to be His. As long as you call on Him and believe in His name, you are then chosen by Him. There is no race. There is no religion. There is no nation. Those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus will be called chosen. We are the church. His people are created to live out the fulfillment of Christ in all holiness, sanctification, and love.

Reflect

Do you believe there's no race, religion, or nation that stands between you and being chosen by Him, or do you still feel like an outsider?