

*But **God commends his own love** toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

*For if, **while we were enemies**, we were **reconciled to God** through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we will be **saved by his life**. Not only so, but we **also rejoice in God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have **now received the reconciliation**. (Romans 5:10-11)*

*But now, **being made free from sin**, and having become servants of God, **you have your fruit of sanctification, and the result of eternal life**. (Romans 6:22)*

***This is eternal life**, that they should **know you, the only true God**, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ. (John 17:3)*

*Now the Lord is the Spirit and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**. But we all, with unveiled face **beholding** as in a mirror the **glory of the Lord**, are **transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)*

*For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God**. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

*We **know** and have **believed the love** which **God has for us**. God is love, and he who **remains in love** remains in God, and God remains in him. In this **love has been made perfect** among us, that we may **have boldness** in the day of judgment, because as he is, even so are we in this world. (1 John 4:16-17)*

*If you will **confess** with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord**, and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will **be saved**. (Romans 10:9)*

When we **align our will** with the **truth of God's words**, **power is released** that brings transformation.

We do **not have** to continue **to struggle against sin** all our lives or live **feeling defeated**.

*I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now is come the salvation, the power, and the Kingdom of our God, and the **authority of his Christ**; for **the accuser** of our brothers **has been thrown down**, who accuses them before our God day and night. **They overcame him** because of **the Lamb's blood**, and because of **the word of their testimony**. They didn't love their life, even to death. (Revelation 12:10-11)*

When I confess and believe with my heart that Jesus is Lord, I am **choosing to identify with His declarations** about who I am and that **He alone defines my identity** and worth – not anyone else.

*Therefore, putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, **receive with humility the implanted word**, which is **able to save your souls**. (James 1:21)*

*But **nobody can tame the tongue**. It is a **restless evil**, full of deadly poison. With it we **bless our God and Father**, and with it we **curse men**, who are **made in the image of God**. Out of the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things **ought not to be** so. (James 3:8-10)*

When I allow my imagination and my **words to agree with the accuser**, I am **cursing people** made in the **image of God**. That **includes myself** as well. This is double-mindedness which brings **confusion** and **disables** me from being **able to receive** anything from God.

When I **confess with my mouth** that **Jesus is Lord**, that means I need to also **confess that only what Jesus says is true about me**, and I can **stop rehearsing lies** over myself or others. The Bible calls this **confession**, and I need to engage in this practice in order to **move deeper into the true freedom** of knowing personally the truth that I am a loved child of the King of the universe, defined by what the great I AM says about who I am.

*But **above all things**, my brothers, **don't swear**, neither by heaven, nor by the earth, nor by any other oath; but let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no," "no;" so that you **don't fall into hypocrisy**. Is any among you **suffering**? Let him **pray**. Is any **cheerful**? Let him **sing praises**. Is any among you **sick**? Let him **call for the elders** of the assembly, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the **prayer of faith will heal him** who is sick, and the **Lord will raise him up**. If he has committed sins, he will be **forgiven**. **Confess your offenses (faults) to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed**. The **insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective**. (James 5:12-16)*

Above all things...**don't fall into hypocrisy**.

Hypocrisy is **pretending a belief** while **not experiencing** it authentically. Yet that is often very **different** from what **we might imagine**. This does not mean our feelings can be trusted to define the truth about us, for our **feelings are the least reliable source** to discover our true identity.

Just as **pretending to be a loving Christian** while **not having a secure attachment** to the Source of love ourselves will result in **falling into hypocrisy**, so too is believing lies circulating inside our imagination and fueled by **feelings that we are not loved** passionately by God regardless of how we act or feel or imagine. **God really is greater than our feelings**, and our choice to **believe the I AM over our 'I am not' lies** is how we **experience freedom** from the tyranny of the accuser's spell over our lives by which he manipulates and enslaves us with fear and shame and continual condemnation.

*But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore **don't be afraid**. You are of more value than many sparrows.*

*I tell you, **everyone who confesses me before men**, him will **the Son of Man** also confess before the angels of God; but **he who denies me in the presence of men** will **be denied in the presence of the angels of God**.*

*Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but those who **blaspheme against the Holy Spirit** will not be forgiven.*

*When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, **don't be anxious** how or what you will answer, or what you will say; for **the Holy Spirit will teach you** in that same hour what you must say." (Luke 12:7-12)*

What does it mean to **confess Jesus**?

Whatever it is, it is **opposite** to what Jesus kept talking about incessantly in the previous verses – **fear**. What does it mean to **blaspheme** the Holy Spirit? **Denying** the three-fold testimony that we are **loved!** If we **live in denial** that we are fully loved, **how can the Holy Spirit teach** us what to say in real time?

The Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is God's testimony which he has testified concerning his Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. He who doesn't believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. The testimony is this, that God gave to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has the life. He who doesn't have God's Son doesn't have the life.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. This is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us. And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him. (1 John 5:8-15)

My little children, let's not love in word only, neither with the tongue only, but in deed and truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and persuade our hearts before him, because if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have boldness toward God; and whatever we ask, we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight. This is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, even as he commanded. (1 John 3:18-23)

They said therefore to him, "What must we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." (John 6:28-29)

We are of God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not of God doesn't listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. He who doesn't love doesn't know God, for God is love.

By this God's love was revealed in us, that God has sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has been perfected in us. (1 John 4:6-12)

We know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this love has been made perfect among us, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, even so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. He who fears is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because he first loved us. (1 John 4:16-19)