

The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal waves of light. On the left side, there are vibrant orange and yellow waves, resembling fire or a sunset. On the right side, there are deep blue and purple waves, resembling a nebula or a starry field. The waves flow horizontally across the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

The background features a dark blue field with a starry pattern of small yellow and white dots. At the top, there are flowing, ethereal waves of light in shades of blue and orange, creating a sense of movement and depth.

What do you think?

What does it mean to be a *disciple*?

- John wants us to know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13)
- Three *diagnostic* tests:

OBEY

LOVE

Believe The Truth

Doctrinal Standard

1. Jesus Christ was the *manifestation* of God's *Life* in real space-time human history (1:1-3)
2. God is *Light* (1:5)
 - “**This is eternal life**, that they may **know** You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3)

1 John 2:3-6

- *Walking in the Light* (Part 2)
 - *Ethical Test*: Obedience to God demonstrates
 1. *Knowledge of God*
 2. *Love for God*
 3. *Abiding in God*

Obedience & Knowledge of God

- Hebrew mindset: knowledge is *lived* – involves relationship and action (cf. Gen. 4:1)
- To be related to God means to do what He wills
- Therefore, if we really *know* God, we will be *doing* what He commands
- Therefore, we can know that we know Him if we are doing what He tells us to do (3)

Obedience & Knowledge of God

- Therefore, the one who *says* he knows Him but doesn't *pursue obedience* is a liar (4)
- He is proving that he is not walking in the light and the truth is not in him (cf. 1:6; 2:21)
- The one who does not keep God's commands shows he does not agree with God's assessment of reality

Obedience & Love for God

- The one who habitually puts God's word into practice demonstrates that his love for God is *mature* and active (see 3:16-18; John 14:21)
- "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our **abode** with him." (John 14:23)

Obedience & Abiding in God

- *By this we know that we are in Him*
 - *Him* – God, who is *Light* (1:5)
 - *In Him* – *vital*, intimate relationship (1:3; John 17:20-23; cf. John 14:23; 15:4-7)
 - Based on the truth communicated by (thru) the apostles (cf. 1 John 1:3; 2:24)
 - “He who knows God listens to us” (4:1-6)

Obedience & Abiding in God

- *the one who says he abides in Him*
 - *Abides – to be living, remaining (John 17:1-11)*
 - A branch must remain connected to the vine in order to receive *life* & produce fruit
 - A branch that is not connected can do nothing on its own
 - *Abiding = staying connected*

Obedience & Abiding in God

- How does one *abide*?
 - Hold to apostolic truth (1 John 2:24b; 2 John)
 - Keeps Jesus' commandments (3:24)
 - Confess Jesus is the Son of God (4:15)
 - Abide in love (4:16b)
 - Keep Jesus' commandments (John 15:10)

Obedience & Abiding in God

- *the one who says he abides in Him* is claiming *intimate union* with God
 - Similar to the claim of *fellowship with Him* (1:6)
 - How can such a claim be confirmed?

Obedience & Abiding in God

- *...ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked*
 - *Ought – to owe -> to be bound or obliged (1 John 3:16; 4:11; cf. John 13:12-17)*
 - *It is not automatic – ought implies choice*
 - *It is not advice – ought implies compulsion*

Obedience & Abiding in God

- *...ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked*
 - *Walk* – how you conduct yourself
 - *In the same manner – just as* -> imitation; follow His example and commands
 - Active discipleship (cf. Matt. 28:19-20 – “teaching them to observe all I commanded”)

Obedience & Abiding in God

- God predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29)
- Being conformed to His image requires putting off our former manner of life and living out *the truth* (Eph. 4:20-24)
- Being conformed to His image means becoming like Him

Obedience & Abiding in God

- God is working to *transform* us (Rom. 12:2)
 - We must renew our minds (cf. Eph. 4:23)
 - We must walk in God's truth/light/Spirit
 - Which results in change of character; holiness; fruit; *Life*
- Jesus' earthly life was the perfect example of God's *Life* (1 John 1:2)

Obedience & Abiding in God

- “The test of our religious experience is whether it produces a reflection of the life of Jesus in our daily life; if it fails this elementary test, it is false.” (I. Howard Marshall)

So What?

- Anyone can claim to have intimate fellowship with God
 - The proof of that claim is in how that person actually lives life (1:6-7; 2:5b-6)
 - Based on knowledge of the truth (2:4)
 - It means *doing*, not *not doing* (*ought*)
 - *Intimacy comes from obedience*

So What?

- In order to know that one is walking in the same manner as Jesus walked, one must know how Jesus walked
 - “...I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 5:30)
 - “...I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” (John 8:29)

So What?

- “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14)
- “...love one another, even as I have loved you” (John 13:34-5)
 - “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”