### What Do You Think?

"There are those who scoff at the school boy, calling him frivolous and shallow. Yet it was the school boy who said, Faith is believing what you know ain't so."

(Mark Twain, Following the Equator)

- •What's the difference between knowing and believing?
- •What is the relationship between them?
- Is one better than the other?

What Do You Think?

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)

## Eternal Life

### A Study of 1 John



• "No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us." •God abides in us – 4:13-16 •His love is perfected in us – 4:17-21

### 1 John 4:12

 "By this we know that we abide in Him and He is us" •Not conditions for (cf. 3:24), but evidence of (by this we know - cf. 2:5-6) • Abide - intimate reciprocal fellowship Grounded in sound doctrine/truth and our walk/obedience (1:3, 6-7; 3:24)

# 1 John 4:13

### •How Do We Know We Have Fellowship?

- 1. By His Spirit (13)
- 2. By Our Confession (14-15)
- 3. By Our Loving (16)

### 1 John 4:13-21

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• "He has given us of His Spirit" • Emphasizing the fact of His presence •3:24 – "He gave" us His Spirit -> the fact that He was given •4:13 – "He has given" -> the fact of His continuing presence in us

### 1. By His Spirit

• "He has given us of His Spirit" • Emphasizing the fact of His presence •Eph. 1:13-14 - hear the truth/gospel -> believe it -> sealed "with the Holy Spirit of promise" (pledge) • "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom. 8:16)

### 1. By His Spirit

•Spirit <-> truth/doctrine (see 3:24 & 4:1-6) •The Holy Spirit is intimately involved in our understanding / acceptance of the truth •Cf. anointing & truth (2:20-21, 26-27) •"It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth." (5:6)

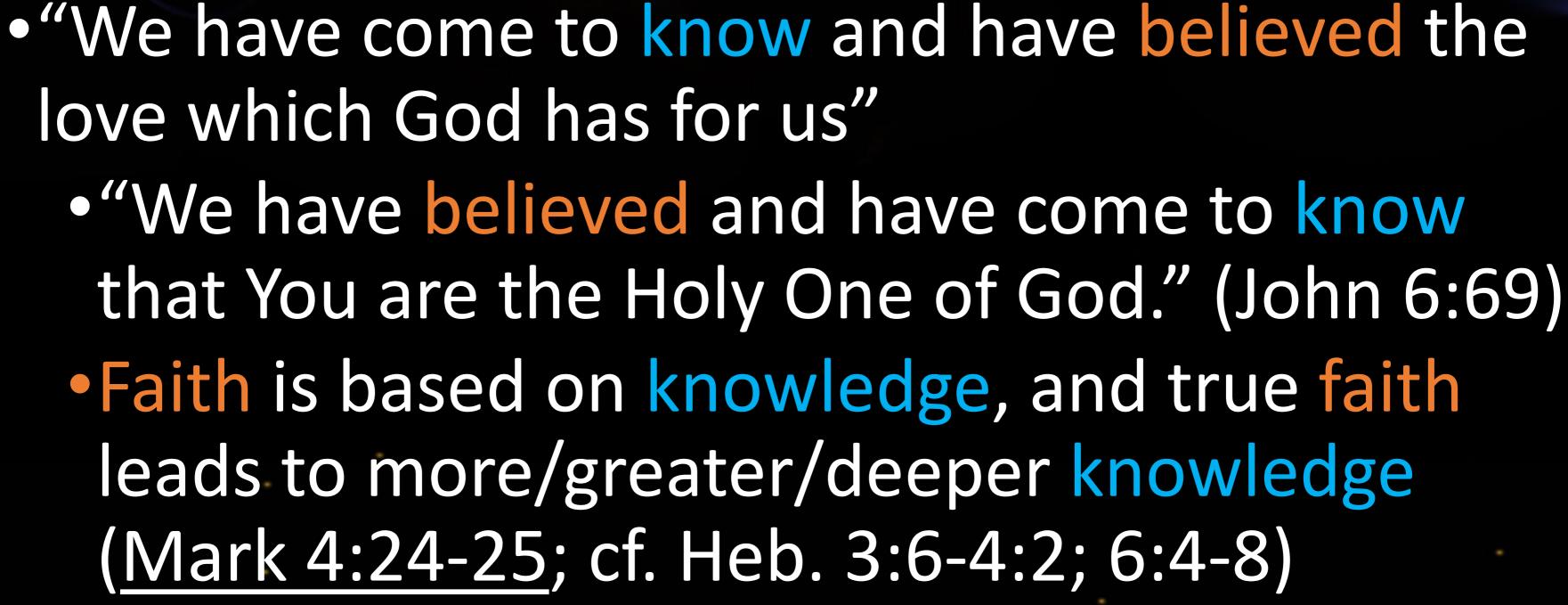
• Spirit <-> truth/doctrine (see 3:24 & 4:1-6) • "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning." (John 15:26-27; cf. Acts 5:32)

• "We have seen and testify..." (14) • Father, Son, and Spirit -> the trinity "Sent the Son" -> pre-existence; incarnation "to be the Savior of the world" -> purpose • "Savior" -> the problem requires propitiation "of the world" -> available to all (cf. 2:2)

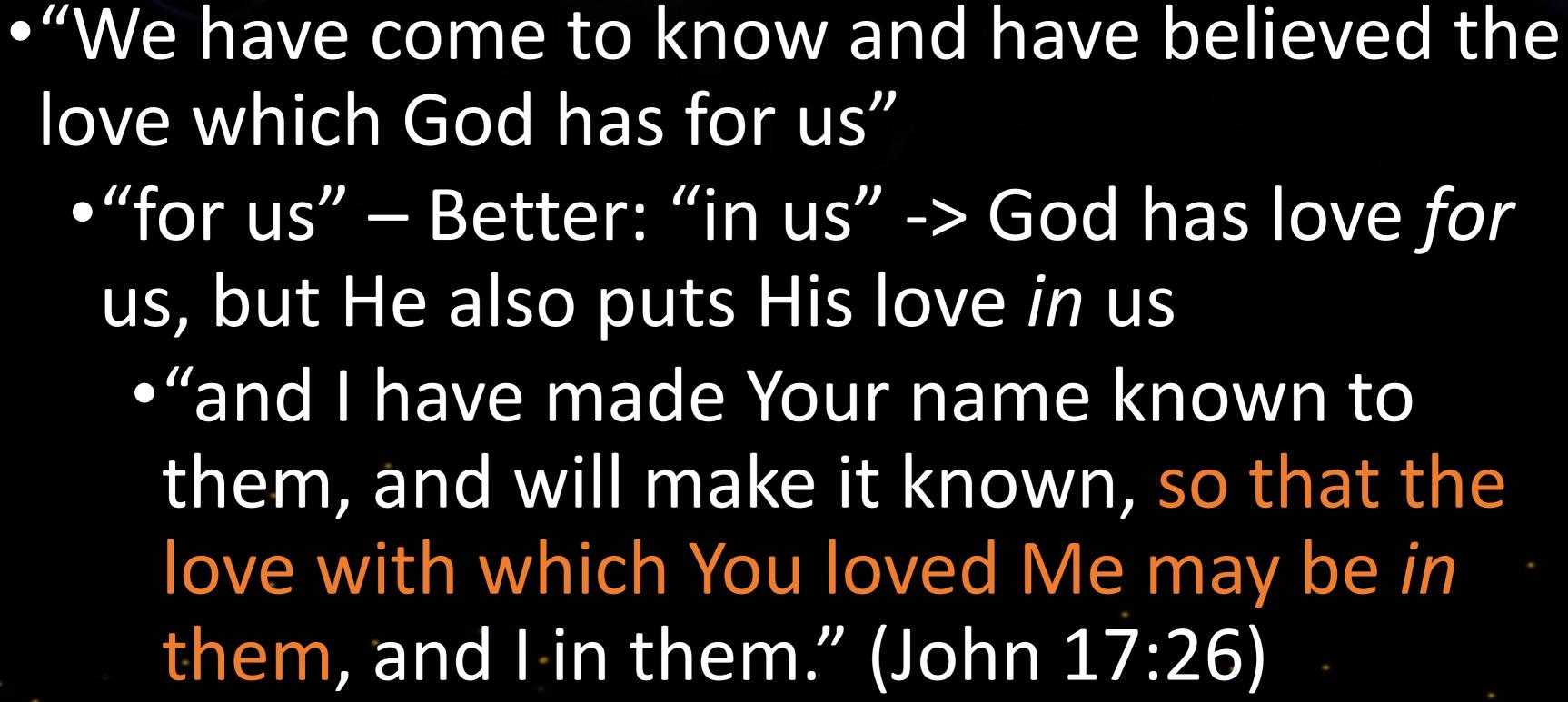
• Confess = say the same thing •The apostles proclaimed Jesus (1:1-3; 2:14) •The Holy Spirit confirms the message and helps us to understand it (cf. 4:2) •Those who agree with the apostolic message show the Spirit's work in their hearts (4:6)

 Confession involves more than lip service •"If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth" (1:6) • "The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (2:4)

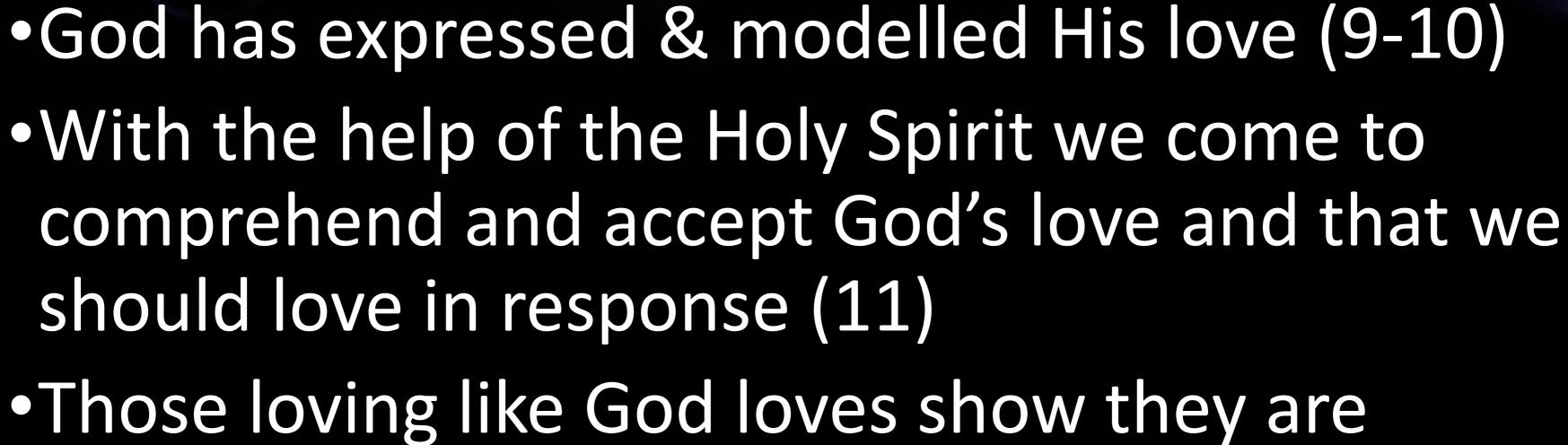
 Verb tense -> one-time confession •Hold to what you agreed with in the beginning How do we know if we do? Evidence: obedience, purification, righteousness, love •Therefore, confession as evidenced by obedience, indicates true, intimate fellowship with God (cf. 2:23-24; 3:24)



### 3. By Our Loving



### 3. By Our Loving



abiding in love (cf. John 15:10), and they in God and God in them (cf. 1 John 1:5-7; 4:7-8)

### 3. By Our Loving

•God says we can know we are in an intimate relationship with Him if we: Have His Holy Spirit (who enables us to...) •Confess the truth about Jesus (and live accordingly, which means...) Love as He loves

### Summary

• Do you really believe what God has said about intimacy with Him? Is that enough, or do you need more? •What if you don't *feel* it? Does that mean its not true?

### So What?

• Do you really understand who Jesus is, as communicated through His apostles? (1:1-3) •What are you doing to know Him better? •What are you doing to put that knowledge into practice in your life/context?

### So What?