

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 4:13-21

Lesson 18

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 4:1-12. In what way has I John 4:1-6 awakened your awareness to test the source of all you hear, read, or watch?
 - a. Whom do you *confess* Jesus Christ is?
 - 1) Why do you think the false teachers of the first century and the false teachers of the 1990's have not wanted to acknowledge Jesus as God come in the flesh?
2. What difference has studying I John 4:7-12 made in your life on a daily basis?
3. Mark the paragraph divisions in I John 4:13-21 as follows and briefly record the key thought of each:
 - a. I John 4:13-16
 - b. I John 4:17-21
4. Have you ever wondered if you were truly a child of God? Has the thought of "the day of judgment" or the return of Christ ever filled you with fear? This week's study in I John 4:13-21 lays a solid foundation of assurance and confidence for believers that will once and for all dispel those doubts and fears. Start your study with a prayer. Ask the Lord to open your understanding of His Word. Ask Him also, to prepare your heart and mind to receive His truth. If tiredness and time are problems for you in doing the lesson, mention these in your prayer. Express your love for Him. Thank Him for the *assurance* and *confidence* He provides through His Word and express your desire to do those things that are *pleasing in His sight*. Write your prayer here.

*And whatsoever we ask,
we receive of Him,
because we keep His commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in His sight
I John 3:22*

SECOND DAY: I John 4:13-16

1. By the time we arrive at these verses we are thoroughly convinced it is God's will that His children should *know*, (be assured), that they are His. Whom has He given us so that we *know* (ginosko) that *we dwell in Him, and He in us?* I John 4:13

a. Record what the following verses reveal about the Spirit:

1) John 14:26

2) I John 2:27

3) How does this encourage you?

2. The Holy Spirit convinces and assures us *that we dwell in Him and He in us*. What things substantiate that assurance?

a. I John 4:15

b. I John 4:16a

3. In I John 4:14 we have the personal testimony of John and the Apostles - an eye-witness account of the Savior. To capture the historical and spiritual reality of I John 4:14, parallel it with I John 1:1, 2 by filling in the right-hand column of the following chart:

I John 4:14	I John 1:1,2
a. And we have seen	a.
b. And do testify	b.

1) Why did God send His Son into the world:

(a.) I John 4:14

(b.) John 3:16,17

(c.) John 17:3

4. *The Holy Spirit within us to assure us we are a child of God. Our testimony of Who Christ is and our love (agap ) for others mark our faith as genuine.* Why do you think our assurance or knowing that He dwells in us and we dwell in Him is linked with our confession of Who Jesus is and our *knowing and believing the love that God hath to us?*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 4:17,18

1. What does I John 4:17 say? Write this in your own words.
 - a. Concerning the phrase *Herein is our love made perfect* (complete), Pastor Chuck says: *Love (agapé) moves in a cycle. It begins in the heart of God, reaches into our hearts, and out to others, and then returns to God. (See I John 4:19). As it returns to God, it is made perfect or complete. (It accomplishes its goal or purpose.) Because our love is made perfect (complete). we have no fear of the day of judgment (Revelation 20:11). Rather than fear what does I John 4:17 say we may have?*
2. The phrase *as He is, so are we in this world* has two important aspects. The first aspect is revealed by the phrase (even) *as He*. *As He* (was in this world) so we are to be in this world. See this by writing what the following scriptures say about *As He*:

I John 1:7

I John 2:6

I John 3:2

I John 3:3

I John 3:23

3. The second aspect of *as He is, so are we in this world* refers to God's great love for the Son and for each of us. Thankfully contemplate the greatness of His love for you by reviewing I John 4:9, 10. Could anyone ever love you to that degree? If someone asked you how you know God loves you, how would you answer them?
4. What does I John 4:18a say about *perfect love*?
 - a. What does this verse reveal about *fear*?
5. Contrast this tormenting *fear* of I John 4:18 with the *boldness* of I John 4:17. What makes the difference?
 - a. In response to the truth of I John 4:17,18, If you have this *fear*, how will I John 4:16a help you?

*Loved with everlasting love, Led by grace that love to know -
Spirit, breathing from above, Thou hast taught me it is so!
O this full and perfect peace form His presence all divine -
In a love which cannot cease, I am His, and He is mine.*

George Robinson

FOURTH DAY: Read Psalm 23

1. God's *perfect love* at work in our hearts not only removes the fear of eternal punishment but releases us from tormenting fear in every area of our lives. We live in a time when *men's hearts are failing them for fear*. This is not God's plan for His children. He wants them to trust in His love and care for them. Look at this *love* by writing what the Lord our Shepherd does for us, His sheep, from Psalm 23:1-6:

Psalm 23:1

Psalm 23:2

Psalm 23:3

Psalm 23:4

Psalm 23:5

Psalm 23:6

2. Print in large block letters *what* Psalm 23:4 reveals about *fear* and His presence. Meditate on this in the light of God's indwelling presence revealed in I John 4:12b, 13, 15, 16.

I _____: _____ Thou _____.

- a. How does the realization of how much God loves you dispel *fear*?
3. In what area of your life does this Psalm minister most today?
 - a. How does God's *perfect love* at work in you help you let go of or drive out these fears?
 4. How does the portrait of God's love and care for you revealed in Psalm 23 enhance your understanding of I John 1:17, 18?

*If you only let God guide you
And hope in Him through all your ways,
He'll give you. strength whatever happens
And take you through the evil days:
WHO TRUSTS IN GOD'S UNCHANGING LOVE
Builds on the Rock that cannot move
George Robinson*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 4:19-21

1. What has the manifestation of God's love toward us through Christ produced in our life?
I John 4:(10), 19

- a. Write a love note of response to God for His love for you.

2. Read I John 4:20 and answer the question at the end of the verse.
 - a. Examine your heart in the searchlight of this verse. Why is love for God and hatred for other Christians incompatible?
 - 1) If a Christian who is struggling with this asks you for help with this, what advice would you give?

3. Write the commandment given in I John 4:21. (See also I John 3:23)
 - a. Who gave us this commandment?
 - 1) Take time to view the quality of this love from I Corinthians 13:4-7, use other versions if you desire. How does this help you define the kind of love we're supposed to have for one another?
 - 2) What do you do when you recognize your failure to love like this?

*The barrenness of busyness
results in lack of time
to cultivate the fruit of the indwelling Spirit
which is LOVE*

- selected

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 4:13-21

1. Underline or highlight the words *dwelleth* or *dwells* in I John 4:12b, 13, 15, 16. How does *knowing* God dwells or abides in you and you in Him give you assurance you are His child?
 - a. Is it not amazing that the eternal, holy God should choose to dwell within us? His indwelling presence guides us, directs us, and conforms us more and more into the likeness of Christ. Add to this list from I John 4:13-21 what His indwelling presence does in your life.

2. What do you learn about God through I John 4:13-21?
 - a. What does I John 4:14, 15 reveal about Jesus?
 - b. What does I John 4:13 reveal about the Spirit?
3. What do you learn about you from I John 4:13-21?
4. How does an awareness of God's love help you deal with tormenting fear?
 - a. In light of the love revealed through John 3:16, 17, why would a born-again believer have fear of the *day of judgment*?
5. What truth in I John 4:13-21 is most relevant to your life today?
6. How will you put this passage (I John 4:13-21) into practice?

*Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother-
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine,
Henry van Dyke*