

**1 John 3:23 – 5:1**

New American Standard Version

1 <sup>23</sup>This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son  
 2 Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. <sup>24</sup>The one  
 3 who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know  
 4 by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.  
 5 <sup>4:1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether  
 6 they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the  
 7 world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses  
 8 that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that  
 9 does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist,  
 10 of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the  
 11 world. <sup>4</sup>You are from God, little children, and have overcome them;  
 12 because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They  
 13 are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the  
 14 world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God; he who knows God listens to  
 15 us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the  
 16 spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another,  
 17 for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows  
 18 God. <sup>8</sup>The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
 19 <sup>9</sup>By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His  
 20 only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>In  
 21 this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son  
 22 *to be* the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also  
 23 ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time; if we love  
 24 one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this  
 25 we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of  
 26 His Spirit. <sup>14</sup>We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to*  
 27 *be* the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of  
 28 God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>We have come to know and  
 29 have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one  
 30 who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this, love  
 31 is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of  
 32 judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no  
 33 fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves  
 34 punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love,  
 35 because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his  
 36 brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he  
 37 has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this  
 38 commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should  
 39 love his brother also. <sup>5:1</sup>Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born  
 40 of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit...****Observation (What does it say?):***What do you notice in this passage?*

- Circle all mentions of “Spirit” or “spirit” in the passage.
- What else do you observe in the passage? What else stands out to you?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):***After observing the passage:*

- Without the capital “S” (not a part of John’s original in Greek), how do you know which references are to the Holy Spirit and which are about other spirits?
- List everything you see about the Holy Spirit in the passage:
- How does the passage relate “Father,” “God,” “Son,” “Spirit”?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- Why do you think the section of the Creed on the Holy Spirit includes other items? Why is it even longer in the Nicene Creed?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- How might this passage affect your understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and what He is doing?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

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**Inductive Bible Study**

(A few general ideas)

**Observation**  
**(What does it say?)**

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

**Interpretation**  
**(What does it mean?)**

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**  
**(What does it mean for me?)**

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.**  
**J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**