

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit is Truth

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We now turn to the Epistles, or Letters, of John. The Gospel of John sets forth in Jesus' own words a full disclosure of the Holy Spirit. We are supposed to carry those disclosures of John's Gospel with us as we delve into John's letters and into the Revelation.

1 John alludes more to the work of the Holy Spirit than to the personal relationship of the Godhead. However, there are passages which show the Holy Spirit personally distinct from the Father and the Son.

1 John 2:20 and 1 John 3:24 speak of the Holy Spirit as communicated, and as given to believers.

1 John 2:20, 21 – And you (plural) an anointment/anointing are having [present active] from the Holy One and you (plural) have perceived/are aware of [perfect active] all. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ESV

Let's consider the context: **Beware of Antichrists**

...²⁰**You, however, have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.** ²¹**I have not written to you because you lack knowledge of the truth, but because you have it, and because no lie comes from the truth.** ²²**Who is the liar, if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, who denies the Father and the Son...Berean Study Bible, www.biblehub.com**

In addition to context, theologians also consider the grammar. Here we have the "oida" kind of knowing.

G 1492: oida (oi-da) (more supernatural knowing)

To know, remember, appreciate and cherish

Used in 1 John 2:20, 21, 29; 3:2, 5, 14, 15; 5:13, 15, 15, 18, 19, 20.

Another kind of knowing is "ginosko" in Greek.

G 1097 ginosko (ghin-ocē'-ko, long "o" sound)

1) to come to know, to get a knowledge of, perceive

Used in 1 John 2: 3, 4, 18, 29; 3:19, 24; 5:2, 20. Revelation 2:23; 3:3, 9.

1 John 3:24 – And the one-keeping the directions/precepts of Him in Him is remaining and He in him and in this we are knowing that He is remaining in us out of the Spirit which to us He gives.

Here is our verse in context: [Love One Another](#)

...²³ **And this is His commandment: that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and we should love one another just as He commanded us.**

²⁴ **Whoever keeps His commandments remains in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He remains in us: by the Spirit He has given us. BSB**

John plainly shows that he regards the communication as imparted to us by the Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit enlightens the previously blind, making the believer able to see and to receive the light of God. This process continues throughout the believer's life until glory. (Proverbs 4:18). This is not some mere informing of the mind or communication of spiritual knowledge; it is a "down to where we live" consciousness of the Truth. What we receive from the Holy Spirit in truth stays in us; it abides in us.

The anointing enables the believer to perceive the true nature of sin—opposition against God, expressed in self-pleasing. With increasing awareness, we discover the truth of what it means to be "totally depraved, corrupt at the very core of our being." By the anointing, we grow in our ability to detect the deceptions of Satan, who was out there convincing us that good is evil and evil is good. By the anointing we apprehend and take unto ourselves the claims of God: that God is worthy of and infinitely entitled to our worship. We learn God's ways and the path of practical holiness. We behold the perfect necessity and sufficiency of Christ; that Christ is the only One who could and has met all God's claims upon us. By the anointing we feel the truth that the flesh profits nothing and that apart from Christ we can do nothing. We see our need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, filled with the fullness of Christ. We move from darkness to light, from a core bent toward iniquity to a core of Truth; truth in the inward parts; truth in the core of our being.

"What the Holy Spirit writes on the heart remains: "The anointing which you have received of Him abides in you." 1 John 2:27, and neither man nor devil can efface it." (A. W. Pink)

The Holy Spirit is Truth. He teaches truth and absolutely not does He teach falsehood. There is no lie in Him. As long as He is teaching you, you are abiding in truth and thus in Him.

This anointing is a teaching one; it enlightens understanding. This oil or ointment was first put on Christ without measure and from Christ descends to all those who comprise His Body in truth. By the Spirit of Truth we can discern the spirit of whoredoms and error, the spirit of antichrist. Believers have the anointing Spirit from the Father as well as from the Son, and so the Spirit is the token that we are in the Father and in the Son. Those who have not this Anointing, who have not the Holy Spirit, are none of Christ's.

We HAVE this anointing, but many believers continue acting as if they do not. Many of us are weak for lack of the Truth of the Word of God. We CAN announce the Truth, apply the atonement which we have received, and establish the kingdom of Christ, that establishing taking place within us first. The Holy One is Jesus Christ (John 6:69; Acts 3:14; Revelation 3:7, e.g.). By Him we have this anointing; we have the basis of all knowledge in order to see things straight. We don't have to be "off" like the leaning tower of Pisa. We don't have to follow worldly wisdom and the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

As to the names or titles given to the Holy Spirit, He is called the Spirit of God (1 John 4:2), as the One sent forth from God (ek tou Theou, 1 John 4:3). 1 John 4:4 points us to

victory: **“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”** Through the power of the Holy Spirit we have the wherewithal to defeat the enemies of Christ at work in our own lives and seeking to destroy us.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He opens the mind to truth and teaches the mind to distinguish truth from error. (1 John 4:6). He is called the unction or anointing from the Holy One, who anoints the followers of Christ as He anointed Christ Himself (1 John 2:20, 27).

1 John 5:6 is one of those rare places where we can reverse the two nouns. The Spirit is The Truth.

This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. Not by water only but by water and blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (Common English Bible)

The “not” here is “ouk,” absolutely not.

οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ ἐλθὼν δι’ ὕδατος καὶ αἵματος, ἰησοῦς χριστός· οὐκ ἐν τῷ ὕδατι μόνον ἀλλ’ ἐν τῷ ὕδατι καὶ ἐν τῷ αἵματι· καὶ τὸ πνεῦμά ἐστιν τὸ μαρτυροῦν, ὅτι τὸ πνεῦμά ἐστιν ἡ ἀλήθεια. (The Spirit is the witness, the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.)

The Holy Spirit is the truth itself. The Spirit is the One who testifies, or bears witness (1 John 5:6, 8). The water and blood refer, more likely, to the first witness of Christ’s baptism and anointing and the miraculous events connected with it. That first witness of water attested to Christ’s Messianic commission. By the Blood, we understand it to speak to Christ’s departure to the Father, or the termination of Jesus’ earthly task by the atoning sacrifice, which was accompanied by striking miracles. (Matthew 28:51).

The third witness, that of the Holy Spirit, speaks of the outpouring of the Spirit given on the day of Pentecost, the Spirit that spoke by the mouth of all the apostles, who preached with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven. The Holy Spirit accompanied the oral testimony of the apostles with astounding miracles and the Holy Spirit moved the apostles in their writings. The apostles’ words were accompanied with signs and wonders and divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Hebrews 2:4) But the Spirit’s testimony was also internal—i.e., He made all internally effective and available to the elect.

Assurance of God’s love. So, in 1 John we find John referring also to Christian assurance when he says, **“We know that He abides in us by the Spirit which He has given us.”** (1 John 3:24 and 1 John 4:13). Paul calls the Spirit the Earnest or Down Payment or Guarantee; John declares that the Holy Spirit given to true believers gives them a knowledge and all assurance of divine love. This is consistent with Paul’s letter to the Romans, Romans 5:5.

Now we have brought up several times the two Greek words, Ginosko and Oida, that are used for ‘to know’ in the New Testament – [γινώσκω/ginóskó/Strong 1097](#) and [οἶδα/eidó \(or oida\) Strong 1492](#). Ginosko signifies objective knowledge, what a man has learned or acquired. The English expression ‘being acquainted with’ perhaps conveys the meaning. [Οἶδα/Oida](#) conveys the thought of what is inward, the inward

consciousness in the mind, intuitive knowledge not immediately derived from what is external.

This is a bit technical, but worth it.

Difference between [ginóskó](#) and [oida](#)

The difference between the two words is illustrated in [John 8.55](#), ‘**Ye know [\[γινώσκω/ginóskó/Strong 1097\]](#) Him not, but I know [\[οἶδα/oida/Strong 1492\]](#) Him.**’

Listen to [John 13.7](#), ‘**What I do you do not know [\[οἶδα/oida/Strong 1492\]](#) now, but you shall know [\[γινώσκω/ginóskó/Strong 1097\]](#) hereafter.**’

The word [\[οἶδα/oida/Strong 1492\]](#) is used of Christ as knowing the Father, and as knowing the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, of Paul’s knowledge of ‘*a man in Christ,*’ ([2 Cor 2:12](#)), and of the Christian’s knowledge that he has eternal life, and the [knowledge of God Himself](#).

From the word meaning ‘inward conscious knowledge,’ a derivative means ‘conscience.’ **1 Cor. 4:4.** – ‘**For I know [\[σύνοιδα/synoida/Strong 4894\]](#) nothing against myself**’ – I am conscious of no fault.

2 Tim 1:12: ‘**I know [\[οἶδα/oida/Strong 1492\]](#) whom I have believed.**’ I have the inward conscious knowledge of who the person is. It is not just, ‘I know him.’

The difference between the significance of the two words is often slight, and objective knowledge may pass into conscious knowledge, but not vice versa. Objective knowledge may move into inward acquaintance, but listen to these strong words in John 3:10, 11 from Jesus to Nicodemus:

¹⁰“You are the teacher of Israel,” said Jesus, “and you do not understand [\[ginosko\]](#) these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, that what we know [\[oida\]](#) we speak, and what we have seen, we bear witness to what we have seen; and our witness, or testimony, you people do not receive or lay hold of.”

Dr. Simon Kistemaker, one of my seminary professors, said it something like this: Ginosko is like “I know you.” Oida is like “I knooow you.”

John 8:31, 32: ³¹**So He said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (*ginosko*)**

Final thoughts. Truth, God’s Word is truth. The Word is living and active. The Holy Spirit is the Life-Giver, the Life-Maker. Some are ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of truth. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free.

The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, THERE is liberty.

John 17:2, 3: ²**As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. ³And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. KJV**

Jesus said of some: I never knew you. He also said that He knew His sheep, and they follow Him when they hear His Voice.

21“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22**Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ **23**And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ NKJV (G1097, *ginosko*, to come to know, recognize, perceive)

John 10:27: **27**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28**I give them eternal life, and they will never [never not] perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ESV (*ginosko*, G1097)

May the Lord reveal truth to us such that we comprehend, perceive, acknowledge, align, and live according to the Word of the Living God. May the Holy Spirit, the Witness and the Spirit of Truth, lead us into all truth. Jesus Christ was sent by the Father to bear witness to the Truth. May we know Him who is our Life and lay hold of the connection between that life and the Word of God and the Witness and the Truth. The bond of the true believer to Christ is the bond of the Covenant in Christ's Blood. It cannot be broken. Behold the comfort and severity of the Lord. His love is pure, harmless, holy, and undefiled. His is a jealous love that will not let us go. He is the Flame of Yah and will do what He must to prepare us to live together eternally with Him. Amen.

I have written these things 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

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