



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. (1 John 4:13-16)

John writes this letter, which likely circulated to many house churches in the latter first century, to highlight the fundamental love of God for us expressed through the life and death of Jesus. He offers reassurance of this unrelenting love amidst persecution and perilous times.

In these verses, John begins by speaking of the confidence that comes through living in the Spirit of Jesus. Through the abiding presence of Jesus with us, we have life in him. Note that John does not speak of some kind of distant, eternal life in the heavenly realm; he speaks of full and meaningful life here on earth.

John validates this claim by personal experience. He has had a personal encounter with Jesus; this both speaks of being an eye witness to the events of Jesus' life and death and John's ongoing personal relationship with the living Spirit of Jesus. Through acknowledging Jesus on an ongoing basis (not a one time decision), anyone can experience the abundant and meaningful life with God and the ongoing, continuous and gracious love of God. Jesus is the embodiment of God's love; since Jesus continues to live with us, we are able to experience that continuation of divine love each and every day of our lives.



REFLECTION:

How do you experience the love of God in your life today?

PRACTICE:

Journal about your experiences of God's love this week.