

Those the Evil One Can't Touch

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[0 : 0 0] take out your bibles with me please and turn to the very end of first john john's first letter and his final words we look at today uh before i forget i want to remind folks or let people know if you didn't know uh if you're a note taker or not a note taker you wish you were a note taker or i don't know something in between um we actually have copies of the filled out notes the answer is already printed front back so if you want to save your time from writing or if that's just easier those are available they're out in the what do we call that foyer lobby entryway i think um and they're there if i remember to put them there um sometimes someone has to remind me but just wanted to let you know that all right so we come to the end of the first letter of john and i i tried to spread it out further um but everything good must come to an end so i i have thoroughly loved this book i have found john profound straightforward exceedingly helpful i hope you have too um we'll have a chance to review next week uh we'll review we did one review when we were halfway through we'll do uh this next review uh next sunday lord willing from the end of chapter three through the end so we'll we'll be able to discuss that's that's a chance for us to dialogue and talk about what we've learned what we've seen um share insights that kind of thing so look forward to that those are always fun um so let us get to it if you're able please stand as i read from first john five and we're going to read from verse 13 through the end even though we'll just be focusing on verses 18 through 21 first john 5 13 i have written these things to you who believe in the name of the son of god that you may know that you have eternal life and this is the confidence that we have toward him that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us and if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask we know that we have the request that we have asked of him if anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death he shall ask and god will give him life to those who commit sins that do not lead to death there is a sin that leads to death i do not say that one should pray for that all wrongdoing is sin but there is a sin that does not lead to death we know that everyone who has been born of god does not keep on sinning but he who was born of god protects him and the evil one does not touch him we know that we are from god and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one and we know that the son of god has come and has given us understanding

so that we may know him who is true and we are in him who is true in his son jesus christ he is the true god and eternal life little children keep yourselves from idols so it reads let us pray father grant us uh your mind your understanding as we come to think through these final words of john as he emphasizes things that we know affirm those things to us teach us father what they mean and grant us power enablement to walk in them this we pray in christ's name amen please be seated we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their creator with unalienable unalienable right i can't say it as well as it's true you recognize where that comes from written a little while ago back in 1776 adopted on july 4th by the second second continental congress written not by one man but by a group of five men one man usually gets the credit but he just wrote the draft and there were extensive changes to that draft declaration of independence we hold these truths to be self-evident what does that mean self-evident obvious fundamental granted so let me ask you about christian experience not christian beliefs but christian experience what are self-evident truths of christian experience what is it that we all as christians experience that are fundamental givens absolute certainties what do we experience every christian will experience self-evident and open it up what do you think what do we all experience as christians trials you're gonna go there first huh trials i was hoping for something more like god's love mercy peace joy comfort but yes trials we all experience trials what else that we know we're gonna have eternal life that we know we're gonna have eternal life we experience assurance assurance that's what we've been learning in this book what else mercy and grace conviction persecution persecution come on

really we all experience persecution jesus promised us that peace peace that passes understanding huh long suffering long suffering not the short kind the long kind yeah that's the word patient you don't want to say patience okay we also experience disappointment loss grieving in our trials suffering for our faith these are all common certainties that every christian will experience so john is emphasizing things that we know certain known uh absolutes self-evident truths right he's gonna talk about that today john has already written a letter to give us assurances in our christian life he wrote in verse 13 right we can know with full assurance that we have eternal life verse 15 we can know that god will fulfill our requests if we pray according to his will those are certain those are guaranteed if we pray according to his will he will fulfill the very requests we ask so we also know some certain fundamental experiences in our christian life so look at verse 18 he's gonna say we know particular things verse 18 we know we know that everyone who has been born of god does not keep on sinning okay we know that and what goes with that is we also know that he who was born of god protects and that the evil one does not touch him oh what's that i want to know the evil one can't touch all right verse 19 again we know that we are from god and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one verse 20 and we know we know that the son of god has come and given us understanding so that we may know him who is true so he's bringing to close his letter his last words john doesn't end his letter like like most people do not people paul peter others who end with you know a benediction right a blessing go in peace go in grace grace be to you something along those lines john just keeps oh i got another thing and i got another thing and then he ends with a command verse 21 little children keep yourselves from idols he is saying something very very important okay so let's look at this so john's last word emphasized certain absolutes of christian experience things that we know with absolute certainties and so john is stressing two i break it in of course i break it into two because i always break things into two right it's two halves john stresses two experiences i'm not just forcing that i really believe that that's what he's doing verse 18 and 19 he's talking about the experience of overcoming sin he's talking about how everyone born of god does not continue to sin is not continually sinning is not persistent in that doesn't mean christians don't sin read chapter one of john's letter it's clear every christian still sins we still fall but we don't

persist there's an overcoming there's something changing and then secondly in verse 20 brings up a different subject not related to our sin but to our knowledge of God he says we know that the son of God has come and given us understanding so that we may know him who is true so secondly he's going to talk about he's going to stress that we experience a relationship with God because of Christ every Christian is overcoming sin every Christian true Christian is in experiential relationship with the Almighty God that's what he's going to emphasize here at the end so first of all verses 17 to 19 well 17 he remember in 16:7 he's talked about this about a brother who is committing a sin not unto death so he's talking about the possibility or the reality that a brother a true Christian can sin and does in fact get snared in sin and needs someone to help him okay so we looked at that last week so starting with that now he says now we know that everyone who has been born of

God does not keep on sinning we know that those born of God are overcoming sin that they are not practicing it that they are not making that the pattern of their life as it once was because we've been converted we've been changed so he's going to give three reasons here verse 18 and 19 why is it that those who are born of God those who have been born of God are overcoming sin verse 18:1 because they've been born of God they have a new nature secondly because we have a new defender the one who was born of God is protecting!

[14:09] we have a new defender and then thirdly in verse 19 they have a new kingdom they have a new Lord they're no longer part of the under the grip of the evil one but now they're from God they're God's children so three advantages so let's look at the first one they have a new nature why do those born of God overcome sin and not make it a practice not make sinning a practice well they have been born of God what does that mean to be born of God so it's something that happens to you they have been born they don't birth themselves you don't cause your birth just like you didn't cause your natural birth you were just born and now he's talking about a new birth which Jesus talked about with Nicodemus at night remember John 3 right he shall be born again the only way to get into the kingdom of heaven in fact is to be born from above to be reborn so we call that regeneration transformation changed not physical rebirth but a rebirth in a sense that we had been dead before we're made alive to

God we have new life and we have this new kind of life that creates in us changes us to have new desires new values that weren't ours before now his commandments are no longer burdensome before we were changed his commandments were I don't want to do that was not natural now he's given us a new heart a new life now we still fall we still fail we still lapse into sin we can even lapse badly into sin like David did but the child of God will be brought back the child of God will the spirit will pursue you Christ will pursue you we will want to fight sin is that not true if you're born again do you enjoy your sin when you still sin no what about when you choose to

I'm not talking about just you fall into sin you know oh shoot I didn't mean that what about when you have a really bad day or season and you just want to skate or you just want to say what you know on your mind or whatever you don't enjoy that well maybe for a moment maybe for a moment but afterwards what we experience what James calls death something dies something is wounded between me and the Father me and Jesus and I need to clear that I hate my sin I want to fight my sin that's what's different then he says in the middle of verse 18 we know that everyone born of

God does not keep on sinning but what but he who was born of God protects him there's a protection a new defender but who is this new defender he who was born of God that sounds like now notice it's slightly different from the first one the beginning of verse 18 we know that everyone who has been born of God and then this one says but he who was born of God let me translate it a little!

bit different he who was begotten or the begotten one or the only begotten one does that clarify who that might be?

[18 : 36] He too was born of God in fact in Hebrews 5 5 it talks about you are my son today I have begotten you so God that one that's the one who's protecting the one who has been born of God say the one begotten the son guards us he protects us so that what now how does he clarify it again the end of verse 18 he who was born of God protects him and to what end that the evil one does not touch him now what does that mean who's the evil one the dragon satan devil called by many names the serpent right the evil one the son of

God protects the born again believer so that the evil one does not touch him literally the evil one is not touching him so okay so so what does that mean does the evil one does the dragon never touch or influence or impact Christians no doesn't mean that can't mean that in fact in Revelation we find out that not only does the dragon touch in a sense where he inflicts suffering he also kills remember the two witnesses were invincible until their days were up and the dragon killed them they laid for three days right and then what happened and they ascended to heaven so the dragon's victory was quite temporary merely apparent right so he can touch us physically he can inflict suffering on us he what

Paul said I've been given a messenger from God that is a servant of Satan to what thorn in my flesh so yeah what else Jesus said to Peter Peter Satan has demanded to sift you Peter was attacked Jesus was attacked Jesus was killed which was Genesis 3 right the seed of the woman right will be his heel will be bruised by the seed of the serpent right so what does touched mean evil will not touch him well here's here's this word that's used often in Jesus miracles so remember Jesus comes to the blind man and he touches his eyes and makes him see he comes to the deaf man and he touches his ears and he sees the woman desperate who's never been healed who's constantly bleeding comes and touches his robe in his cleanse and

Jesus feels it he felt power drain remember after Jesus was raised before he ascended Mary grabbed him my Lord and Jesus said stop clinging to me stop touching me stop clinging it means to fasten on to to cling to it's not just simply touch but to keep on touching to keep on to keep a grip on the evil one cannot keep a grip on the Christian he cannot control you he cannot possess you how can he possess one that has the Holy Spirit greater is he who is in you than he was in the world can the dragon afflict you yes can he deceive you yes can he tempt you yes how did he sift

Peter through a little girl through a little girl got him to do what he said he would never do so Christians are overcoming sin because they've been transformed they're overcoming sin because they have one who is guarding and protecting them so that the evil one cannot hold you in his grip like Job he can attack for a while if the one protecting moves the hedge back right like he did with Paul we can have seasons but he can't hold you in his grip okay and then third reason Christians overcome those born again overcome is because we're in a new realm we're in a new kingdom there's we have a new

[24 : 34] Lord look at what he says in verse 19 here's something else we know we know that we are from God we there's two kinds of people right John's always talking about two kinds of people walk those walk in light walk in darkness etc etc we are from God but the whole world is what lying in the power of the evil we are from God we're not in that realm!

this earthly realm whose kingdom is it? Who's the ruler of this world? Satan he's the god of this world he has authority in this world he's been kicked out no longer has access to heaven but he has power but we are free from that we know we are from God we've been transferred from the authority of darkness to the kingdom of his beloved son we are now his children our source of life is from him he is our father he is our lord we have a new lord the whole world is being laid in the grip of the devil so summary the Christian overcomes because we're born of God we're transformed we have a new nature because we have a defender who protects us from the evil one that the evil one cannot have ultimate control of us and finally because we've been transferred into a new realm this is my father's world right though the off seems though the bad seems what is it though the bad seems though the wrong seems off so strong thank you

Debbie I gotta work on that one because that's a good testimony verse worlds falling apart yeah but this is my father's world even though it often seems so bad because there's another one in charge he'll redeem it he's on his throne right so how does overcoming look in our practice he says this statement the ones born of God is not sinning that does not keep on sinning and we believers who are struggling we when we're in our dark days we who when we lapse miserably into straying from our dear Lord how is it that what's our life look like to overcome that we hate that so here's what

Paul says in Ephesians 4 he says now this I say in testifying the Lord that you speaking to Christians you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do in other words that implies that a Christian can still walk like his former life you still have those habits you still have those natural impulses right if you're passive in your faith you will just walk like you did formerly okay just comes natural so you must not walk as the Gentiles do in the futility of their minds they are dark in their understanding alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them why are they ignorant because of the hardness of their heart they don't want to know they become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality greedy to practice every kind of purity see that's practicing sin that's just I don't care I'm doing what I want right but he says but that is not the way you learned

Christ if indeed you have heard about him and were taught in him as the truth is in Jesus so what's our practice what's our process Paul makes it very simple what do we do one we put off the old self which belongs to our former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desire the way we used to walk all the natural things we deliberately put that off and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds we need to renew our mind it's not just a legalistic or a you know I just put that off and put this on there needs to be a renewing to make that powerful to make that effective I have to remember my thinking to be why do I do that it's not just

[29 : 37] I just put off the old because that's bad and I put on the new because that's good why do I do it renewing the mind I think that's so critical I think that's what Jesus did in Gethsemane right let this cup pass for me please let this cup pass for me but then what does he say but not my will but thine be done how does he get there oh yeah this is why I'm here he's renewing his mind so he's able to say not my will that's what I want I want out right so and then to put on the new self put off the old put on renew your mind put on the new what's the new self what is this new self it's something that's created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and this new self

I'm born again having been born of God means I'm recreated and I'm created after God's likeness I'm now like him I now have part of him in me I'm no longer just natural Bill I am changed transformed Bill that's why often they change their name when they became Christians right they get a Christian name I want Jedediah that's what I think that's a cool name this is a known certain experience for every Christian if you're born of God you are overcoming sin you're not practicing it you fall you fail you lapse but you are battling temptation you are beginning to be more intentional but putting your armor on more intent to follow Jesus right so that's the first certain experience there's a second one he names in verses 20 and 21 something else we know something else we know with certainty so verse 20 we know we know that the son of

God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him we may know him who is true and we are in him who is true in his son Jesus Christ he is the true God and eternal life keep yourselves from idols so second thing that we know with certainty is that Jesus has given us a relationship with the true God Jesus has given us a relationship with the true God he's given us an understanding a mind so that we can know him so how well it comes through revelation Jesus came to reveal he came and he gave us something he reveals the father he's gifted to us what the text says is understanding that word actually means mind he's given us a mind he didn't have a mind before yeah remember

Ephesians 4 talked about their mind was darkened before Christ we had a darkened mind we're blinded there's a veil so we can't see so now he's given us a mind remember in the upper room when Jesus was saying why don't you believe what the prophets have all said why don't you believe about me oh lord we believe no you don't and then he opened their minds to understand this all of a sudden the scales fall off and they can see oh Genesis talks about you Exodus talks oh my goodness Joshua talks about you the whole Old Testament talks about you how did we miss that I missed it growing up till I was shown how to rightly read the Old Testament which by the way there's a plug that's our next series he's gifted us an understanding a mind the word mind means to think through be able to process to put things together which is why the word then is translated understanding see if

I have a mind that can think through then I understand and I comprehend I'm able to put it together remember Jesus was always asking the disciples that in the gospel of Mark remember he said do you get it yet oh yeah yeah we get it no and the word meant to put it together have you put it together yet why because Jesus had fed the 5,000 and then he talks about beware the leaven of the Pharisees and they're all like how do we bring bread we forgot to bring bread and Jesus guys guys you haven't put it together yet I'm not talking about bread you don't have to worry about bread he's given us the ability to process to think through why so that we may know the true one this is interesting because the word for true here it's the regular word for true but it's kind of expanded a little bit so it means something a little bit more it means the one who is genuine who is the real deal who is the authentic one in contrast with the fake ones and the copies the!

[35 : 40] knockoffs he's the real one so that you may know the real one it's the same word Jesus used when he talked about I am the true bread I'm the real bread I am the true vine I'm the real vine that you draw from and bear fruit every other vine is a knockoff so so so no in what way his revelation leads to relationship not just that we know about him but that we know the living one we know the true God we know him how by experience we know him personally how do you personally know God we know about God how do we know him well Jesus has opened up understanding so that we enter into an actual relationship with God now we can come to him God has now drawn near to us we who are far off have been brought near we I mean Hebrews uses the picture of going into the holy place we now go into the holy of holies we can talk to him face to face so to speak God I mean nobody can see God but Jesus explained him Jesus revealed what the father is like he's compassionate he's true he's right all of these things so how do I know God how do I know him I can read about him but but there's a difference when I can talk to him and get to know him I get to know his patience I get to know his kindness I get to know his faithfulness

I get to know that he really hears me and answers prayer that I begin to experience peace that passes understanding when I truly humble myself under his mighty hand I experience that he in his time will lift me up he really does I experience that I experience when I'm walking away from him a nudge a knowledge an experiential knowledge that he's not mad but he's grieving he's grieving right I don't know that because I've read some condemning book I know that because I know what he wants right know what he wants have you got that you experience that living genuine personal experiential knowing of

God the real God I think that's what Noah had Noah walked with God how was Noah so different he walked with God I want to be Enoch Enoch walked with God Abraham walked with all these people that before all the revelation came out these were people that are already walking with God and could hear his voice and could right we have so much information now to know about him but this information to know about him is to lead us into knowing him not stop there with academic knowledge but to know him right and what does that involve He says he's given us understanding so we might know him who is true and we are in him who is true in his son

Jesus Christ we're in him so knowing him means we are in him somehow we're in him we're living in him we're abiding in him in a close relationship and John always makes it it's not just one it's both it's not just I'm living in Jesus I'm also living in the father I'm not just living in the father I'm also living in the son notice how he does that over and over so we know him who is true and his son and his son awesome which he says that's eternal life so here's the question now because now he's going to come up with this verse 21 keep yourselves from idols where did that come from he's just been talking about we're walking with God we're knowing God Jesus has revealed

[41 : 07] God how can we do anything else if we walk with God and we know him how would we ever go back to idols why would that ever be a threat when we have the real deal why would we ever be tempted to trust the imitation right and yet he says little children keep yourselves guard yourselves watch out for the idols or keep yourself from the idols what's an idol it's an idol so literally the word means an image right it's a copy it's an imitation of something else so we draw a picture it's an image of something right we take a picture of we have images right of something we've seen it's an image it's not the real deal it's the image of it it's the imitation it's the copy it's the fake kind of

God it's the illusory God the fantasy God like like like the what are all the comics and movies you know all the superheroes are those real are those real no they're made up the fantasy well that's what idols are although it's not that they're Paul talks about in Corinthians he talks about you know to a Christian the idol's nothing it's nothing but to the one who serves the idol it's demonic so there is a power in it if one gives that power demons work behind that obviously so an idol is a representative of a God right it's something so how do we become idolaters I mean how does a Christian become an idolater we already have the one real true

God we got the original we got the authentic why would we substitute something less it's just a well because though the evil one cannot hold us in his grip he can still tempt us he can still entice us he can still distract us he's a roaring lion seeking someone to devour we must resist him right we must battle him we must wear our armor we must have the shield so that the flinging fiery darts of the evil one do not hurt us right so one of the ways he tempts us is you know God doesn't seem to listen to your prayer God is always talking about waiting apparently we talk about answering prayers it's either yes no or wait right and the longer we're a

Christian it seems there's a lot of the waiting ones right yeah wait on that one God that's why Jesus keeps talking about keep praying keep praying keep praying keep praying be like the widow hounding the judge right just keep going you know but we get tired we get discouraged we get disappointed and so we look for an easier God to control we don't do that blatantly we want some guarantee of our success so the old idols were kind of like putting the coin in the slot and getting what you want right if you do this for this sun God you'll get good sun if you do this to the rain God you'll get rain for your crops if you do this for the healing God then you can get healed they had a God for everything right we're talking about Egyptian culture Greek culture Roman culture you name it there's all kinds of gods and

Israel adopted that because it was a lot easier! He'll be with you I was thinking about this mentioned it in Sunday school Bible study I think about Ruth Ruth watched Naomi go through what Naomi called God's against me right God created a famine took her out of her home to a foreign land then God takes her husband and then God takes her two sons takes everything and she's going back because the famine is over and she's going back to Bethlehem and she tells her daughters right

[46 : 43] Ruth and Oprah what was her name Oprah! Sorry Oprah I care go go back go back why go with me don't go with me God's against me and so Oprah goes you know Ruth won't Ruth won't go why won't Ruth go Naomi doesn't understand why would you go with me I got nothing we find out later that Boaz recognizes something in Ruth he says oh I know you you have come for refuge under the wings of the almighty where did she get that idea because all she's experienced with Naomi is loss suffering death pain emptiness where did she get the idea that there's refuge in that God she'd been 10 years in that family she'd been here in the

Passover story every year she'd been hearing how God did this and God did that and God did this and God did that and God will still do something else particularly he's going to bring a Messiah into the world so what God do you see Ruth was able to see something that even Naomi forgot God but we often are tempted to take the easy way so so what is our God our God can be anything that we serve it could be whatever we worship whatever we look to for security whatever we depend on for our success something that we are devoted to above all else that's our God that's our idol doesn't have to be an image it could be simply a mental image when I was in depression my God my

God I thought my God was the God because I was praying to him for relief please relieve me please heal and that's a biblical prayer give me relief relieve this pressure this stuff and I discovered at the end of 12 years that I wanted that more than I wanted him I had an idol I was shocked I had an idol I wanted relief more than I wanted God and when he showed me that that's what I was serving that's what I was hoping for that's what I was devoted to he showed me that shattered me took a while to learn that humbling yourself under God's mighty hand took me a while to learn what that looked like in that to give that up right when he enabled me to do that I felt the lifting

I felt the burden God I felt this you can make a God out of anything idols are a short circuit answer that's what our soul appeals to earthly gods that's my quick escape that's my quick answer because our heavenly father bless him likes us to go a different road doesn't he because it's for our good and it honors him God has given us a relationship Jesus has given us a relationship with God right and this is the very thing that Jesus prayed before he went to the cross in John 17 this was Jesus his prayer so

Matthew 6 is often called the Lord's prayer because he teaches! us how to pray that's really our prayer that's the disciples prayer the Lord's prayer is John 17 that's his prayer that's how he prayed to the father before he went to the cross this is very powerful so I just want to read portions of it John 17 here's Jesus saying father father the hour has come glorify your son that your son may glorify you since you have given him authority over all flesh to give eternal!

[51 : 27] life to all whom you have given him that was Jesus his ultimate mission to give eternal life and this is eternal life that they may know you there it is that they may know you that's the ultimate to know God to know him by experience that they may know you the only true God oh he says the same thing John says I wonder if he got it from John no John got it from him the true the real the genuine!

God and Jesus Christ whom you have sin I glorified you on earth I have accomplished the work that you gave me to do and now Father glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed here's what he did I have manifested your name to the people I have revealed your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world yours they were and you gave your word now they know that everything that you have given me is from you for I have given them the words that you gave me and they have received them and have come to know in truth same words John's emphasized what we know they have come to know in truth that I came from you and they have believed that you sent me

I'm praying for them so here's this prayer for them for us holy father keep them in your name I gave them your name now keep them there keep them in your name which you've given me that they may be one even as we are one while I was with them I kept them in your name which you have given me I have guarded them and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction that the scripture might be fulfilled but now I am coming to you and these things I speak in the world that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves I have given them your word and the world has hated them because they're not of the world just as I am not of the world I do not ask you that you take them out of the!

They are not of the world just as I am not of the world sanctify them in the truth your word is truth powerful stuff I attempted to dive into it but I pray that God restrains me how do we truly know God well that's the whole mission of Jesus is to reveal him so that we can know him and Jesus said I revealed you by giving them your words the word you gave to me I gave to them that's why Jesus used to say everything I say is not my own initiative I only say what the father tells me to say imagine that everything is father son us so that we can know the father because without that we don't know him we know if we receive his words we come to know truth and the truth is found in his word so are you pursuing relationship with

God how you doing how you doing are you pursuing relationship with him are you putting aside time not just to do your devotions but to devote to him I mean we all get caught right so walk with him talk with him I will tell you this that if you're passive in your relationship with God you are vulnerable to idols if we're not intentional if we're just going through motions right we will find imitations we will find other securities so Christian he has transformed you he protects you he's adopted you he's given you a relationship with the true God so as a child of God guard yourself from the idols let's pray father we thank you for

[56 : 21] John's word how how wonderful it has been we hate to let go but father we we thank you for what journey you have brought us on through through your servant John through his obvious wisdom and knowledge that he can pass on to us to give us assurance to remind us of things we we know and so father we pray today that you would remind us we are grateful for what you've revealed to us we pray as Jesus that you would keep us in your name keep us in your word and keep us from the evil one we pray in Christ's name amen to end end end end end end end end end end