

1 John 016

9/26/21

Seeing The Invisible God

1 John 4:12-15

I. **Introduction:**

A. **Seeing the Invisible**

1. Things that we cannot see give evidence of their existence.
2. Illustrations:
 - a. – Gravity
 - i. Sir Isaac Newton observed an apple falling from a tree & surmised the theory of gravitational force. He theorized gravity's the same force holding us to ground as holds the planets in their orbits.
 - ii. We recognize the reality of gravity by observing what it does.
 - b. – The Wind
 - i. The effect of the wind is easily observed by seeing leaves blown across the lawn or limbs on the trees swaying back & forth, or the waves of the ocean, driven by the wind, or feeling the cool breeze of autumn upon our face.
 - ii. We recognize the reality of the wind by observing what it does.

II. **The Invisible God (1 John 4:12-13)**

- *The reality of God is recognized by observing what He has done & what He's doing now.*

A. **No One Has Seen God.**

1. No man has ever seen God in His unveiled essence and glory.
2. We are finite sinful creatures. To see God in His unveiled holiness would be our death.
3. Moses: Moses wanted to see the glory of God. **See Exodus 33:20b**
4. As sinful mortal creatures we cannot look upon God's perfection and live.

B. **The Evidence of God**

- *God can't be seen with our physical sight, but effect of what He does can be seen.*
- *There are two realities John speaks to as evidence of God in us.*
 1. – Love perfected
 - a. God is love. Love is who He is in His essence. **(1 John 4:12)**
 - b. Therefore, if we love others as God has loved us we bear evidence that God is in us.
 - c. We see the reality of God in us by the manifestation of His love in our lives.
 - d. All who demonstrate the love of God demonstrate their relationship with God.
 - e. Perfected: God's love is "perfected" in us meaning to achieve/accomplish something
 - f. The evidence of our salvation is the achievement of His love expressed in our lives.
 - g. Application: This does not mean we love perfectly or as we should all the time.
 - h. However, the habit of our lives will be characterized by the love of God.
 2. – The Holy Spirit
 - a. The second reality or evidence of God in us is the Holy Spirit. **(1 John 4:13)**
 - b. We have continuous fellowship with God the Father by Holy Spirit who lives in us
 - c. At the moment of saving faith in Jesus Christ, the Father gives the Holy Spirit to us.
 - d. The Holy Spirit does no less than four important things in our lives.
 - (1) Earnest of our redemption
 - a. **Ephesians 1:14** says Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance in Christ.
 - b. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our salvation.

(2) Internal Testimony

a. The Holy Spirit bears witness to my heart that I am saved. (**Romans 8:16**)

(3) The Fruit of the Spirit

a. It is the outward fruit of the Spirit that lends evidence of God abiding in us.

b. The fruit of the Spirit is as stated. **See Galatians 5:22-23**

c. These are the evidence of God and His abiding in us.

d. Therefore, when we love like God we're giving evidence of His abiding in us.

(4) Moral Compass

a. The Holy Spirit serves as the moral compass in our lives.

b. He convicts us of sin so we might confess and forsake it.

c. He leads us to make choices that honor the Father.

3. Application: The spiritual fruit is evidence of the invisible God working in your life.

III. Apostolic Testimony (1 John 4:14-15)**A. We have seen**

1. No one has seen the invisible God. John & other apostles declared they'd seen Jesus.

2. Jesus is the visible manifestation of the invisible God. (**John 14:9**)

3. Jesus is the manifestation of the invisible God to the world.

4. This harkens back to the opening of this letter. (**1 John 1:1-3**)

5. All the human senses were involved in John's testimony. They saw Jesus with physical eyes.

6. They heard Him speak and teach with their ears and hearts. They observed His life.

7. They touched Jesus, He was literal, physical in His humanity.

8. Application: The invisible God is real, just as real as the reality we experience in this moment.

9. God's reality is so undeniable only a fool would take such a position against Him. (**Psalms 14:1**)

B. Savior of the world

1. The invisible God demonstrated His love for us by sending His only Son to be world's Savior.

2. God sent Him because there is no other way for us to be saved. 2 questions regarding salvation.

(1) – What are we saved out of?

a. We are saved out of spiritual death, here and in eternity.

b. We are saved out of eternal judgment in the lake of fire.

c. We are saved out of spiritual darkness in this life.

d. We are saved out of sinful habits which chain and trap us.

e. We are saved out of fear and anxiety which haunt us.

f. We are saved out of our mistakes and bad choices which hurt us and those we love.

g. We are saved out of defeat to daily temptation that traps us.

(2) – What are we saved to?

a. We are saved to spiritual life here and forever.

b. We are saved to full and eternal pardon from sin.

c. We are saved to spiritual light.

d. We are saved to obedience and freedom from the law.

e. We are saved to a living hope, confidence, and joy.

f. We are saved to everlasting life in the family of God.

g. We are saved to an eternal relationship with our creator God.

C. Personal Confession Evidence

1. Finally there is the personal confession evidence of the invisible God. (**1 John 4:15**)

2. This is more than a doctrinal statement for the person who professes it as theirs.

3. To confess that Jesus is the Son of God is to confess that He is one's personal Savior.

4. It is to make a personal declaration that God lives in me and I in Him.

5. The commitment & obedience is the outward & visible evidence of the inward working of the invisible God.