

## The First Epistle of John

## 14

**Morning Devotions**

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

**Morning Study**

This morning we focus on the fifth section of John's first epistle – **4:1-21** – which can be divided into three sub-sections:

**Read 1 John 4:1-6**

- ☞ John tells his readers not to believe every spirit but to do what? (**4:1**).
- ☞ Why does John tell his readers to test the spirits? (**4:1**).
- ☞ How do you recognize the Spirit of God and the spirit of “not from God”? (**4:2-3**).
- ☞ What is the spirit of antichrist? (**4:3**).
- ☞ Who had John's “dear children” overcome? (**4:4**) (see **4:3**).
- ☞ Why had John's readers overcome them? (**4:4**).
- ☞ Why did the world listen to those with the spirit of antichrist? (**4:5**).
- ☞ How are we to recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood? (**4:6**).

**Read 1 John 4:7-12**

- ☞ Where does love come from and what does this mean for those who love? (**4:7**).
- ☞ Why is it that whoever does not love does not know God? (**4:8**).
- ☞ How do we know what true love is? (**4:9-11**).
- ☞ How is God's love made complete in us? (**4:12**).

**Read 1 John 4:13-21**

- ☞ How do we know that we live in God and he in us? (**4:13**).
- ☞ What is the requirement to have God live in you? (**4:14-15**).
- ☞ Who is the one who lives in God and why is this so? (**4:16**).
- ☞ Why will we have confidence on the day of judgment? (**4:17-18**).
- ☞ Why do we love? (**4:19**).
- ☞ What does John call the one who says “I love God” but hates his brother? (**4:20**).
- ☞ What is this so? (**4:21**).

# Memory Verse

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!