



## Daily Devotionals

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### 1 JOHN 4:13-16 ASSURANCE OF THE TRUTH

*13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because 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 him and he in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*

The assurance of the fact that the Holy Spirit lives in us is the transformation of our lives. It is not that we suddenly become successful in all things or that we take a vocation in the Church. Rather, when the Holy Spirit lives in us he convicts us of the Truth and guides our way of thinking toward God and our neighbor.

The divine reality, the absolute Truth, is that the Father loves the world so much that he sent his eternal Son into the world to die in the place of sinful human beings so that those same beings might be reconciled to the Father (John 3:16). That Truth encompasses the fact that the Father acts in love and that in his essence he is love. It also describes God as an eternal fellowship of persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, related in self-giving love. In addition, that revealed Truth explains that Jesus is the incarnation of the eternal Son, and therefore is God. Finally, the Truth is that the world cannot save itself, that is, restore itself to a perfect relationship with God. In short, the Spirit convicts us of our sin and our need of a Savior, who that Savior is and the role of love in our salvation.

Since this Truth cannot be proved empirically, there is always a question of assurance. The way we know things in the physical realm is to test and see. However, God is spirit and there is no way for us to directly test things spiritual using our physical senses. However, things spiritual do have physical effects which we can measure. Simply stated, anything that makes a difference will produce a difference. The net that catches a falling man must stop the man's fall. If the power of the Spirit is to bring us knowledge of the Truth and empowerment for us to live according to that Truth, then our lives must demonstrate the power of that Truth if the Spirit lives in us. If the Spirit is the Spirit of God, then the change that we experience must be an observable godliness.

When we put our faith in Jesus the Holy Spirit is given to us. As we recognize and repent of our godless ways, God's way becomes increasingly manifested in our lives. Since God has revealed his nature as self-giving love, our lives in faith become more and more identified by that love. As our lives are transformed we grow in our assurance about God and our reconciled relationship with him.

**My prayer, Lord, is not for more of the Holy Spirit, because you have given him to me fully. Rather, my prayer is that I might become more open to hearing his Truth and being transformed by your love. Root out from the storerooms of my heart all selfishness and rebellion. Through the Spirit flush them clean and fill them with your love. Make me a true worshiper and a living witness of you. Amen.**