

Finding *Renewal* in the Love of God

Unit 6: Living Renewal as a Testimony to the Eternal Life

Study Questions with Answers

The Amazing Life of Joy:

1. Read 1 John 1.1-8 in the Message. How would you describe the writer's overwhelming emotion concerning having been a witness to the *life of Christ on earth*? Write a few adjectives that describe the way the author feels about this life he has received. **AMAZED! Proud, incredulous, convinced, exuberant, anxious to share.**

John seems overwhelmed by the amazing truth that one can actually **share** in a communion of life with God the Father and His Son (and he does!). However incredible it may seem, he claims that he and all those who walked with Jesus can testify that it is true. The LIFE of GOD appeared before them and walked among them. They saw it, heard it, touched it, and they received it. It is REAL life, and it IS AVAILABLE for men!

2. According to 1.5-8, why is he writing this letter? What does this tell us about his feelings about the life he lives in Christ? **When someone finds something so extraordinary for free, just for the taking, he shares the good news. John is spreading the word; he desires to increase the fellowship, not only to share his joy with others, but in doing so, to redouble joy in himself.**
3. What can we learn from John's enthusiasm as expressed in the first chapter of the book? On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is barely at all and 10 is a perfect match, how does your excitement about your life in Christ compare with that of John's? Why do you think so?

The Amazing Life of Victory:

4. Read the scriptures below and write beside each notation what it is John says the Christian has/can overcome by the power of her life in Christ.
 - a. 1.7, 2.2 We **have overcome**... **sin (continually)**
 - b. 2.28-29 We **have overcome**... **guilt and shame**
 - c. 4.4 We **have overcome**... **false teach(ings) (ers)**
 - d. 5.4 We **have overcome**... **the ways of the world (our fellowship IS w/ our God)**

The Amazing Life of Confidence:

5. Write below the many manners of confidence described in this text? (5.13-15)
 - **Belief** that equals **knowledge beyond a shadow of a doubt**
 - The **reality** of eternal life
 - **Boldness** capable of approaching God
 - **Freedom** to approach God and **freedom** to ask whatever we wish, because we **know** his will
 - **Assurance** that God is listening for us and to us
 - **Confidence** that He will provide what we ask according to His will

The Amazing Life of Protection:

6. Read 1 John 5.18-20.
 - e. From whom is the Christian protected? **The Evil One**
 - f. By whom is the Christian protected? **God the Father through Christ**
 - g. How is the Christian protected? (see also 2.13-14 and 4.4) **The Evil One cannot lay a hand on us; we live in Christ—in the truth itself, our God and True Life.**

A Life of Belonging in the Father's love: (see texts below)

Belonging to the family:

7. In 3.1-2, what is our current reality which flows from the amazing love of God? **We are children of God—REALLY His *children*.**
8. In the same text, what drawback is there to this position we hold while we remain on earth? **The world does not understand us; it couldn't even understand His testimony as the Son of God; our testimony as a child of God will be no less confusing to them. Therefore, we will not fit in here.**
9. What might we anticipate (though we cannot fully understand now) in the future? **When He comes **we will be like Him**. This side of that fact, we cannot truly understand this—only when we **see Him** as He truly is will we be fully changed so that we can know the full reality of what it means to be a child of God. Until then, it is just incredible anticipation.**

Living out love:

10. Read 2.1-11.
 - a. In the first paragraph of Chapter 2, verses 1-6, what kind of life is the Christian to live in this world? **a life like the one Jesus lived**
 - b. In the second paragraph of Chapter 2, verses 7-11, the writer outlines his basic idea regarding this type life. He speaks of a commandment that has existed since the beginning, but which has been "freshly minted" in Christ and now in all Christians. Read these verses: Lev. 19.18, John 13.34; John 15.12; 1 John 3.11-14, 23; 1 John 4.7-12. What is this commandment? **To love one another**
 - c. How does failing to dwell in the light of this commandment affect our brothers and sisters according to 1 John 2.7-11? **If we do not love our brothers, we are blocking the light of God from them.**

Choosing the right:

11. Read 1 John 2.15-17. What one word is most often repeated in this paragraph?
- a. Find two sources of for my desires. _____ or _____.
- b. Complete the following sentence: According to 1 John 2.15-17, I have two choices.
I can do what ___ I ___ want, or I can do what ___ God ___ wants.
- c. How does my decision about this choice impact the manner in which the fruits of my desire endure? **If I choose to want the things the world offers, everything I possess will pass away; if I choose to want the things that God wants, those things I “acquire” last an eternity.**
- d. As I examine my life in reference to this paragraph, how does my response to this choice impact my finances? My time? My marriage? My other relationships?
12. In 1 John 3.7-10, John says, “people conceived and brought into life by God do not make a practice of sin.” Why not? **Because God’s seed lives deep within them, making them who they are. It is not in their natures.**
13. In chapter 4, verses 15-19, John writes of other benefits of such a love. What is it about our participation in God’s love that frees us from fear? **Because of our intimate relationship with God and the extraordinary power of his love, we ourselves are overcome by His love. “We know it so well, we’ve embraced it, heart and soul, this love that comes from God.” It becomes at home in us and matures (into love like His) in us. We are so much like Him and know Him so well that we do not fear Him; rather we rest in His love.**
14. Consider the headings in this group of questions (listed below). On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is barely at all and 10 represents the total package, rate your experience in Christ regarding the life that John desires each Christian to possess.
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| d. Life of Joy | h. Life of Belonging to the family |
| e. Life of Victory | i. Life of Living out Love |
| f. Life of Confidence | j. Life of choosing the right |
| g. Life of Protection | k. |
15. Which of the above received the lowest rating(s)? Reconsider the passages related to these qualities of life.
- l. What is it in my life that limits me keeps me from possessing this part of the Christian experience as fully as I might?
- m. What changes might I make in my life that would aid me in continuing to grow in this area?