



How to Live Within God **1 John 2:20-29**

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father (1 John 2:24—KJV).

As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father (1 John 2:24—NASB).

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father (1 John 2:24—NRSV).

In 1 John 2:20, John taught that believers in Jesus Christ, the Son, have been anointed by the Holy One—God is One. The New Testament teaches that the Holy One is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—three Persons. The Holy One anoints with the Holy Spirit all who believe in Jesus Christ. Then, the Holy Spirit begins living within each believer. In this way, believers in Jesus Christ become the temple of the living God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, believers abide (or remain) in the Son and the Father, like someone living in a house, but spiritually. Just as someone can enjoy dwelling in their living room, believers in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, can spiritually enjoy living and remaining within the Son and the Father—their spiritual home. If you ask how God and believers can do this, John has answered that it begins with truths a believer has learned and believed about Jesus. In the beginning, John’s readers believed the message about Jesus, the Son of God, coming in a real physical human body to live, teach, die, and rise again as the Christ (the promised Hebrew Messiah). Then, John emphasized that to continue abiding (or living) in the Son and the Father, a believer must continue believing the truths they first learned about God as they are now recorded in the Bible. With the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, through prayer and Bible study a believer will continue to abide within God and God within them.

Thinking Further

1. What kind of person do you think John meant when he wrote, “all of you have knowledge”?
2. How did John describe the liar and the antichrist?
3. How might you explain, “No one who denies the Son has the Father,” to someone who thinks all religions worship the same God?
4. How can you make certain that what you heard from the beginning abides in you?
5. What can happen to you if what you heard from the beginning no longer abides in you?