



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

### Open

**February 11, 2018**

*This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.—1 John 3:23*

In this verse, John spells out the two key parts of God's command, and those become the outline that the next two passages (3:24-4:6 and 4:7-21) reveal in greater detail. This week, part one, we consider orthodox, Christian doctrine. John explains that a life of obedience to God means we understand and believe the foundational truths about the person and work of Jesus Christ, His eternal Son. Thankfully, the Spirit, who dwells in every believer, provides all the resources necessary to decipher false teachers and messages, and remain in an abiding relationship with God the Father, and God the Son. Spirit-led discernment is not a rarity. It is the normal experience of a follower of Jesus Christ.

### Main Point

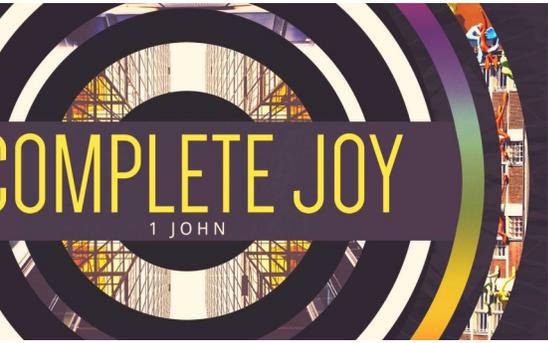
Agreeing with God about who His Son is and what He has accomplished is a requirement of genuine faith. The Spirit confirms our faith and helps us recognize a phony messenger with a counterfeit message.

### Read

1 John 3:23-4:6; Matthew 7:15-23; John 16:8-11;  
Galatians 5:16-18

### Discuss

- 1 John 3:23 describes two, simple parts of obedience to God's command—belief and love. Is one more difficult? Is one more important?
- Can these two parts adequately encompass believing faith? If so, how? Do we think sincere faith has other requirements/proofs? What are they?
- Is maintaining doctrinal faithfulness easy? If "yes", why does John speak so definitely about it? If "no", what attacks on this doctrine are common or difficult?
- We see the word "confess" again, which indicates total agreement. It is also a "fruit" of sincere faith. How does Matthew 7:15-23 confirm that the message is the issue, not a deed or work?
- According to John, how is spiritual discernment available to all believers. Why do we see false teaching threaten the Church, or our specific church?



**Sermon Notes**



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