

- WELCOME TO -  
**MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH**

...FOLLOWING GOD, LOVING OTHERS...



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GOD IS  
LIGHT

WALK  
LIKE JESUS

GOD  
IS  
LOVE

FIGHT FOR  
FAITH

CHILDREN OF GOD ARE DIFFERENT

WALK IN THE TRUTH

ETERNAL LIFE IS THROUGH JESUS  
ALONE

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

FALL SERMON SERIES

SUPPORT THOSE ON MISSION

FIGHT FOR FAITH

GOD IS LOVE

WALK IN THE TRUTH

ETERNAL LIFE IS THROUGH  
JESUS ALONE

GOD IS  
LIGHT

A LOOK AT 1 JOHN, 2 JOHN, 3 JOHN & JUDE WITH PASTOR JEREMY

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 - 11

## WORDS TO LIVE BY SERIES

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# SERMON DOODLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

# MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

## 1 JOHN 5:1-5 – GOD IS LOVE REVIEW

We have come to the end of the first letter of John. We will continue to see many of the same themes that John has hit on in the first four chapters which include love, belief, salvation, and obedience. Pause before you read and try to remember what John has said about each of those things throughout his letter so far. John, as well as I, wants us to be clear on these themes and to make sure we truly live it out in our lives.

Today John repeats himself on the idea of being a child of God and loving like God. All of those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are children of God. If we are a child of God, we are to love God and to love His children. The way we live out this love is by loving God and obeying His commands. John wants it to also be clear that these commands are not burdensome. No, the commands that God has for us to follow are for the benefit of our lives and the lives around us. This doesn't mean that it will be easy, just that it should be a joy to live in obedience to the Father. The world should no longer have its draw on us for Jesus is better.

As parents this is easy for us to understand. Obedience is a sign of love and respect. Can you imagine a child telling you no or choosing to do it their own way? This is not a show of love or respect and the same is true for our heavenly Father. He is perfect and all He asks of us is good. How can we say we love God and disobey His commands for our lives? God truly knows best and whenever we deny His Spirit and His leading, we are not living in love towards our Father or towards His children that are around us. When we choose to go our own way, we can easily lead other children of God astray too. May we love well by obeying well for the glory of God.

SONG:

“Teach Me To Obey” - Bria Jean

### KIDS QUESTION:

Is it always easy to obey your parents? Is it what you should do?  
We need to obey our Heavenly Father always.

## YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

How is your obedience to God? Is it possible that God doesn't always agree with everything you say and do?

PRAYER:

Lord, humble us today so that we are obedient to Your truth and not blinded by the sparkly lights of this world.

[illegible]

# TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

## 1 JOHN 5:6-8 – PROVING JESUS BY THE WATER, BLOOD & SPIRIT

Today we are going to look at the three aspects in these verses that prove Jesus Christ. First, the water. Throughout all of scripture water has been a picture of purification. God flooded the world to purify it once again. Israel had to pass through the water twice as a symbol of deliverance from slavery and being delivered into the promised land. In the New Testament Jesus was baptized with water and during that baptism the Spirit descended like a dove and the voice of the Father declared that Jesus was His Son. Even on the cross when they put a spear in His side, blood and water flowed to prove that He was really dead.

The second word, blood, also has a lot of history throughout scripture. Blood was always needed to cleanse from sin and purify. They had to sprinkle all the items of the tabernacle and temple with blood to purify them and make them holy. The priest had to have blood on them to be cleansed for serving, and the people needed to bring an animal to sacrifice, and the blood was a cover for their sin. In the life of Jesus, we see that He shed His blood on the cross and He died for the once for all cover for our sin to purify us from all unrighteousness.

Finally, the Spirit has been present from the beginning as well. The Spirit of the Lord hovered over the deep and was an active participant in creation. As mentioned, the Spirit confirmed the divinity of Jesus at His baptism and the apostles were filled with the Spirit to accomplish the task of declaring Jesus to the known world.

The water and the blood showed the humanity of Jesus and His sacrificial death. The Spirit proved His divinity before and after His death and has continued to empower people to share the good news of the gospel. Jesus' humanity and divinity made Him the only possibly once for all sacrifice for our sins and now because of Him our sins are washed away and we are a new creation that is led by the Holy Spirit. This is what we believe, and this is why we can believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior!

SONG:

## “Water and Blood” - Wondersigns

### KIDS QUESTION:

## How do you know Jesus is who He says He is?

## YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

What proof do you point to to show others that Jesus is who He says He is?

## PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for the visible proof that Jesus was divine and human. We are so grateful for His love and sacrifice on the cross.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

1 JOHN 5:9-12 - LIFE COMES THROUGH THE SON ALONE

One thing I appreciate about John is that He is black and white. Our world has tried to make things gray and say that there is no absolute truth. Even within churches we have so many denominations that believe different things and we say that it's okay. We seem to have lost the ability to declare what is right and what is wrong and simply try to just get along in our differences. Thankfully there are some things that denominations can agree on and that is how someone is saved.

God the Father testified about the Son at the baptism. God the Spirit testifies in our hearts about the truth of Jesus being the Messiah. We are left without excuse in the end and those who are being saved are only those who believe that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior. If you do not believe in Jesus Christ, then you do not have eternal salvation and will find yourself eternally separated from God. I know this sounds very simple, but these phrases make a black and white distinction. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone and not through good works, not through being nice, not through going to church, the list could go on and on.

Are you saved? Why do you believe you are saved? Is everyone around you saved? Do you know what they believe about Jesus? One of the most dangerous things we can do as a friend is to assume our friends truly know Jesus. In the end this is the only question that will matter. It won't matter how much math you know, how good you are at sports, how many houses or cars you have. The only thing that will matter is who do you say Jesus is. So, who do you say Jesus is, not just with your mouth, but who does your heart say that Jesus is?



SONG:

“You Saved Me” - UPPERROOM

### KIDS QUESTION:

## What does salvation come from? Have you been saved?

## YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

## How are you saved? Are you saved?

PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for making salvation so black and white. It is by Your grace alone that I believe in Jesus Christ for on my own I would try in my own power until I failed.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

1 JOHN 5:13-15 - WHAT WE CAN KNOW

What do you know to be true? How do you know those things to be true? Even in the time of John it seems that there is a question whether you can truly know things or not. Oftentimes in school the teachers or professors will ask a question to challenge the understanding or knowledge of the student. Most of the time this is not done to undermine the student, but it is to help the student truly know that they know what they know. John gives us two things that we can know when we are in the will of God.

First, we can know what we talked about yesterday. We can know without a doubt that we are saved through Jesus Christ. No more should we say I hope so, or I think so, or maybe. If we believe in our heart that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, we will be saved. We can know that we are saved and we no longer have to question that salvation. John also says that if we are in the will of God, we can know that He hears our prayers and that we will have whatever we ask. This one seems a little trickier for us today, but the guidelines are clear. If we pray in the will of the Father, then we will receive what we ask for. When you think about it, it is very simple. Of course, God desires for His will to be done & so if we are praying likeminded with God, He will gladly answer our prayer with a yes.

Here are the two “if” statements that cause us to know that we are saved and our prayers will be answered. If we believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we can KNOW that we are saved. If we pray according to the will of God, then we can KNOW He hears us, and it will be done. So, when we pray, do we pray according to the will of God or according to our own will? Oftentimes I find myself praying in a way that I imagine God would approve of, but it is often still through the lens of my selfish desires. Church, may we learn to pray according to the will of God today.

SONG:

["Hear My Prayer"](#) - Maranatha Singers

### KIDS QUESTION:

## What does it mean to pray according to the will of God?

## YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

How do you think you can pray according to the will of God?

PRAYER:

Lord, may Your will be done today. I pray You will open my eyes to the people around me and how I can meet their physical and spiritual needs in the power of Your Spirit.

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# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

## 1 JOHN 5:16-17 – PRAY FOR YOUR SINS AND THE SINS OF OTHERS

Today we cover the topic of sin and what we should do about it. Let's start out today by thinking about how we would define sin? Sin is typically understood as not doing what God commands or doing what God has not commanded. God is the one who defines what is right and wrong and what is sin and not. So, when we realize we sin, what should we do about it? When we see other people sin what should we do about it?

John mentions two types of sins in this passage. One is a sin that does not lead to death, and one is a sin that leads to death. The death we are talking about here is an eternal death. In other words, what is the unforgiveable sin? We will get to that in a minute. John encourages Christians to pray to God when they realize they have sinned and to pray for other brothers and sisters when they see them sin. Personally, when we pray about sin it is to confess and repent of our sin and we should pray for our friends to do the same thing. The unforgiveable sin that is mentioned in this passage is simply a lack of belief in Jesus Christ. John has covered this in almost every chapter in the book. If someone does not believe in Jesus Christ, it doesn't matter how much someone else prays, it will not change their salvation. That doesn't mean we can't pray for them to come out of their unbelief, it is just saying our prayers will not change their eternal destination, only their faith will.

How often do you think you sin? How often do you specifically pray to God about a specific sin? It is dangerous to just pray a generic prayer about sin because we are human and we probably did something we shouldn't have done. It is important for us to be aware of our sin, repent of it specifically and go to God for help. Take some time today and seek God and pray for repentance of any specific sin He has shown you in your life. Then also pray for others who you might see living in sin and ask that God would draw them to Himself and help them step out of the sin as well.

SONG:

["In Jesus Name"](#) - Katy Nichole

### KIDS QUESTION:

How often do you sin? Do you pray for forgiveness for each individual sin?

## YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

What are some specific sins you have done today? Yesterday?

PRAYER:

Lord, please forgive me of \_\_\_\_\_. I repent of that speech, action, or thought and know that You are faithful to forgive!

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# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

## 1 JOHN 5:18-21 - STAY FOCUSED ON GOD

This last week at a prayer group I attended we asked the question about seeking God. Those who do not believe in God are often not seeking to know Him. I know I have experienced it in my life that when I am focused on God, my attitude changes, my perspective is different, and I am filled with the fruit of the Spirit. When I am seeking or focused on the things of this world, I am often more short with people, frustrated, unfulfilled, and discontented. Keeping our eyes focused on God is necessary as we live this life for Him.

John tells us that as we keep our eyes on God through the truth of our salvation then we cannot sin. The only way sin comes into our life is if we choose to be enticed by it and turn our focus on it rather than God. God promises to always give us a way out and so if we can faithfully fix our eyes on Jesus then we can live this life free from sin. God also has come to give us understanding of the truth and understanding the truth of Jesus Christ is the way to eternal life. As John wrote in his gospel that the truth will set you free.

I know it may seem impossible to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus every second of every day, but that it is what God expects of us as His children. We are to keep focused on God so that we do not fall into temptation, but as humans we know we are weak and that is why we are encouraged to pray that we would not fall into temptation in the Lord's prayer. What can you do today to fix your eyes on God? Not just for the moment of prayer, not just during your morning devotions, not just at church or midweek or Sunday school. As I type this, there is a joy and excitement that rises up within me knowing that focusing on God every moment is possible and that is what I desire more than anything of this world. Lord, take away the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life for none of it compares to focusing on You!

SONG:

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” - Estera Bretan

### KIDS QUESTION:

What happens if we keep our eyes on God through the truth of our salvation?

## YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

## How can you focus on God every moment today?

PRAYER:

Lord, we fix our eyes on You and excitedly live a faithful life for You!

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