

1Jn4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

4:3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

4:5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

[From today's sermon

In the previous chapter, we read. The Lord laid down his life for us. Through it we have learned the meaning of love..... Therefore we also ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. And He said to us, "Son, we love you only with words and with our mouths. Let us love one another not with words or with our lips, but with deeds and with truth. ...For he that keepeth the commandments of God is in God, and God in him. And we know that God is in us by the Spirit that He has given us."

Jesus revealed his love to us and became our example. Those who believe in this Jesus and desire to live by him are born again. They have received the Spirit of God.

Thus you know the Spirit of God. That is, the spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is all from God..."

Jesus came to this world taking on flesh. He who confesses this has received the Spirit of God. No, one cannot confess so without the Spirit of God. It means that Jesus took on a physical body, that is, the One who is Spirit, the One who is God, became man. We must believe that Jesus came to our world and gave his body and his life on the cross. We believe in the salvation that Jesus, God, has given us.

Good morning everyone. We are now in the midst of the rainy season. The other day, there were heavy rain and flood warnings and thunderstorms. A part of Matsuyama Castle in Ehime collapsed, claiming the lives of three people. I pray that the appearance of linear precipitation zones and guerrilla downpours will prevent disasters from occurring.

I would like to quote an inspiring scripture from the previous chapter.

3:1 Consider what great love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called sons of God. 3:16 For we are already sons of God.

3:16 He laid down His life for us, so that we might know the knowledge of love. For by this we have known the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. Therefore we also ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

3:18 Children! Let us not love one another only with words or with our lips, but let us love one another in deed and in truth.

3:19 That we may know that we are of the truth. 3:19 And let us keep our hearts at rest in the presence of God.

3:20 For if there be any reproach in our hearts, God is greater than our hearts, and knows all things.

3:21 Beloved, if there be any reproach in our hearts, let it be to God. If there is no condemnation in our hearts, we can have confidence in God.

3:22 And whatever we ask, we shall receive. 3:22 And whatever we ask, we will receive, because we have kept God's commandments and have done what is pleasing to Him.

3:23 The commandment is, that we should believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and that we should love one another, as he commanded us.

3:24 For he that keepeth the commandments of God is in God, and God also in him. And we know that God is in us by His Spirit, which He has given us.

We know the love of God who loves us in this way. And God has made us sons of God and heirs of His kingdom.

Romans 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God, that is, the sons of God.

8:15 For you have not received the spirit of slavery, which makes you fear again, but the spirit that gives you sonship. By that Spirit we call, "Abba, Father.

8:16 He Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God.

8:17 If we are sons, we are also heirs. If we are heirs of God, and have suffered sufferings to share glory with Christ, then we are joint heirs with Him.

Ephesians 1:13 For ye also are in Christ, having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and having believed in him, ye were sealed with the seal of the Holy Spirit, which was promised you.

1:14 For this is the guarantee that we shall inherit the kingdom of God, that those who put

their trust in him may be totally vindicated, and come to praise the glory of God.

Thus, we have come to know Christ, to know God's love through Jesus, and to follow the example of that love. And to those who walk according to the ordinance of that love, ask and you shall receive anything. The Bible says that this is because we keep God's commandments and do what is pleasing to Him.

This is eternal life. And living by the Holy Spirit is continued in chapter 4.

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but believe in them. 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test them to see if they are of God. For many false prophets have come into the world.

4:2 And thus ye shall know the Spirit of God. 4:2 And ye shall know the Spirit of God: for every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; and every spirit that confesseth not Jesus Christ is of God,

4:3 For every spirit that confesseth not Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist. You have long heard that it is coming, and now it has already come into the world.

As verse 6 says, "Knowing the distinction between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error," the Bible speaks of various "spirits" in our surroundings. While these spirits try to work in our hearts, it is clear that we should only receive the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, into our hearts. It is clear that we should receive only the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, into our hearts. Therefore, we need to "know the difference between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Test them to see if they are of God."

2 Thus you shall know the Spirit of God. That is, every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

3 Every spirit that confesseth not Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist. You have long heard that it is coming, and now it has already come to the world.

What always protects us from the spirit of evil deception is Jesus Christ and the knowledge of Him.

That is, every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh comes from God." What does this mean?

There are two truths here. The first is that Jesus took on flesh, and the second is that He came.

What does it mean that Jesus took on flesh and came?

As John 1 says, Jesus is God and has been with God from the beginning. He is the One who was present before the creation of all things, and by whom all things were created.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God.

1:2 This Word was with God in the beginning.

1:3 All things were made by it. 1:3 For by it all things were made, and not one thing was made that was not of it.

What does it mean that He takes flesh? To take flesh means to take the form of man as a creature. Why did God, the Creator, the Divine One, go to the trouble of taking the form of the human beings He had created? It was for our salvation.

Romans 8:1 For this reason no one who is in Christ Jesus can be condemned.

8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

8:3 For what the law could not do, because it was made powerless by the flesh, God has done. For God has done what the law could not do because it was impotent in the flesh: He has sent His Son to be sin for sin in the flesh, to be punished for sin in the flesh.

8:4 That the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not in the flesh but in the Spirit.

8:5 For he that followeth the flesh thinketh of the flesh, and he that followeth the Spirit thinketh of the Spirit.

8:6 For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the spirit is life and peace.

Philippians 2:6 For Christ, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God a thing to be adhered to, but was conformed to the image of God, so that he might be the head of the household of God, and the head of the household of Christ,

2:7 Instead, He humbled Himself and took the form of a servant, taking the form of a man.

2:8 And he abased himself, and was not like unto man,

2:8 He humbled Himself, and was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

2:9 Therefore God hath exalted him, and given unto him a name which is above every name.

Hebrews 7:17 For to this the Scripture testifies, "Thou art a priest equal to Melchizedek forever.

7:18 Thus, on the one hand, together with the previous commandment, which became void because it was weak and futile,

7:19 (for the law could not fulfill anything), and on the other hand, a still more excellent hope appears, which brings us nearer to God.

7:20 Moreover this was done with an oath. For people are made priests without an oath,

7:21 But in the case of this man, it was done with an oath, as follows. But in the case of this man, he did so with the following oath: "The Lord swore, but He did not change His mind. You are the priest forever.

7:22 Thus Jesus became the guarantee of a better covenant.

7:23 And because of death, many are set up as priests, because they cannot continue in office.

7:24 But because he is from everlasting, he continues in the ministry of the priests without change.

7:25 And he is always able to save those who come to God through him, because he is always alive to intercede for them.

7:26 Thus is our High Priest, who is holy, without spot or blemish, distinct from sinners, and exalted above all the heavens.

7:27 He does not need to offer sacrifices daily, as other high priests do, first for his own sins and then for the sins of his people. For he offered himself, and did it only once.

7:28 For the law sets up a man to be high priest, who bears the infirmities, but the oath that came after the law set up the Son, who was made whole forever, to be high priest.

God gave Jesus to us as a sacrifice, as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, as the price of redemption. Through His blood and life, He made it possible for us to receive salvation without any exception. This is what it means that the Lord took flesh. He became man to become the representative of sinful man for the redemption of man.

1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

15:35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"

15:36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

15:37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain-perhaps wheat or some other grain.

15:38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of

animals, another of fish, and another of birds.

15:40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

15:41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

15:43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

15:44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

15:45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

15:46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

15:47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.

15:48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.

15:49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

How did you feel when you heard of this salvation by Jesus? It was so long ago that you don't know if it really happened or not, and you wonder what the death of someone who died so long ago has to do with you. But Jesus took flesh for you and me, came, died on the cross, and rose again on the third day. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that we believe this and are filled with gratitude. This is how we know the Spirit of God.

4:4 Children. Ye are of God, and ye have overcome them. For greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

4:5 They are out of the world, and have overcome the world. Therefore they speak of the world, and the world hears what they say.

4:6 But we are from God. He who knows God hears what we say, and he who is not from God does not hear what we say. By this we know the distinction between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Jesus said.

16:32 Behold, the time will come when ye shall be scattered, and each one shall return to his own house, and leave me alone. No, the time has already come. But I am not alone. The Father is with me.

16:33 I have told you these things so that you may have peace in me. 16:34 And I have spoken these things unto you, that ye may have peace in me. But take courage. I have already overcome the world.

14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I have spoken.

14:27 I leave you peace. I will leave my peace with you, and I will give you my peace. I will give you my peace, and it will be different from what the world gives. 15:16 Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be dismayed: for I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

15:16 You did not choose me; I chose you. I have chosen you, and I have set you up. And I have set you up. 15:17 And I have chosen you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain for ever; and that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

14:18 I will not leave you and make you orphans. I will come back to you.

Matthew 28:18 Jesus approached them and said, "I have given you all authority in heaven and on earth.

28:19 Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.

Therefore, we, too, desire to strengthen our hearts, whether alienated, hated, neglected, or disrespected, and to speak by example as those who are from God. Leaning on the Spirit of Truth. We desire to walk in response to God's love, to God's sacrificial love that is so great, so strong, and so deep, that we can turn away from falsehood.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. It is because of Jesus that we have

come to know, understand, and practice love. Jesus came in the flesh and laid down his life for us. Through this, we have come to know love. You have loved us faithfully, not only with words and deeds, but also with deeds. The Holy Spirit dwells in us who are thankful for that. He said, "You will have tribulation in the world, but take courage. But take courage. I have already overcome the world. Please guide all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

(Source: The Conflict between the "world" and God's people in the Gospel of John)

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God.

1:2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.

1:3 All things were made by it. 1:3 For by it all things were made, and not one thing was made that was not by it.

1:4 And in this word was life, and the life was the light of men. And this life was the light of men.

1:5 The light shineth in the darkness And darkness did not prevail against it.

1:6 And there was a man here, whom God had sent. And his name was John.

1:7 This man came to testify. 1:7 He came to testify about the light, that all men might believe in him.

1:8 He came not to be a light, but only to testify of light.

1:9 He came into the world because of the light of truth, which enlightens all men.

1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him. 1:10 And the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

1:11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

1:12 But to those who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave power to become sons of God.

1:13 For they were born, not of blood, nor of the lusts of the flesh, nor of the lusts of man, but only of God.

John 14:1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and believe in me.

14:2 In my Father's house are many dwellings: if it had not been so, I would have said so. If it had not been so, I would have said so. 14:3 And go and prepare a place for yourselves.

14:3 And when the place is ready, I will come again and receive you unto myself. For where I am, there you shall be also.

14:4 For I know where I am going, and the way is known unto you.

14:5 Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know

the way?

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except by Me.

14:7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. But now you know the Father, and you have already seen Him.

14:8 Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father. If you do this, we will be satisfied.

14:9 Jesus said to him, "Philip, have I not been with you so long, and do you not understand me? He who has seen me has seen the Father. Why do you ask us to show you the Father?

14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am speaking to you, I am not speaking from myself. The Father is in me, and he is doing his work.

14:11 Believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me. If you cannot believe it, believe by the works themselves.

14:12 I say unto you well and truly, He that believeth in me, believeth also in me. He who believes in me will also do the works that I am doing. Not only that, but he will do greater deeds. 14:13 For I am going to the Father, and the Father will be with me.

14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, I will give it you. 14:13 For the Father will be glorified through the Son.

14:14 For whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, I will give it you.

14:15 If ye love me, ye shall keep my commandments.

14:16 I will ask the Father, and he will send me another helper. 14:16 I will ask the Father, and he will send another Helper to be with you for ever.

14:17 It is the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive it, because it neither sees it nor knows it. You know it, because it is with you and will be with you. For it is with you and in you.

14:18 I will not leave you as orphans. I will return to you.

14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If any man love me, he will keep my words. And my Father will love him, and we will go to him and dwell with him.

14:24 He who does not love me will not keep my words. The words that ye hear are not my words, but the words of my Father which hath sent me.

14:25 These things I have already told you, when I was with you.

14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I have spoken.

14:27 I leave you peace. I will leave my peace with you, and I will give you my peace. I will give you my peace, and it will be different from what the world gives. And be not troubled, neither be ye dismayed: for I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.

John 15:7 Ask whatever you wish, if you are connected to Me and My words remain in you. Ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you.

15:8 If you bear fruit abundantly and become my disciples, then my Father will be glorified.

15:9 For I have loved you, just as the Father has loved me. Be in my love.

15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall be in my love. 15:10 If ye keep my covenant, ye shall be in my love: just as I have kept my Father's covenant, and ye shall be in his love.

15:11 I have spoken these things, that my joy may dwell in you, and that your joy may abound.

15:12 For this is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. 15:12 My commandment is this, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you: that ye love one another, and that ye love one another.

15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

15:14 If you do what I command you, you are my friends; and if you do what I command you, you are my friends.

15:15 I will no longer call you servants, for I do not know what my master does. 15:15 I will no longer call you servants, for I know not what my master does. I have called you friends, because you do not know what your masters do. 15:15 For I have made known to you all that I have heard from my Father.

15:16 Ye have not chosen me: I have chosen you. 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I have set you up. 15:17 And I have chosen you, that ye might go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit might remain for ever; and that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

15:17 I command you these things that you may love one another.

15:18 If the world hates you, know that it hated Me before you.

15:19 For if you had been of the world, the world would have loved you as its own. But you are not of the world. Instead, I have chosen you out of the world. Therefore the world hates you.

John 16:20 "I say to you well and truly, you will weep and grieve, but you will not be satisfied. You weep and mourn, but the world rejoices. 16:21 And a woman shall conceive a son, and bear him; and he shall call his name Jesus, and shall call his name Jesus.

16:21 If a woman bears a child, she is anxious, because her hour has come. But when she has borne a child, she no longer remembers her suffering. For there is joy in the fact that a man has been born into the world.

16:22 Thus now you also have anxiety, but I will meet you again. But I will see you again, and your hearts will be glad. And your hearts will be filled with joy. And no one will take that joy away from you.

16:23 On that day there will be nothing for you to ask of me. I say to you well and truly. Whatever you ask of the Father, He will give it to you in my name.

16:24 Hitherto ye have not asked in my name: but ask, and it shall be given you; and it shall be given you. Ask, and it shall be given you. And your joy will be full.

16:25 I have spoken these things in figurative language, but the time will come when I will no longer speak in figurative language, but will speak to you openly about the Father.

16:26 In that day you will seek in my name. I will not say that I will wish for you to the Father, but I will say to you that I will wish for you to the Father, and he will give you the name of the Father.

16:27 For the Father Himself will love you. 16:27 For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and because you have believed that I am from God.

16:28 For I am from the Father, and have come into the world, and shall leave the world again, and go to the Father.

16:29 The disciples said, "Now you speak plainly, and not a little figuratively."

16:30 Now we know that You know all things, and that no one needs to ask You. By this we believe that you are the one who came from God.

16:31 Jesus answered, "Do you now believe?"

16:32 Behold, the time will come when ye shall be scattered, and ye shall return each to his own house, and leave me alone. Nay, it is already come. But I am not alone. The Father is with me.

16:33 I have told you these things so that you may have peace in me. 16:34 And I have spoken these things unto you, that ye may have peace in me. But take courage. I have already overcome the world.