

Measuring My Maturity, Part 1 (1 John 2:3-6): OBEDIENCE

Change of direction in topic, from present walking in the light to measuring our maturity – our spiritual growth/progress. How do I know how I am doing spiritually? Is there a way to KNOW? As we continue studying 1 John, we will look at three ways to measure our own majority. This week, we will look at the first measurement. How do I know when I have grown up spiritually?

Measuring My Maturity: By Keeping God's Commandments

1. How Can I Know? The Measurement: Am I Keeping God's Commandments?

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

In this we are knowing (~) that we have come to know (→) Him, if we would be keeping (~) His commandments.

- a. We can **PRESENTLY** know (“by this we are knowing...”)
- b. We can develop a close relationship to God **OVER TIME** (“we have come to know Him”)
- c. Our clear measurement is **ONGOING** obedience to God's commands (“if we are keeping His commandments”)

1) Keeping...

2) Commandments?

Mt 28:20a “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”

John 15:14 “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”

John 15:17 “These things I command you, that you love one another.”

Acts 1:2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,

Acts 13:47 “For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

877 NT Imperatives (Commands): Aorist (549x) + Present (328x)

2. How Can I Know? What the Measurement Is NOT: What I Am Saying (or Thinking)...

⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

He who is saying that “I have come to know Him (→)” while not keeping His commandments a liar is being (~), and in this the truth he is not being (~).

- a. The **CLAIM**: “I have come to know Him”
- b. The **CRITERIA**: Is not keeping His commandments...

c. The **REALITY**:

- 1) Is being a liar
 - Verb: 1:6 (“is lying”)
 - Noun: 2:21,27 (“a lie”)
 - Noun: 1:10; 2:4; 2:22; 4:20; 5:10 (“liar”)
- 2) Is not being in the truth
 - Noun: 1:6; 1:8; 2:4; 2:21 – 2; 3:18; 3:19; 4:6; 5:6 (“truth”)

3. How Does This Growing Process Work?

⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

But whoever would be keeping (~s) His word, truly in this the love of God has been completed (→p); in this we are knowing (~) that in him we are being (~).

a. [KNOWING the light / Word]

b. KEEPING His Word (see 1 John 1:6-10)

- 1) Walking responsively to the light (truth), responding to what God says is true and what is right, heading the right way and countering our sinfulness, cleansing me from all sinfulness.
- 2) Saying the same thing God says about our sins as God reveals them to us, and God forgives us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

c. **RESULT**: The love of God has been perfected in me.

d. **RESULT**: I know that I am [walking] in God.

4. How to State Maturity a Different Way...

⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

He who is saying (~) in him to be abiding (~) is being obligated (~), just and that one walked (x), also he himself thus to be walking (~).

- a. The **CLAIM**: He who **SAYS** he is abiding in Him (walking in the light; walking with God)
- b. The **DEBT**: Is presently **OBLIGATED**
- c. The **MEASURE**: Just as **HE** (Jesus) walked...
- d. The **PRACTICE**: To be **WALKING**

TAKEAWAYS:

- We need to **KNOW** the light to walk by the light.
- As we walk in the light, we **COME TO KNOW** God.
- As we walk in the light, we **KNOW** God's commands.
- As we walk in the light, we **KEEP** God's commands.
- Our progress is measured by our obedience, not what we **SAY** we are doing or **THINK** we are doing.