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A Letter to Dear Children, Part 9

Call Triple A...Now!

Text: 1 John 2:27-29

In the material world, oil is topical. That is, it is poured *on* a person. In the spiritual world, the anointing is *on* and *in* a person. Look at the way John put it in our text. “The anointing you have, lives in you”, he says. What an idea. A topical oil, a salve, a lotion, will eventually rub off or wear out. That which is inside is long-lasting. Sometimes in some saints, anointing leads to arrogance. They think that because they have the Holy Ghost, they don’t need education, or guidance or advice or planning, or skill or help or collaboration. In a sense they are correct, in that the anointing and the Anointed One would be our primary teachers. (v. 27b). In another sense, however, John never suggests that these first century believers are know-it-alls. They are not omniscient. They do *know* things (v.20). The context makes it plain that these believers are of varying levels of spiritual maturity. The younger ones in the faith have need of teaching. The more mature have the need and responsibility to teach. All of them will be tutored by the Holy Spirit and all of them should be teachable.

John will say, however, that they don’t need some antichrist figures to come in and teach them a “new” gospel or some mystical, esoteric theology and philosophy. They *know* things (v. 20).

Rather than becoming arrogant, these believers, says John, ought to concentrate on their posture in Christ. John calls it *abiding*. John is surely remembering Jesus on the matter. Jesus taught about abiding, in John’s gospel, chapter 15, verses 1-4.

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3**You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4***Abide* in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it *abides* in the vine, neither can you, unless you *abide* in Me.

**Illus.**

***The Practice of the Presence of God*** is a book of collected teachings of [Brother Lawrence](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brother_Lawrence) (born Nicholas Herman), a 17th-century [Carmelite](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discalced_Carmelite) [monk](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monk), compiled by Father Joseph de Beaufort.

In the instruction to the book we read this:

*The trouble with most of the religion of the day is its extreme complexity. “Brother Lawrence” was not troubled with any theological difficulties or doctrinal dilemmas. For him these did not exist. His one single aim was to bring about a conscious personal union between himself and God, and he took the shortest cut he could find to accomplish it. The result can best be described in his own words: “If I dare use the expression, I should choose to call this state the bosom of God, for the inexpressible sweetness which I taste and experience there.” What Brother Lawrence did all can do. No theological training nor any special theological views are needed for the blessed “practice” he recommends. No gorgeous churches, nor stately cathedral, nor elaborate ritual, could either make or mar it.*

Brother Lawrence called it practicing the presence of God. John calls it abiding in God/Christ.

Look at *abiding* in this epistle of 1 John- 2:24 (3 times); 2:27(2 times); 2:28. In 2:28, abiding is a command, not a suggestion.

Since we know Christ is righteous, we also know that those who abide in Him (practice the presence) and those in whom He abides, are born of Him.

**Closing**

For a number of years, I had a membership in the Automobile Association of America (AAA). Since I now have towing and roadside service through my auto insurance company, I have dropped my AAA membership. When I *was* a member, I could call Triple A in the middle of the night and they would dispatch a tow truck to my location and change my flat tire or give a boost to my battery or tow me to a nearby garage. They were available to me when I needed them most. I could also go into any of their offices and get maps for a road trip I was planning. Triple A was committed to me as a member and I could call them when I was in trouble. Some of you this day are experiencing the spiritual equivalent of a roadside breakdown. Call AAA...now!

1.Call on the **A**nointed One of God and on the anointing that is yours through Jesus Christ. Let the oil of His presence cover you.

2. Call on the **a**biding presence of the Anointed One, who has promised to take up residence in you and who is with you on the roadside. Abide. Practice the presence of Christ in your life.

3. Call on the **a**ssurance we have because we are God’s children. Those who are God’s children by virtue of a relationship with Christ, need not be **a**shamed when He **a**ppears.

Call Triple A... now!

Call on Him who anoints us, who abides in us and who assures us that we are [His](http://www.apple.com)**.**

Amen