**Dead to the World – 1 John 4: 4**

**Focal Truth: Believers are dead to the world overcoming the world**

**Observations – testing the teachings of teachers for truth of God or lies of the devil**

1. **Believers are from God not from the world because they confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh into the world – 4:4**

*You are from God, little children…*

1. Believers are from God because they confess Jesus Christ has come in the flesh into the world

4:2 – by this you will know the Spirit of God, every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God

1:2 – the life was manifested, & we have seen & testify & proclaim to you, the eternal life, which was with the Father & was manifested to us

John 1:14 – the Word became flesh and dwelt among us

1. The world is not from God they are antichrist – denying Jesus has come in the flesh

4:1 – do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God

4:3 – every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God, this is the spirit of the antichrist of which you have heard that it is coming, & now it is already in the world

**The antichrist & the spirit of antichrist**

2:18 – it is the last hour, and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared, from this we know that it is the last hour

2:22 – who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son

2 John 1:7 – for many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist

**Why did Jesus have to come in the flesh into the world?**

3:8 – the Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil

Heb. 2:14 – 15 - since the children share in flesh & blood, He Himself partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives

1. **Believers overcome the antichrist spirit of the world because they confess & believe Jesus Christ has come into the world – 4:4**

*You are from God, little children and have overcome them…*

1. Believers overcome the spirit of antichrist in the world by our confession of Jesus Christ

*Overcome = completed victory, to come off victorious, victorious over the adversary*

1 John 2:13 – I am writing to you young men because you have overcome the evil one

1 John 5:4 – for whatever is born of God overcomes the world, & this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith

1 John 5:5 – who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God

1. Believers overcome because Jesus Christ has overcome the world

John16:33 – these things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you might have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage for I have overcome the world

R. 12:11 they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony

1. **Believers overcome the antichrist spirit of the world because the Holy Spirit dwells in them 4:4**

*You are from God, little children and have overcome them because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world*

1. Believers are indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God so they are victorious over the antichrist spirit of the world & the devil
2. The devil fills the world with his lies

John 8:44 – you are of your father the devil, & you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, & does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies

Gen. 3:4 – 5 – the serpent said to the woman, you surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened & you will be like God, knowing good & evil

2 Cor. 4: 3 – 4 – if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

**The presence of Holy Spirit power in the believer**

John 16: 8 – 11 – when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness & judgment, concerning sin because they do not believe in Me,

concerning righteousness because I go to the Father & you no longer see Me, concerning judgment because the ruler of this world has been judged

Eph. 1:19 – Paul prays for the church to know what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

1. The anointing of the Holy Spirit gives the truth to overcome worldly devilish lies & errors
2. The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in our weakness releases the power to overcome personal sin
3. The present power of the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, assures of forgiveness & produces power to overcome temptation

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **Believers confess in the world Jesus Christ born, crucified, raised & coming again!**
2. **Jesus Christ came to the world & overcame the world destroying the work of the devil & bringing salvation for sinners**
3. **Live by faith overcoming the world, the flesh & the devil**
4. **Be filled with the Spirit who is greater than the world, the flesh & the devil**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**