

## Biblical Families, Part 6 | the Shelter

### I. The Flesh, the Devil, and the World are trying to deceive your family.

- The evil one is trying to deceive you, the antichrists in the world are trying to deceive you, and we know that our own sinful hearts are trying to deceive us. That should cause us to pause for a moment.
- We're surrounded by people who either ignorantly are saying false things or who are deliberately lying to us. In addition, many of things they're saying are true—in part. If you go back to Genesis 3, you'll notice that Satan didn't actually *lie* to Eve. Everything he said was “technically” true. It's the information he left out and the fact that he was deliberately trying to deceive Eve that lead to her interpret what he said in a false way.
- But if that weren't enough, we can't even trust our own decision-making processes. (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 7:11, Ephesians 4:22, Romans 7:4-20)
- Our hearts are corrupted by the flesh. It's easier for us in our own strength to come to the wrong conclusions for the wrong reasons than it is to come to the right conclusions for the right reasons. In fact, it's *impossible* to come to the right conclusions in our flesh. Only through the power of God can we believe and think and want and speak and act in ways that please Him for reasons that please Him. And—after hearing all of that—we may feel crestfallen and downhearted. If everything is against me, how can I survive?

### II. God has all the truth biblical families need.

- Those who are born again into Christ have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. To be anointed is to have something poured onto you. II Corinthians 1:21-22, John 16, John 7:38-39
- John is telling us here that those who have been born again into the light have the Holy Spirit to teach us. John 16:13
- There's a biblical doctrine called the Priesthood of the Believer. We don't need to have a human priest intervene for us or forgive our sins. Because Jesus was the perfect priest, we can go directly to the Father in prayer. God the Father talks directly to us through His Word, and the Holy Spirit helps us to understand the spiritual truths we couldn't have understood on our own.
- Despite all the lies that surround us and indwell us, the truth of God and our access to it should absolutely calm our hearts. Not everyone is lying to us. God—through His Word—only ever tells the truth. All truth is God's truth, and the Word helps us to understand all truth because it provides the foundation and goal of that truth. When any truth in this world is examined and understood through the Bible, we will come to the right understanding and conclusions about the situation in front of us.
- But this requires that we actually need to be taught by the Spirit. We don't automatically understand all spiritual mysteries simply because we're saved from our sins. No, we need to be in the Word, we need to study the Bible, we need to meditate on God's truth in order to learn, understand, and apply it.
- However, God never intended for us to do this alone. John made the statement, “*you have no need for anyone to teach you.*” Does that mean you don't need your parents, teachers, pastors, or counselors? Does the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives mean that we don't actually need anyone to explain things to us? No, that's not what John is saying.
- The Greek word translated “teach” in I John 2:27 is used all over the Bible. In Matthew 28:20, Jesus commands His disciples to teach others so that they can be saved and be a disciple of Christ. In I Corinthians 4:17, Paul identifies that he teaches God's truth to others. He does something very similar in Colossians 1:28.

- In I Timothy 4:11, Timothy is told to “*command and teach these things.*” II Timothy 2:2 tells Timothy to “*entrust these truths to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*” In Colossians 3:6, all Christians are commanded to teach others.
- And then in Ephesians 4:11-16, Paul reveals God’s plan for how His people would be built up into Him. God gifts us teaching pastors who equip us for the work of the ministry which is to speak the truth in love so that we are all knit together and built up into the image and under subjection of Christ.
- John is not saying that you don’t need people teaching you the truth . . . what he’s saying is that you don’t need anyone trying to teach you the opposite of the truth. Remember, this verse just followed a very clear explanation of what an antichrist is. You have no need for anyone to teach you those lies.

### III. Biblical families take their shelter in God.

- **We need to know Him through His Word.**
  - We don’t feel our way to God. We don’t make up things about God. We have His truth in His Word. That requires that we take time reading it. We’ve already talked about how important the Bible is, but here again we’re being reminded about the necessity of living in the truth of His Word. Deuteronomy 6:7-9
  - We should perpetually be living in God’s truth. It’s hard to read that and imagine that going to church once a week is enough. It’s hard to pretend that maybe reading my Bible *sometimes* is good enough. There are so many commands and illustrations and principles in the Scriptures that make it clear that we can’t get enough of it—especially when we’re trying to know how to live in a way that pleases the Lord.
- **We need to spend time with the Lord in prayer.** God speaks to us through His Word, and we speak with Him in prayer.
  - I Thessalonians 5:16 tells us to pray without ceasing. Philippians 4:6 commands us to take all our anxieties to God in prayer. Colossians 4:2 admonishes us to continue steadfastly in prayer. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus tells us to pray for those who persecute us. And Ephesians 6:18 tells us to pray at all times with all prayer and petition in the Spirit.
- **We need to spend time with God’s people.**
  - Hebrews 10:24-25 reads, “*let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*”
  - Ephesians 4:11-16 teaches us that God has given pastor-teachers to His people in order to equip us for the work of the ministry, and that work of the ministry is how we build each other up in Christ.
- **We need to live righteously.**
  - If we are going to abide with God Who is light, then we will have to be in the light as He is in the light.

### LifeWork

1. **Read I John 3:1-3 two times.**
2. **Spend time talking to God this week.**
3. **Spend time with God’s people this week.**
4. **Live righteously in the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.**