



Walking in Truth and Love: A Study of 2 John



Explore 2 John to understand the call to walk in truth and love, guarding against deception and remaining faithful to Christ's teachings.



Table of contents

<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>Day 1: 🕊️ Guarding the Truth</u>	5
<u>Day 2: 🛡️ Rejecting Deception</u>	11
<u>Day 3: 💛 Walking in Love and Obedience</u>	17



Introduction

The book of 2 John, though brief, offers profound insight into Christian living, emphasizing truth, love, and discernment. Written by the apostle John, this letter addresses the church's challenge of guarding against false teachers who threaten to undermine the faith. The epistle urges believers to remain steadfast in the original teachings of Christ, warning against those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, a key test of true doctrine.

John's message is timeless: Christians must *walk in truth and love* simultaneously. Truth without love can lead to rigidity and judgmental attitudes; love without truth can permit error and compromise. This balance is vital for the health of the church and the personal faith journey of each believer.

As you journey through this study of 2 John, you'll explore practical applications to your life—how to discern spiritual deception, demonstrate authentic love, and live in obedience to God's command. This study challenges us to reflect: Are we careful to uphold sound doctrine? Are we loving others in a way that reflects Jesus? Are we aware of the spiritual dangers in our world today?

Get ready to dive deep into this powerful letter, discovering encouragement and practical wisdom to guard your heart, deepen your walk with Christ, and shine as a faithful follower living in truth and love. Let us embark on this



journey to grow in wisdom, strengthen our relationships, and stand firm amidst spiritual challenges. 📖 ✨



Day 1: 📖🔒 Guarding the Truth



Day 1: 🕊️ Guarding the Truth

Your Verse

2 John 1:1-6 - "The elder, To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not only I, but also all who know the truth—because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 17:17 - "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."*
- *Ephesians 4:14 - "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching."*



Day 1: 🕊️ Guarding the Truth

Devotional: Loving Others by Guarding the Truth

John begins his letter by emphasizing love grounded in truth. It reminds us that genuine Christian love is inseparable from adherence to God's Word. The "lady chosen by God and her children" likely symbolizes a local church and its members, highlighting the communal aspect of faith. Loving in truth means embracing God's revealed Word and living it out sincerely together.

This passage calls us to *guard the truth* diligently. False teaching threatens the community from within and without. Just as John warns, believers must be vigilant not to accept every new teaching but evaluate it through God's Word. The "truth that lives in us" is not a mere idea; it is a vibrant reality transforming our hearts and actions.

Being grounded in truth provides stability. Without it, the church and individual believers become vulnerable—"tossed... by every wind of teaching." Our world continues to be filled with competing ideas and philosophies. The safeguard is to abide in the truth.

As you reflect today, consider the sources that shape your beliefs. Are they in harmony with Scripture? How can you protect yourself and your faith community from deception? This is not just guarding information but loving one another enough to preserve the gospel's purity.



Day 1: 🕊️ Guarding the Truth

Reflect and Apply

1. What does it mean to love others 'in the truth' according to this passage?

2. How can a believer discern false teachings in today's context?

3. In what ways have you seen truth and love work together in your faith community?



Day 1: 🕊 Guarding the Truth

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when you encountered a teaching that challenged your faith—how did you respond?

2. List three ways you can personally guard your heart against false teachings.

3. Reflect on how love and truth coexist in your life and relationships.



Day 1: 🕊️ Guarding the Truth

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for the gift of Your truth that lives in us. Help me to be vigilant and discerning, guarding my heart and mind against deception. Teach me to love others deeply but always in alignment with Your Word. Strengthen my walk so I may stand firm and encourage fellow believers to do the same. May Your truth and love shine through me each day. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏📖🕊️❤️





Day 2: Rejecting Deception



Day 2: 🛡️ Rejecting Deception

Your Verse

2 John 1:7-11 - "Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world... anyone who does not remain in him is not keeping God's commands."

Supporting Scriptures

- *1 John 4:2-3 - "Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God..."*
- *Matthew 7:15 - "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."*



Day 2:  Rejecting Deception

Devotional: Standing Firm Against False Teaching

This passage warns of the dangers posed by deceivers denying the incarnation of Christ. The denial that Jesus came in the flesh is a critical error because it undermines the foundation of the gospel—the true humanity and divinity of Jesus. Such false teaching threatens believers' faith and can lead them away from salvation.

John exhorts believers to reject anyone who promotes these heresies and to refrain from offering them hospitality or support. This does not mean a harsh spirit but rather protecting the community from harmful influences that might cause others to stumble in faith.

The call to "remain in him" signals abiding in Christ's teaching and commandments, a vital way to live out authentic faith. When we choose truth, we naturally reject what contradicts it. This day challenges us to be intentional about the company we keep and the teachings we endorse.

How vigilant are you in protecting your heart and your community from spiritual deception? The apostle's instruction stresses that love for God and others includes defending the gospel's integrity, sometimes requiring difficult boundaries.



Day 2:  Rejecting Deception

Reflect and Apply

1. Why is the belief that Jesus came in the flesh so essential to true faith?

2. How can Christians lovingly reject false teachers today?

3. What steps can you take to remain faithfully 'in Christ' amidst cultural pressures?



Day 2:  Rejecting Deception

Journaling Prompts

1. Identify any teachings you've encountered that conflict with the incarnation—how have you responded?

2. Reflect on the balance between love and discernment in relationships with other believers.

3. Write about practical ways to protect your spiritual community from deception.



Day 2: 🛡️ Rejecting Deception

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, help me to remain rooted in Your truth and to recognize deception when it comes. Guide me to stand firm in my confession of who You are—the true God who became flesh. Give me courage and wisdom to protect my faith community without bitterness, showing love that is discerning and pure. Strengthen my faith that I may not waver amid false teachings. *Thank You for being the faithful Shepherd of my soul.* Amen. 🙏 🛡️ 📖 ❤️



A circular frame containing an open Bible. A pink bookmark is placed between the pages. The left page shows the heading "of Prophecy and Tongues" and a passage about spiritual gifts. The right page shows a passage about the resurrection. The text is partially obscured by the bookmark and the circular frame.



Day 3: 🧡 Walking in Love and Obedience

Your Verse

2 John 1:12-13 – "I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink... I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face so that our joy may be complete."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 15:10 – "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love..."*
- *Colossians 3:14 – "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*



Day 3: 🧡 Walking in Love and Obedience

Devotional: Joy in Obedient, Loving Fellowship

John's closing thoughts highlight the joy found in personal fellowship that blends love and obedience. Although this letter is short, it points to the deep relationship between walking faithfully in obedience to God's commands and experiencing the fullness of Christian joy.

The apostle desires face-to-face fellowship, reminding us that spiritual truth grows in the context of community. Joy in the Christian life is anchored as much in relationships of authentic love and accountability as it is in personal devotion.

Walking in love and obedience is an ongoing pursuit. Obedience without love can become legalism; love without obedience may lack godly boundaries. The beauty of the Christian walk is that God calls us to both, promising joy and unity when we heed His commands motivated by love.

As you conclude this study, consider your journey of faith: Are you cultivating joy through obedient love? How can you foster deeper fellowship that reflects the heart of Christ?



Reflect and Apply

1. How does obedience to God's commands relate to experiencing His love and joy?

2. What role does Christian community play in strengthening your walk with Christ?

3. In what ways can you cultivate both love and obedience more deeply?



Day 3: 🧡 Walking in Love and Obedience

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe how fellowship with other believers has influenced your faith journey.

2. Identify one command of Christ you find challenging and journal about how love can motivate obedience.

3. Reflect on the joy that comes from walking closely with God and others in truth and love.



Day 3: 🧡 Walking in Love and Obedience

Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You for the gift of Your commands, which guide me into Your love and joy. Teach me to walk faithfully in obedience, motivated by love for You and others. Help me to build authentic relationships that encourage and uplift, reflecting the unity Jesus prayed for. May my life be marked by joy that comes from walking closely with You and my brothers and sisters in Christ. *In Your glorious name, Amen.* ✨ 🧡 📖 ❤️





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