



## The Incarnation – Good News for Those Limping Their Way to Heaven

1 John 4:1-6

“...He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” 1

John 4:4

“Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.”

So far in our memory verses, we have had hope for those who are:

- **Lamenting** – Psalm 79:9 “Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name. Deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name’s sake.”
- **Longing** – Psalm 84:10-11 “For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. The Lord God is a sun and a shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

Today’s text is for those who are **limping**.

The good news of Christmas is not that we have found a way to climb and to claw our way back to God and up to heaven. The good news of Christmas is that we have a God who came down to us and made a way to carry us up to Himself through the cross. He came down because there was no way up.

1 John – Why is it so important and so encouraging that “Jesus Christ Came In the Flesh? Because his humanity, guaranteed hope for our humanity.

I. **We often limp along feeling increasingly alone in our struggles.**

**Fellowship:** Jesus Christ has come in the flesh to bring us into fellowship with God and with one another. (1 John 1)

*“that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things, so that our joy may be complete.” (1:3-4)*

**Redeemed for Relationship:** The goal of Christ in taking on our human flesh is to bring us into fellowship with God. You are designed and redeemed to enter into deep and eternal relationship with God.

Isaiah 43:1-2 “But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.”

## II. We often limp along feeling deeply ashamed in our struggles.

**Forgiveness:** Jesus Christ has come in the flesh to bring us for the forgiveness of the Father. (1 John 2)

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous one. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” (2:1-2)*

He pleads his perfection, His propitiation on our behalf.

“What shall we say to these things? If God is for us who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will he not also with him, graciously give us all things. Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? If it God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.” (Romans 8:31-34)

## III. We often limp along feeling desperately flawed in our struggles.

**Fulfillment:** *Jesus Christ has come in the flesh* to bring us in order to bring us into the complete fulfillment of our humanity. (1 John 3)

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God; and so we are... Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” (3:1-3)*

It is the promise of His perfecting of our humanity as He is perfect in His humanity that helps us press on. We don’t possess it yet, but we will!

#### **IV. We often limp along feeling spiritually attacked in our struggles.**

**Freedom/Empowered:** Jesus Christ has come in the flesh in order to set us free from spiritual manipulation and oppression. (1 John 4)

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than He who is in the world.” (4:4)

The Spirit of the anti-Christ points us to someone other than Christ and says why don't you measure up. He produces fear. The Holy Spirit points us to Christ and says – This is love. “Perfect love casts out fear. (4:18)

#### **V. We often limp along feeling increasingly weary/discouraged/hopeless.**

**Forever:** Jesus Christ has come in the flesh to guarantee that we will be forever with the Lord. What He has promised, we will possess because He already possesses it for us.(1 John 5)

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:11)

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above not on the things that are on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4)