

BELIEF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
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This Is How
We Know

1 JOHN



The Great Awakening

“Revivals did contribute to the coming Revolution in important ideological, sociological, and religious ways.

“The revivals shattered the social order of church hierarchy, rejecting the existing power structures of the day and focusing instead on the individual.

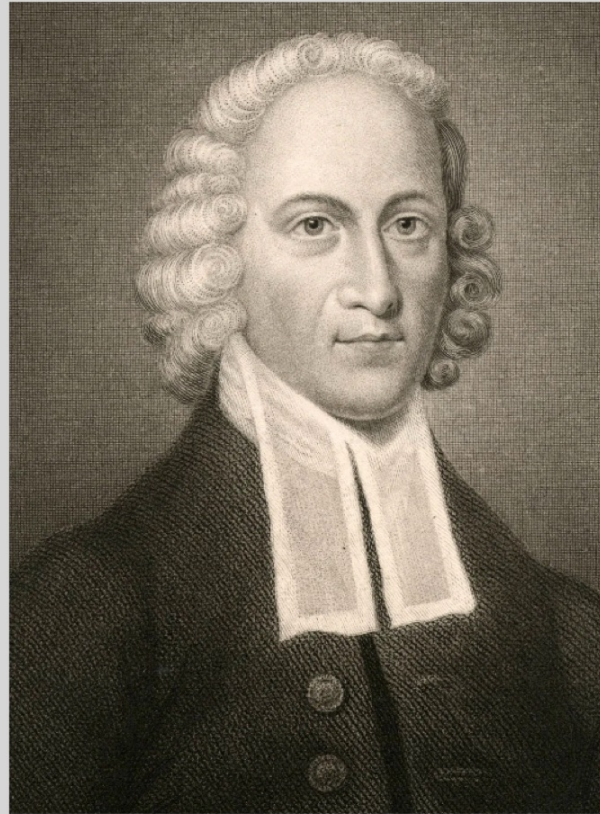
“People who had normally had their voices marginalized or silenced were suddenly able to speak freely about God’s grace in their lives.

“It provided a millennial hope of a new age and promised damnation to those who imposed the tyranny of ‘popery.’”

Daniel Gullotta

“The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people; a change in their religious sentiments of their duties and obligations.”

John Adams



Jonathan Edwards

“... had such a sense of God’s wrath for sin ...
that they have been overborne; and made to
cry out under an astonishing sense of their
guilt,

“wondering that God suffers such guilty wretches to live upon earth, and that he doth not immediately send them to hell.”

Jonathan Edwards

“It was very wonderful to see how person’s affections were sometimes moved – when God did as it were suddenly open their eyes, and let into their minds a sense of the greatness of his grace, the fullness of Christ, and his readiness to save ...

“Their joyful surprise has caused their hearts as it were to leap, so that they have been ready to break forth into laughter, tears often at the same time issuing like a flood, and intermingling a loud weeping.

“Sometimes they have not been able to
forbear crying out with a loud voice,
expressing their great admiration.”

Jonathan Edwards

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

1 John 4:1

Three Diagnostic Tools

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“By this you know the Spirit of God ...” (2)

“By this we know the Spirit of truth and the
spirit of error.” (6b)

1. **Subsistence** - Who exactly is Jesus?

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docetism = Christ did not have a real or natural body, but only an apparent or phantom one

“For I have observed that you are perfected in an immoveable faith, as if you were nailed to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, both in the flesh and in the spirit, and are established in love through the blood of Christ,

“being fully persuaded, in very truth, with respect to our Lord Jesus Christ, that he was the Son of God, ‘the first-born of every creature,’

“God the Word, the only-begotten Son, and was of the seed of David according to the flesh, by the Virgin Mary;

“was baptized by John, that all righteousness might be fulfilled by him; that he lived a life of holiness without sin, and was truly, under Pontius Pilate and Herod the tetrarch, nailed for us in his flesh ...

“Now, he suffered all these things for our
sakes, that we might be saved.

“And he suffered truly, even as also he truly raised up himself, not, as certain unbelievers maintain, that he only seemed to suffer, as they themselves only seem to be Christians.

“And as they believe, so shall it happen unto them, when they shall be divested of their bodies, and be mere evil spirits.”

Ignatius of Antioch

What, then, is the true nature of Jesus?

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“hypostatic union” = the union of Christ’s
human and divine natures
in one person

Two Natures, One Person

Human			
Ascended	Jn. 16:28; 17:11		
Aged	Lk. 3:23		
Tired	Mt. 8:24		

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Two Natures, One Person

Human		Divine	
Ascended	Jn. 16:28; 17:11	Mt. 18:20; 28:20	Present
Aged	Lk. 3:23	Jn. 1:1-2; 8:58	Ageless
Tired	Mt. 8:24	Mt. 8:26-27	Omnipotent

This Is How
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I JOHN

“Do peculiar times not call for specific emphases in our teaching?”

“As the fourth century wrestled with the doctrine of God, the fifth with Christology and the nature of God’s grace, and the Reformation era with sacraments and salvation, so our age wrestles with the question of anthropology.

“What does it mean to be human? More specifically, what does it mean to be an embodied human? For we now find ourselves not so much in a battle for the Bible but in a battle for the body.”

Carl Trueman

“Dismiss the intrinsic importance of bodies and everything, from medical ethics to the definition of woman, becomes confusing.”

Carl Trueman

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- The human body is so important, that God himself put it on - he “**became flesh.**”

1. Subsistence - Who exactly is Jesus?
2. **Source** - Where do we get our material?

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

“They are **from** the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

“**We** are **from** God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us.”

1 John 4:4-6a

	Identity	Origin	Audience	Spirit
Source 1	false prophets	the world	the world	error

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I JOHN

	Identity	Origin	Audience	Spirit
Source 1	false prophets	the world	the world	error
Source 2	apostles	God	those who know God	truth

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1. **You** are not helpless victims.

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“greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world” (4)

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2. **They** are the mouth and ear of the momentary.

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“the world is passing away along with its desires” (2:17)

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3. **We** (the apostles) are the mouth and ear of the Eternal.

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 3. **We** (the apostles) are the mouth and ear of the Eternal.
- “whoever knows God listens to us” (6a)

“While Isaiah and his colleagues saw their task as calling the people away from the anthropology of the wider world and back to that of the covenant God,

“today’s prophets seem to see their task as being religious mouthpieces for the priorities of the wider culture, calling the church away from a Christian anthropology and toward that of the world around.”

Carl Trueman

“they received the word with all eagerness,
examining the Scriptures daily to see if these
things were so.”

Acts 17:11b

A work of the Spirit of God:

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1. Raises people's esteem of Christ (2)

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“Would the spirit of error, in order to deceive men, beget in them a high opinion of the infallible rule, and incline them to think much of it, and be very conversant with it?

“Would the prince of darkness, in order to promote the kingdom of darkness, lead men to the sun?

“The devil has ever shown a mortal spite and hatred towards that holy book the Bible; he knows it to be that light by which his kingdom of darkness is to be overthrown.”

Jonathan Edwards

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4. Leads people to truth (6)
5. Stirs love to God and man (7)

“Love and humility are two things the most contrary to the spirit of the devil, of anything in the world; for the character of that evil spirit, above all things, consists in pride and malice.”

Jonathan Edwards

“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, **deceiving** and being **deceived**.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly **believed**, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for **salvation** through **faith** in Christ Jesus.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:12-17

“This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.

True man, yet very God,
From sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.”

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming