

Historical Christian Doctrines **In 1 John 2:12-17**

The knowledge of God. Christian believers know God, in their thoughts about Him, in their emotions towards Him and in their experience from Him. They communicate with God through prayer, by reading his words, and sometimes in visions or an inner Voice. God's Holy Spirit indwells Christian believers, producing in them the 'fruit of the Spirit,' and distributing the 'spiritual gifts' for mutual service.

The forgiveness of sins. When non-believers repent, putting their faith in Jesus Christ, God forgives them all of their past sins. Throughout their lifetime on earth, Christian believers become aware of many ways in which they sin in their thoughts, words and deeds, so they often confess their sins to God who forgives them and cleanses them from all unrighteousness, because of Jesus' death on a cross.

The will of God. God has expressed his will in three ways. Firstly, God has foretold what he will do, in creating humans, in sending Jesus to die for sins, and in revealing eternal life and death. Secondly, God formerly expressed his will for human behaviour by issuing his laws, by speaking through his prophets and his Messiah Jesus, and by revealing the books of the New Testament. Thirdly, God leads Christian believers by replying to their prayers, by distributing gifts of the Spirit, and by opening opportunities for service.