

1 John 2:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Analysis

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. John reassures believers of their spiritual resources against seducers. "But the anointing which ye have received" (kai hymēis to chrisma ho elabete ap' autou)—chrisma (anointing) is the Holy Spirit (cf. verse 20). The aorist "have received" (elabete) indicates definite past reception at conversion. "Of him" (ap' autou) refers to Christ—believers received the Spirit from Him (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7).

"Abideth in you" (menei en hymin)—the Spirit's presence is permanent, not temporary or conditional. "And ye need not that any man teach you" (kai ou chreian echete hina tis didaskē hymas)—this doesn't deny the need for human teachers (Ephesians 4:11) but refutes false teachers' claims that believers need their superior knowledge to supplement apostolic gospel. Believers possess the Spirit, who teaches truth; they don't need Gnostic "enlightenment."

"But as the same anointing teacheth you of all things" (all' hōs to autou chrisma didaskei hymas peri pantōn)—the Spirit teaches "all things" (essential truth necessary for salvation and godliness), fulfilling Jesus' promise (John 14:26, 16:13). "And is truth, and is no lie" (kai alēthes estin kai ouk estin pseudos)—the Spirit's

teaching is utterly reliable, not deceptive. "And even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" (καὶ καθὼς ἐδιδαξεν ὑμας, μενειτε ἐν αὐτῷ)—following the Spirit's teaching ensures abiding in Christ. The Spirit doesn't lead into novel doctrine but confirms apostolic truth, enabling perseverance.

Historical Context

Jesus promised the Spirit would guide disciples into all truth (John 16:13), teach all things, and bring His words to remembrance (John 14:26). At Pentecost, the Spirit descended on all believers (Acts 2), fulfilling Joel's prophecy: "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28). No longer was the Spirit limited to select prophets, priests, and kings; all believers received Him.

This democratization of Spirit-possession contradicted both Jewish expectations (Spirit for leaders only) and Gnostic elitism (enlightenment for spiritual aristocracy). John declares: every believer has the Spirit's anointing and teaching. Ordinary Christians need not feel inferior to false teachers claiming superior knowledge—the Spirit dwells in all believers, teaching essential truth.

This passage doesn't negate human teachers—Paul, John, and other apostles clearly taught believers. Rather, it affirms that the Spirit's internal witness authenticates apostolic teaching and exposes error. Human teachers are servants; the Spirit is ultimate Teacher. The Reformation emphasized this, encouraging believers to test all teaching by Scripture under the Spirit's illumination. Private judgment informed by Spirit and Scripture guards against both clericalism and individualistic error.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the Spirit's anointing and teaching function in your life—practically, how does He guide you into truth?
2. What's the relationship between the Spirit's internal teaching and faithful human teachers—how do both work together?
3. How can you cultivate greater sensitivity to the Spirit's teaching when evaluating doctrines, teachers, and personal decisions?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὑμεῖς τὸ χρῖσμα ὃ ἐλάβετε ἀπ' αὐτῷ ἐν
But ye G3588 anointing which have received of him in
G2532 G5210 G5545 G3739 G2983 G575 G846 G1722

ὑμῖν μενεῖτε καὶ οὐκ χρείαν ἔχετε ἵνα τις
you abideth But no ye need G2192 that any man
G5213 G3306 G2532 G3756 G5532 G2443 G5100

ἐδίδαξεν ὑμᾶς ἀλλ' ὡς τὸ αὐτῷ χρῖσμα ἐδίδαξεν
it hath taught you but as G3588 him anointing it hath taught
G1321 G5209 G235 G5613 G846 G5545 G1321

ὑμᾶς περὶ πάντων καὶ ἀληθές ἔστιν καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν
you of all things But truth is But no is
G5209 G4012 G3956 G2532 G227 G2076 G2532 G3756 G2076

ψεῦδος καὶ καθὼς ἐδίδαξεν ὑμᾶς μενεῖτε ἐν αὐτῷ
lie But even as it hath taught you abideth in him
G5579 G2532 G2531 G1321 G5209 G3306 G1722 G846

Additional Cross-References

John 14:26 (Parallel theme): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

1 Corinthians 2:13 (Parallel theme): Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

John 16:13 (Truth): Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Truth): For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1 John 2:28 (Parallel theme): And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

John 14:17 (Truth): Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Colossians 2:6 (Parallel theme): As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

1 John 3:24 (Parallel theme): And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 Peter 1:23 (Parallel theme): Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

2 John 1:2 (Truth): For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.