

2018 Lenten Message Series: “I Give Up” Overview

Series: Core Strength

Series Text: 1 John 4:7-8 “Dear friends, let’s love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. ... God is love.”

Series Overview: We have given ourselves to God “At the Rail.” We have surrendered (“I Give Up!”) those parts of our lives that keep us from God’s plan for us. Now we work our cores (“Work Your Core”). This means we focus on and build the core [spiritual] strength that is the center of who we are, whose we are, and all that we do in and for God. That core is God’s love in us! To work our cores, we invite God to give us His love, we strengthen that love through toning and conditioning, and we exercise that love in how we relate to God and to others around us.

Series Method: We will read through, study, and apply the book of 1 John as a church, both in Sunday morning messages and in the church-wide small groups. It will be a seven week series, with an introduction week, one week for each of the five chapters of 1 John, and a conclusion week where we will take the core learnings of 1 John as a foundation for our lives with Jesus. We will read through a daily devotional book of reflections on 1 John, the book *This Is How We Know* (The Seedbed Daily Text: 1 John) by J.D. Walt.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29:

Title: Core Strength 3: “Anointed!”

Message Overview: Don't love the world..love the Father, the creator of the world. Anti-christs are those who don't hold to the truth of Jesus. We are anointed, and we have the truth. Confess the Father and the Son! Don't be deceived by the deceivers. Remain in Jesus!

Scripture: 1 John 2:12-29 (Book 11-17, 7 lessons)

Text: “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.” -1 John 2:20

Memory Verse: 1 John 2:28a “And now, little children, remain in relationship to Jesus.”

Skit: Training with Bobby Buff (Personal Trainer: At the Gym) (Andrew & Matt L.)

Working Our Core: Practicing truth! (Holding fast to the Truth.)

Blurb: You have a special identity in God. As John reminds us, you are anointed! That means you belong to God, and that God has a special calling on your life. He has a plan for you that is unique and important. You are special. Yet the only way to be that special person is to stay close to God. John says, “remain in Jesus.” Now, we can do it for a time, and here and there. But consistently? That’s hard. Yet this is the maturity God intends for those He calls. And you, my friend, are called!

WORSHIP OUTLINE:**Opening Song:** *Fill My Heart* -Sanctify**Welcome:** -Pastor David

Good morning!

Welcome to Forest Hills Church!

Where we love God and others, grow in Christ, and serve in the power and leading of the HS

My name is David Werner, and I'm the pastor here at Forest Hills Church

A special welcome to those who are here for the first time.

We invite you to stop by the welcome center on your way out and get a mug.

We want you to know that here your cup runs over with blessings from God!

We love kids at Forest Hills, and so this serve is intended for kids, too.

We think you'll find this service not only fun, but also helping you grow, spiritually.

We have bags for you to explore, and an activity table in the back.

PP: Memory Verse:

"And now, little children, remain in relationship to Jesus." -1 John 2:28a

Memory Verse:

Our takeaway verse is very short, and simple. It's easy to learn, and that's good, because it tells the simple truth of what it's all about. I have a sister who uses this all the time. In all her cards, and letters, and notes, and every time we part, she always says, "Stay close to Jesus!" It says it all! This is what John says in our memory verse today. Let's try it together...

Worship Music Set: - Sanctify*Lift High the Cross**Reckless Love**Resurrecting*

Worship Prayer - Andrew

Prayers: Kids' Plug-In Prayer (Andrew)**Video:** Training with Bobby Buff (Andrew & Matt)**Offering:** *God is Love* -Sanctify**Message:** Core Strength 3: "Anointed!"**Bumper Video****PP#1:** Core Strength: Anointed!

"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth." -1 John 2:20

Core Strength: "Anointed!" 1 John 2:20 "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth."

PP#2: Outline of 1 John:

Introduction. 1 John 1:1-4

God is Light/Truth (and what this means for us!) 1 John 1:5 - 3:10

God is Love (and what this means for us!) 1 John 3:11 - 5:12

Conclusion: 1 John 5:13-21

We are reading through 1 John together as a church. John is giving an insistent sermon to the Christians in and around Ephesus. He's telling them that God is selfless and committed love, and that those who turn to God are filled with that love, and transformed by it. When we give our lives to Jesus, we live out that love in our behaviors and relationships with others. In the first half of the sermon, John begins describing this godly love using the images that God is Light and Truth. Then, in the second half of the sermon, John goes directly to sharing how God is love, and how that love creates His love in and through us.

But he begins with God as Light and Truth. And I think John does this because this helps Jesus-followers know what kind of love God is. Love can mean so many things. And there were people in that area, in those days, that were teaching different things about God. Jesus didn't die for our sins, they said. He came to guide us into superior thinking with special knowledge, called gnosis. Then we will be godly.

John says that believing this won't help you. You have to turn to God and receive Jesus as He came and revealed Himself, as our atoning Sacrifice and Savior. This is how the Light of God came. This is the Truth that sets us free. This is the God who changes us.

PP#3: God is Truth and Light, and this means we have a different identity!

By the time we get deep into the second chapter, John urges Jesus-followers that this true identity of Jesus changes our identity. This is crucial. Don't miss this, church! John says, "You have an anointing from the Holy One!" That is your new identity! That changes everything.

I think that sometimes we forget our identity. We swim in our world—in it's culture—so constantly, that it begins to soak in, influence us, tell us what it says our identity is. But it's caustic. It sucks the life out of us! It slowly deflates us, diminishes us, and has us serve false values.

So, right as we begin, I want to call us back to our true identity in Jesus. We belong to God. We are God's children. God pours His Word and Spirit into us, forming us in our new identity. John says, we are anointed by God. Anointed.

PP#4: *Image for being anointed by God*

Do you hear that? Jesus-followers are anointed by God. And in the Bible, that means two things. One is that you have a new identity, that you are set apart, declared special. God has His claim on you. God chooses you, calls you His own, sets you apart as His. You are anointed!

It also means that He empowers you to accomplish His work. He has work that He has planned for you. You cannot do it on your own. But by His anointing, His Spirit enables you to live for Him.

In the Bible, they anointed by pouring oil on people's head. That's kind of weird for us in our culture. But we today often wear badges, or pins, or identifying labels showing our identity.

So, we're going to begin our workout by claiming our anointing, using stickers! I've got cross stickers proclaiming that Jesus is our Savior. I invite you to reaffirm your anointing, by being labeled as God's, as being redeemed by Jesus, as marked in your new identity.

PP#5: Remember your anointing:

“You have an anointing from the Holy One.”

I’m going to pass out stickers, and we will label each other. I’ll place a sticker on you, and tell you, “You have an anointing from the Holy One.” Then I will hand you half of my stickers. You, then, turn to someone else, place a sticker on them as you say, “You have an anointing from the Holy One.” Then, give them half of your stickers. It continues like this until everyone has a sticker. Please stand if you can.

[Distribution of the stickers.]

All right, church! Time to continue our workout! Sit down, get set. Get ready to get pumped!

PP#6: 1 John 2:12-29 (CEB)

12 Little children, I’m writing to you because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus’ name. 13 Parents, I’m writing to you because you have known the One who has existed from the beginning. Young people, I’m writing to you because you have conquered the evil one. 14 Little children, I write to you because you know the Father. Parents, I write to you because you have known the One who has existed from the beginning. Young people, I write to you because you are strong, the word of God remains in you, & you have conquered the evil one.

You are anointed, set apart, empowered by God for a purpose. Let’s work on our new identity. Turn to 1 John 2. First workout: John proclaims our new identity. Verse 12: “Little children [this is a term of endearment John uses to address us]—I’m writing to you because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus’ name. [Do you hear that church? This is your new truth! You are forgiven!] Parents [and here he means mature Christians], I’m writing to you because you have known the One who has existed from the beginning. [You know Him!] Young people [newer Christians], I’m writing to you because you have conquered the evil one. [Don’t go back to living your former identity, it will lure you back and try to reclaim you!] Little children [all of us, John goes through this format again], I write to you because you know the Father [we belong to God!]. Parents, I write to you because you have known the One who has existed from the beginning [you’ve walked with Him]. Young people, I write to you because you are strong [you can be steadfast, because], the word of God remains in you, and you have conquered the evil one.”

PP#7: Anointed!

1. Proclamation: We have a new identity in God

We live under a new identity. We are anointed. And we need a steady workout, proclaiming over and over again our identity. The world proclaims us something else. But we resist. We build up strength in our new identity. We develop stamina to hold on to our new identity, by proclaiming our new truth. Everyone touch your stickers. Repeat after me: We belong to the Father!

PP#8: 1 John 2:12-29 (CEB)

15 Don’t love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them. 16 Everything that is in the world—the craving for whatever the body feels, the craving for whatever the eyes see and the arrogant pride in one’s possessions—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world and its cravings are passing away, but the person who does the will of God remains forever.

Next workout! It's a calling to purity! Your identity does not come from the stuff of this world. Verse 15: "Don't love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them. Everything that is in the world—the craving for whatever the body feels, the craving for whatever the eyes see and the arrogant pride in one's possessions—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world and its cravings are passing away, but the person who does the will of God remains forever."

PP#9: Anointed!

1. Proclamation: We have a new identity in God
2. Purity: Be in the world, but don't love it

This is a daily workout. It is having a right relationship with this world. Yes, it is full of blessings and good things. There are lots of pleasures and enjoyments. But your identity does not come from them! Build up stamina to keep them in right perspective. Purity: keep your heart for Jesus. John doesn't say it here, but the Bible's workout for keeping right relationship with possessions is to tone a robust strength of generosity. Practice giving regularly, and extravagantly. Same with feelings and attractions. Don't act on what you feel. Don't cave so weakly. Tone a robust resistance to desires, and develop a strength in redirecting your passions into what God says is good.

Touch your stickers. This is a daily workout. The cool part is that because it is so constant, you can quickly develop a pretty good core strength to keep material blessings in right balance. You can grow in purity!

PP#10: 1 John 2:12-29 (CEB)

18 Little children, it is the last hour. Just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. This is how we know it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not really part of us. If they had been part of us, they would have stayed with us. But by going out from us, they showed they all are not part of us. 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

Next workout: profess. The truth that is proclaimed, we take personally. Profess. We affirm in our inner being, our allegiance to Jesus as the Christ.

Verse 18, "Little children, it is the last hour. [He means that we live in the last times, the time after Jesus has come, and the time of the Holy Spirit given into us all.] Just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have appeared. [The anti-Christ of the end times will lead people astray. But even now, those who lead people astray with wrong teachings about Jesus are mini-antichrists.] This is how we know it is the last hour. [This is a mark of time after Jesus.] They went out from us, but they were not really part of us. [They used to be a part of our church, but now they teach different ideas.] If they had been part of us [and truly had given their hearts to Jesus], they would have stayed with us. But by going out from us, they showed they all are not part of us. [Now, church, touch your stickers.] But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth." Your hearts do belong to Jesus, and you know what is really true!

PP#11: 1 John 2:12-29 (CEB)

21 I don't write to you because you don't know the truth but because you know it. You know that no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? Isn't it the person who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This person is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23

Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father, but the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

Verse 21, “I don’t write to you because you don’t know the truth but because you [do] know it. [He’s not informing us of something new or that we didn’t know. He is pointing to what we profess to be true in us.] You know that no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? Isn’t it the person who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This person is the antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father, but the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.”

PP#12: Anointed!

1. Proclamation: We have a new identity in God
2. Purity: Be in the world, but don’t love it
3. Profession: Affirm our core faith in Jesus

We profess our faith in Jesus: we strengthen it by affirming it again and again, and we do that by confessing that we are saved only in Jesus. We build up our faith muscle, strengthening it by working it. The world teaches us all kinds of other ideas.

Touch your stickers. We work our core strength through professing our faith in Jesus.

PP#13: 1 John 2:12-29 (CEB)

24 As for you, what you heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you will also remain in relationship to the Son and in the Father. 25 This is the promise that He Himself gave us: eternal life. 26 I write these things to you about those who are attempting to deceive you. 27 As for you, the anointing that you received from Him remains on you, and you don’t need anyone to teach you the truth. But since His anointing teaches you about all things (it’s true and not a lie), remain in relationship to Him just as He taught you.

Anointed: Proclamation. Purity. Profession. And Promise! Hold on to the promise! Verse 24. “As for you, what you heard from the beginning must remain in you. [Don’t waver or try to modify who Jesus is. Hold on.] If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you will also remain in relationship to the Son and in the Father. [It’s a life-giving relationship. Hold on to it!] This is the *promise* that He Himself gave us: eternal life. [Touch your stickers. Repeat after me: “I have eternal life in Jesus!” Hold on to that promise!] I write these things to you about those who are attempting to deceive you. [Remember, you need to develop a core strength to resist the slippery and enticing false teachings.] As for you, the anointing that you received from Him [proclamation, purity, profession, promise] remains on you, and you don’t need anyone to teach you the truth. [I’ll come back to this is a second.] But since His anointing teaches you about all things (it’s true and not a lie), remain in relationship to Him just as He taught you.”

John is not saying that we don’t need people to teach us about Christianity, and mentor us and guide us. He’s fighting Gnosticism here. Gnosticism says that there is secret knowledge that you must learn in order to be saved. And they taught this was also true for Christians. Even after you give your life to Jesus, you still needed someone to teach you the secret knowledge that the divine spark is within you, and salvation is freeing that spark from all physical things. Jesus doesn’t save you, you need this special lesson. John is saying, “Garbage!” You don’t need someone to teach you this bogus

secret truth. Yes, we still need people to help teach us how to follow Jesus better in our lives, but there is no secret information that gives salvation. When we choose Jesus, His claim on our lives, His anointing—His Word and Spirit—tell us everything we need to know to keep following Him, and keep in relationship with Him. Salvation is not something *you learn*, it's a *relationship* with Jesus.

PP#14: Anointed!

1. Proclamation: We have a new identity in God
2. Purity: Be in the world, but don't love it
3. Profession: Affirm our core faith in Jesus
4. Promise: Eternal life comes from Jesus

The stakes are high! This is serious stuff. There is the promise of eternal life at stake. Don't give up the promise! It is our hope that defeats our deaths and carries us into eternity.

Okay, one more workout set for today. Keep going! Push through the burn! You can do it!

PP#15: 1 John 2:12-29 (CEB)

28 And now, little children, remain in relationship to Jesus, so that when He appears we can have confidence and not be ashamed in front of Him when He comes. 29 If you know that He is righteous, you also know that every person who practices righteousness is born from Him.

Verse 28, "And now, little children, remain in relationship to Jesus, so that when He appears we can have confidence and not be ashamed in front of Him when He comes. If you know that He is righteous, you also know that every person who practices righteousness is born from Him."

PP#16: Anointed!

1. Proclamation: We have a new identity in God
2. Purity: Be in the world, but don't love it
3. Profession: Affirm our core faith in Jesus
4. Promise: Eternal life comes from Jesus
5. Practice: Live out Jesus' identity in you

Jesus is righteous. When we have a relationship with Jesus, we are born from Him. Then, our identity changes. We are given His righteousness. Righteousness means doing the right thing. It's behavior. Touch your sticker: if Jesus is our savior, we have His Word and Spirit to make us able to live as He wants us to. It changes our practice, our daily lives.

You have a special identity. You are anointed. You belong to God, and you have work to do. Proclaim that salvation comes only from Jesus. Purity: resist sin and live differently. Profess your own faith and trust in Jesus. Hold on to the promise of life abundant and eternal. And practice your faith in your daily life. Remain, abide in Jesus. Hold fast. Work your core.

There are so many voices teaching us other ideas. But we are anointed. We have a core strength that holds on to Him. So, rehearse and retell the truth of the Gospel, for this is who we are.

To do that, let's end this morning with a post-workout finisher. It will help set our training into muscle-memory. You are anointed. You live by a new truth. Let's stand and proclaim this truth that determines our new identity.

We proclaim the Christian faith, as summarized in the Apostles' Creed. Join me!

Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God the Father almighty....Amen.

Closing Song: *O Taste and See* - Sanctify

PP: Memory Verse

"And now, little children, remain in relationship to Jesus." -1 John 2:28a

Announcements:

Benediction: -Pastor David

Ch@Home

Memory Verse: “And now, little children, remain in relationship to Jesus.” -1 John 2:28a

Read: 1 John 2:12-29

Reflect: You are anointed by God! That means God has chosen you and has a special purpose for you. You have God’s Word and Spirit to guide you in your calling. What have you been hearing God’s Word and Spirit say to you recently?

Discuss: Identify in each other gifts, abilities and passions you see in each other. How might knowing these help you discern what God wants you to be doing?

Activity: Consider a Christian you respect. Identify that person’s gifts and deeds. Identify what you understand God’s work for them has been. Draw connections between their gifts/abilities and their work. Consider how this can help you discern God’s calling on your life.

Prayer: Profess your faith in Jesus as the Christ. Ask God for His Word and Spirit in your life. Ask Him each day this week what His calling is on your life.