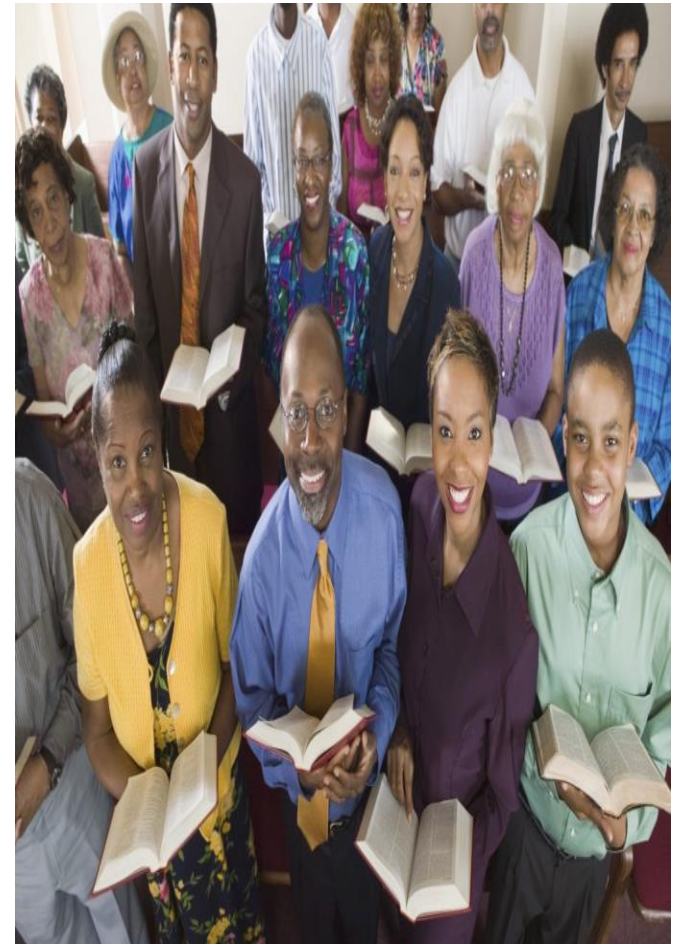



# Blessed Hope Bible Church

[www.bhbcbstl.org](http://www.bhbcbstl.org)



***Learning ...  
Loving ...  
Leaning ...  
Living ...  
Leading ...  
By the Word  
of God***



A large crowd of black human icons, some male and some female, arranged in a loose, circular pattern. Two red human icons stand out from the crowd, positioned near the center-left. The icons are simple, stylized figures with no facial features.

# Preaching theme

# 1 JOHN

finding what's real in a world of fake

# SEEING GOD THROUGH LOVE

1 JOHN 4:12-16

# The commandment of God to His people is twofold:

- 1) To love the LORD your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, and with all your **strength**, and with all your **mind** (Deut.6:5; Matt.22:37)
- 2) To love your **neighbor** as yourself (Lev.19:18; Matt.22:39)

**Many people claim that they:**

Know God

Abide in God

Have Fellowship with God

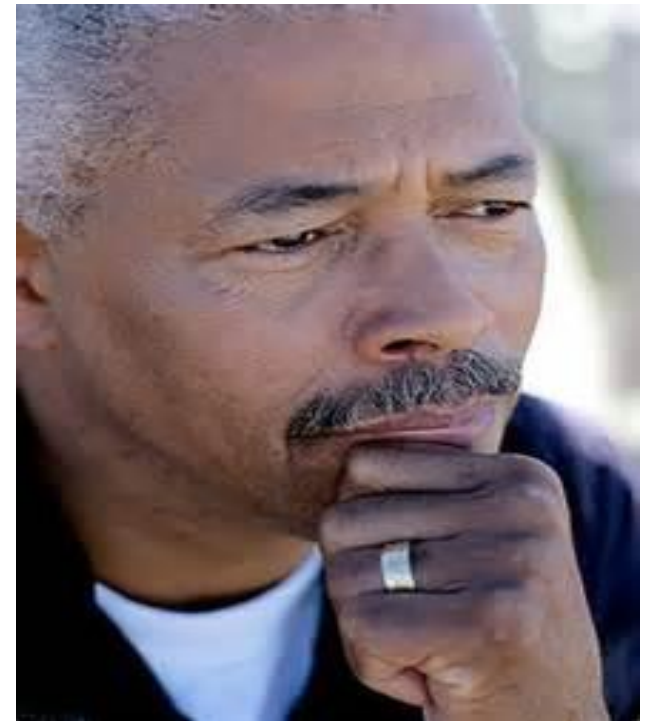
Love God

Speak for God

Are in the Presence of God

**Question: How can we know this for sure?**

**Big Question:**  
**How can we be sure that the presence of God is  
real in our lives?**



**THERE IS REAL EVIDENCE THAT THE PRESENCE OF  
GOD IS REAL IN OUR LIVES**



## EVIDENCE #1: OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

“No one has seen God at any time. **If we love one another,** God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us”.

1John 4:12



- **EVIDENCE #1: OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER**

- **Principle #1:** No one has seen God at any time.

- God is Spirit. (Jn.4:24) ; e.g., Physical eyes cannot see Him.
    - The Old Testament Theophanies did not involve the full revelation of God (e.g., Ex.24:9-11; Gen.18:1; Ex.33:21-23).
    - The Lord Jesus Christ is the full revelation of the Father (John 1:18).

- **EVIDENCE #1: OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER**
  - **Principle #2:** The **evidence** of God's presence and work is the love we have for one another.
    - **Fact #1 :** If we love one another, God abides in us.
      - **Remember:** Love is of God.
      - **Remember:** God is love.
      - **Remember:** Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
      - **Remember:** Love is more than just an emotion, feeling or affection—it is a decision to act sacrificially and unconditionally for the welfare of another based upon that emotion, feeling, or affection.
    - **Fact #2:** If we love one another, God's love has been perfected in us (i.e., God's love fulfils its purpose in us).
      - **Remember:** God's love does NOT get better (e.g., God's love is perfect because God is perfect).
      - God's love fulfils its purpose in us in that we love as He loves.

- **EVIDENCE #1: OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER**
  - **Point:** We cannot see God, but our love for one another shows that God is in our lives—His presence and work can be recognized and realized—and that is real.
  - **Note:** Many of us have been mistaken about the presence of God in our lives (a major trick of the devil).
    - Some think that God is present when they speak in tongues.
    - Some think that God is present in an emotional worship service.
    - Some think that God is present when things are working out good for us—when we are successful in something.
    - However, the Scriptures argue that our love for one another is the evidence of God's presence.

- EVIDENCE #2: OUR RECEPTION OF HIS SPIRIT

“By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”

1John 4:13

- **EVIDENCE #2: OUR RECEPTION OF HIS SPIRIT**

- **Principle:** A believer can know (without doubt or uncertainty) that he/she abides in Him (God) and that He (God) abides in him/her.
- **Proof:** The believer has received the Spirit from God (this happens at the moment of saving faith).
- **Position:** The believer's life is influenced by the Spirit.
  - **Proof #1:** They believe that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world (personal acknowledgement of the gospel truth).
  - **Proof #2:** They confess that Jesus is the Son of God (personal affirmation of the gospel truth).
  - **Proof #3:** They know and believe the love that God has for them (personal acceptance of the gospel truth).
  - **Proof #4:** They abide in love (personal application of the gospel truth).

# CHALLENGE

Does God abide in you?

Do you abide in God?

Is the presence of God real  
in your life?

RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR  
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit** that you are a sinner, guilty of sin and responsible and accountable to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- 3. Affirm** that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour by receiving His salvation through your faith in Him alone.