

Smoke & Mirrors: Series Recap

Theme: Real faith isn't smoke and mirrors—it's genuine, tested, and lived out every day.

1. Real Faith Is Proven, Not Pretended

John doesn't want us to *talk* about faith—he wants us to *walk* it out.

- **1 John 1–2** reminds us that *what's real* can be seen in how we live.
- If we say we know Jesus but keep walking in darkness, something's off.
- Real followers of Jesus walk in the light, keep His commands, and love others.

→ **Real faith isn't about perfection; it's about direction.**

2. Real Love Is the Mark of God's People

The biggest sign that Jesus lives in you isn't how loud you sing or how often you post Bible verses—it's **how you love**.

- **1 John 3–4** says love is what separates children of God from the world.
- God’s love doesn’t just talk; it *shows up* through action and sacrifice.
- The more we live in God’s love, the less we live in fear.

→ **You can’t claim to know God and not show love.**

3. Real Truth Stands Firm in a Fake World

John warned about false teachers and fake truth everywhere.

- The world says, “Make your own truth.”
- God says, “I am the truth.”
- **1 John 4–5** reminds us to test every voice we hear—and follow the One who already conquered the world.

→ **Don’t copy the world’s way—live the Jesus way.**

4. Real Victory Belongs to Those in Christ

John closes by showing that faith isn’t about *fighting for victory*—it’s about *living from victory*.

- When you're in Jesus, you've already won.
- God protects His people, answers prayers, and keeps us from idols.
- Like a quarterback protected by the offensive line, God guards your heart so you can stay focused and faithful.

→ **Protection. Prayer. Purity. That's how we live in victory.**

Bottom Line:

1 John exposes the difference between *talking faith* and *living faith*.

No smoke. No mirrors. Just **real love, real truth, real life** in Jesus.