Affirming Signs of Life

In the passage we are looking at today, John models something for us that is very simple yet powerful. He basically tells his readers that he sees abundant evidence that they indeed have eternal life. John says that he sees it in their relationships with each other and in their relationship with God. And because John's purpose in writing this letter is to assure them of eternal life, he takes time to affirm them in these things. Essentially, John is affirming signs of spiritual life that he sees in them.

Read 1 John 2:7-14

1. John talks about an old command, which they have had from the beginning of their walks with Jesus. What is the old commandment (see 1 John 3:23)?

2. John communicates that the new commandment is in a sense the old commandment, but now made new and different. What made it new and different (see John 13:34)?

3. What is John affirming when he says that the new commandment is true in Jesus AND in them (v. 8)?

4. What is the litmus test of whether one is in the light or still in darkness?

5. In verses 12-14, who does John address? What kind of progress does John affirm in each group?

6. If you were one of the original recipients of this letter, how might John's words of affirmation strengthen and encourage you (remember, there were false teachers who were causing doubt among John's readers)?

Steve said:

> Just like John's original readers, each of us needs to know that someone else sees signs of life in us. That's what you're going to hear from me today. The problem with this message, of course, is that I don't know all of you; I only know a small percentage of you on a personal, spiritual level. I wouldn't be too surprised if you dismissed my affirmations thinking, "That all sounds nice, but if you knew me you wouldn't be so flattering." That's actually a valid point. Therefore, at the end of this message I am going to encourage you to hang with a few of your closest believing friends so that you can talk about the signs of life you see in each other.

7. How might we as a group follow the model of John and affirm each other? Spend some time this week thinking about how you can affirm the other people in your group.