

Message #20

I John 5:1-5

ONE WHO IS BORN OF GOD WILL CONTINUALLY HAVE PROPER FAITH, PROPER LOVE AND PROPER OBEDIENCE.

Now before we begin our journey through this text, I want to point out the phrase “born of God.” This phrase is repeated twice in **verse 1** “born of God”; “born of Him”; and once in **verse 4**. In every instance, the verb tense of “born” is perfect passive. What this means is that we were born of God at a past moment in time and continue to be born of God at the present into the future and we didn’t have anything to do with the action. The verb tense clearly indicates that our salvation is “of God.” We were the recipients of the action of being born again; we were not the source of the action, God was.

We would like to break this passage down by the “whoever’s” and the “whatever.”

PROOF #1 – Whoever believes in Jesus Christ is born of God. **5:1a, 5b**

Now this is not believing anything about Jesus Christ; it is believing specifically what God demands we believe about Jesus Christ. First, we must believe that Jesus is the only Person authorized by God as His anointed one—“the Christ” (**5:1**). We must believe that Jesus is “the Son of God” (**5:4**). We must believe that Jesus is the only “Savior” (4:14). The tense of the verb believe is present, meaning this must be the continual belief we have.

This test has nothing to do with joining a church or taking part in ordinances. This test has nothing to do with religious rituals. Being born of God has to do with what you continually believe about Jesus Christ.

PROOF #2 – Whoever loves those born of God, is born of God. **5:1b-3**

One who truly loves the Father will love Jesus Christ and will love others born of God.

Now the kind of love we are talking about here is a very specific love, clearly defined in **verses 2-3**.

Demonstration #1 - We demonstrate our love for others when we love God. **5:2a**

You will love the same things God loves and you will hate the same things God hates. God’s concept of love is that you put Him first.

Demonstration #2 - We demonstrate our love for others when we obey God. **5:2b-3**

One of the best ways to show people you love them is to obey God and His Word. We are not talking here about a love of total toleration. We are talking about a love rooted in truth that obeys God in any given situation.

Listen, you do not demonstrate your love for someone when you give in to them; but when you obey God. The highest level of love wants a person to do what is right before God.

Keeping God's N.T. Grace Age commandments is not "burdensome," which means it is not a heavy load. What is a heavy load is when we don't obey God. The Spirit of God is in us prompting us and helping us to obey God, so obeying God is not a heavy burden at all. It is disobedience that is the heavy load.

The love for others is determined by your love for God and obedience to Him. When you believe right and love right, you demonstrate you are right with God.

PROOF #3 – Whatever overcomes the world is born of God. **5:4-5**

The word for "overcomer" and "victory" is a word which you are very familiar with in a unique way in this country. The Greek word is "nick-a." This word literally meant in Greek to have the ability to bring about victory.

Now the point of these verses is this—the one who knows God overcomes the world by his faith.

In other words, one who has believed in Jesus Christ is the victor.

We hear so much talk these days about having victory in the Christian life. You already have the victory through faith. If you are a child of God, truly born of God, you are going to overcome the world. But you do not overcome the world by fighting the world. That is why we do not get involved in fighting the world. J. Vernon McGee used to say God has called us to fish in the fishpond, but not clean up the fishpond. Victory comes by faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

Here you have it. You come to church to hear the Word of God. The Word of God produces faith and as your faith is produced by the Word of God, you become more and more victorious and that proves you are born of God. This will be the continual pattern for one truly right with God.