

The Tests and Traits of True Saving Faith I John – Part 9

I. Review

A. The traits of true saving faith

1. A true knowledge of Christ – 1 John 2:29
2. A true consistent conduct – 1 John 3:9
3. A true exercise of love – 1 John 3:14

II. Additional traits of true saving faith

A. A true consistent love for brothers and sisters in Christ – 1 John 4:7

1. Dear friends = divinely loved ones; beloved by God; assures us of His love before instructing us to love one another. God practices what He preaches.
2. let us love one another – continuous action of habitually loving
3. God is the source of love
4. Everyone who loves = has been born (past action) with the present result that that person is a child of God; love is proof
5. Knows God – know experientially; an increasing awareness of God as we love. There is a relationship between knowing God and exercising love

B. A true continuing believing and trust

1. Everyone who believes – present tense reality of reliance upon Jesus; placing confidence in Christ.
2. Jesus is the Christ – reliance upon the personal manifestation of God Himself in Christ; a heart acceptance of this truth leads to the acceptance of the Person
3. is born of God – has been born (past event) with the present result that you believe; believing is the consequence, not the cause, of the new birth (true saving faith)
 - a. our present continuing activity of believing is the result, the evidence, of the past experience of the new birth by which we become God's children
 - b. Children of God will demonstrate the fact that they have been reborn of God by recognizing and believing in God's eternal Son, Jesus Christ.

C. A victorious power over the system of the world – I John 5: 4

1. Everyone born of God – past event with the present result of the lasting power of overcoming the world.
2. Overcomes – to carry off the victory; to come off victorious
3. Has overcome – already done so by rejecting false teachers.
4. even our faith – believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; thus, our life is characterized by victorious power
5. A person of true saving faith does not move toward victory but comes from victory

D. A true reliance on Christ's protection – I John 5:18

1. We know – know absolutely
2. Born of God – past act of regeneration with the present result of being a born one of God
3. continue to sin – present continuous sin; continuous cause of sin which is incompatible with the new birth
4. the One born of God – the Son of God as a fact of the past because He always was
5. keeps – to take watchful care of; to guard personally
6. evil one – in active opposition of good; to drag down
7. touch – to grasp; lay hold of; latch onto
8. him – a security is not on our grip of Christ but on His grip of us; Satan doesn't touch the true believer because Christ holds us; therefore, don't choose to sin