

(1 John 5:1-5)
“*A Changed Heart = A Changed Life*” (Part #1)

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“A Changed Heart = A Changed Life”**
 - (1 John 5:1-5) NKJV.

~INTRO~

I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST GOT MY DRIVERS LICENSE...

- I came across an accident on the interstate.

AS A CURIOUS KID...

- I pull off the road & walk up on a pedestrian overpass...
 - Which brought me within about 15' of all the action.

NOW... WHAT I SAW...

- Shocked me!
 - You see the accident was between a vehicle & a person.
- A car hit a homeless man running across the interstate.
 - And the shockwaves of that impact caused both people...
 - To be **changed forever**.

JOHN CONCLUDES THIS BOOK...

- By speaking of the reality of being **changed forever!**

I'VE PASTORED THIS CHURCH FOR LAST 12-YEARS...

- And I see the church... as the family of God on earth.
 - With many needing to be connected to God's truth.

YET...

- One of the challenges of our time...
 - Is that people have a fascination with **identifying problems**...
 - **AND** **treating symptoms** to feel better...
 - But never getting better!

JOHN'S LETTER...

- Teaches us how to be at home in the church:
 - 1) By understanding what fellowship is.

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- 2) By understanding the Word.
- 3) By understanding who Jesus is...
 - a. His return
 - b. False teaching that attack Him
 - c. Tactics of Satan that divert people away from Him
- 4) By understanding how faith is demonstrated thru love.

[READ \(vv.1-5\)](#)

~**STUDY**~

HERE'S A FEW THINGS TO UNDERSTAND:

IDEA #1 – BY FAITH: (v.1)

THE LAST TEST WE LEARN ABOUT...

- Is *the Test of Faith!*
➤ So let's start with the *Father of Faith* (Abraham).

[\(Gen. 15:6\) NKJV](#)

- Abraham believed the Lord.

[PAUL SAID IN \(Rom 4:3\) NKJV](#)

ABRAHAM WAS MADE RIGHT WITH GOD BY FAITH...

- And his changed life demonstrated he had faith.

JAMES BRINGS HOME THE POINT...

- [\(James 2:21-24 & 26\) NKJV](#)

HERE'S THE KEY FOR US...

- Belief & response are tied together.
➤ *A Changed Heart = A Changed Life.*

THIS IS JOHN'S MAIN POINT FOR THE WHOLE BOOK!

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IDEA #2 – THE EVIDENCE: (vv.2-3)

WE DON'T EARN OUR WAY TO GOD BY KEEPING RULES...

- We respond to God according to His grace.
➤ (Eph. 2:8) NKJV

JOHN TEACHES THE CHURCH...

- That faith is seen... AND here's three evidences he gives:

- a) Divine birth / being born from above / a new nature (v.1a)
 - Are you a follower of Jesus Christ?
 - This means you've committed your life to Him...
 - And He's now the Lord of your life.
 - (Literally directing every step)
- b) Faith is seen thru love for God & for others (v.1b).
 - Which is expressed in fellowship & service.

NOW... **JESUS** WAS QUESTIONED...

- By a scribe in (Mark 12:29-31) about the greatest commandment.
➤ And He answered love God & love your Neighbor.
- **JESUS** even gave an example of how to neglect this kind of love...
➤ (Matt. 25:42-45) NLT

FINALLY...

- c) Keeping Gods commandments (v.2) NKJV

THE FULL IDEA OF commandments...

- Speaks of things that are universally & ethically known in the Church.
➤ (1 John 2:3) NASB 2020
 - (2 John 6) NLT

LET'S BE REAL...

- This is an issue that's not always fun.

BUT UNDERSTAND...

- God's not looking for us to be robotic.
- He's given us a way to demonstrate authenticity.

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- And love may NOT blossom...
 - Until it is tested!
 - Until it is tried!
 - & until it costs you something!

THE REALITY OF IT IS...

- You don't really know someone until you choose to love them.
 - And this is where a child of God is tested.

WHEN YOU'RE FRUSTRATED WITH THEM...

- Will you still stay committed to doing them good – (love)?
 - It goes beyond emotions into a faithful commitment...
 - When it's comfortable & when it's not!

IDEA #3 – OVERCOMERS: (vv.4-5)

SATAN'S PLOTS ARE REAL...

- He wants to infect & distort your every action, decision, & thought.
 - He wants to manipulate & destroy you.
 - He presses your mind & squeezes your body (at times).

BUT...

- God wants to give you abundant life.
 - And He offers us His word & Holy Spirit power to overcome!

LET'S SEE THIS FROM SCRIPTURE...

- [\(James 1:12-18\) NLT](#)

WHO WE SUBMIT OUR LIFE TO MATTERS!

- **Jesus** said this [\(Luke 11:23\) NLT](#)

CHURCH...

- If the devil can't make you really-bad...
 - He'll make you really-busy.

SATAN WANTS YOU TO LIVE A LIFE OF COMPROMISE...

- So you're ineffective in the promises & plans of God.
 - He keeps you too busy... too distracted... & uncommitted.

POINT BEING... JOHN WANTS US TO UNDERSTAND...

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- That **“A Changed Heart = A Changed Life.”**

HE STEERS THE CHURCH...

- Away from false faith & immature belief.
 - So Christians are NOT snared in the enemies deception...
 - [\(1 John 2:16\) NLT](#)
 - A craving for physical pleasure;
 - A craving for everything we see;
 - Pride in our achievements & possessions.

~IN CLOSING~

JOHN LEADS US...

- Into Christian maturity... by understanding a life with God...
 - Requires a radical re-ordering of priorities.
- A changing from living for self... to living for God.

LET'S TAKE... Communion