

(1 John 5:1-5)

“*A Changed Heart = A Changed Life*” (Part #1)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's 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.

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

- 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.

(1 John 5:1-5)

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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...

(1 John 5:1-5)

*“A Changed Heart = A Changed Life” (Part #1)*

- 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