

(1 John 5:6-21)

“*A Changed Heart = A Changed Life*” (Part #2)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “*A Changed Heart = A Changed Life*”
 - (1 John 5:6-21) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

HISTORY TELLS THE STORY...

- About Alexander the Great...
 - And how there was a man in his army...
 - Who was not acting brave in battle.
 - When he should have been pressing in...
 - He was lingering back!

ALEXANDER...

- Approached & asked...
 - “*What's your name soldier?*”
 - The man answered: “*Sir my name is Alexander.*”
- The great general looked this soldier in the eye & said...
 - “*Get in there and fight or change your name!*”

NOW... JOHN TEACHES US...

- That when we identify our life with **Christ** (by faith)...
 - We overcome the world!
 - No longer do we shrink back in defeat...
 - But we stand strong until Satan flees!

(James 4:7) NKJV

Resist the devil and he will flee

(1 Peter 5:9) NKJV

Resist = Fight not flee!

Because... SATAN WANTS YOU TO PULL BACK...

- So you lack joy...
- So you get stuck in sin...
- So you get confused about your eternal state!

~STUDY~

A FEW CLOSING IDEAS:

IDEA #1 – NON-NEGOTIABLE TRUTH: (vv.4-12)

IN THE ORIGINAL LETTER TO THE CHURCHES...

- There was a local issue.
 - John was dealing with – *Gnosticism*.

IN THIS CASE...

- *Gnosticism*... denied the deity of Christ on the cross.
 - And the *Gnostics* claimed the Holy Spirit left Jesus...
 - While He was on the cross... and He died as a man!

BUT THE TRUTH IS...

- Jesus finished our redemption (John 19:30) NKJV
 - And then released His Spirit to the Father (Luke 23:46) NLT

AND LET’S NOT FORGET...

- That Jesus already addressed His authenticity as God...
 - (John 10:17-18) NLT.

SO...

- John was combatting this attack on the faith...
 - By underscoring non-negotiable truth about Jesus.

JOHN... REASSURED THE CHURCH...

- That Jesus came by water & blood.
 - (Jesus was God at His baptism & God at His crucifixion).
 - Baptism (Matt. 3:16-17)
 - Crucifixion (Luke 23:46)

JESUS IDENTIFIED WITH MAN...

- At His baptism...
 - And then died for the SINS of man on the cross.

TODAY... the Holy Spirit witnesses / testifies to the Son of God!

- (John 15:26) says... “*The Spirit testifies of Jesus.*”

APPLICATION MOMENT

WHERE IS... THE SPIRIT OF GOD...

- Testifying of Jesus in your life?
 - Is HE brining up uncomfortable situations...
 - He wants you to get right?

IDEA #2 – REASSURING TRUTH: (vv.13-17)

JOHN HAS WALKED US THRU...

- The test of faith (vv.1-5)
- To the Testimony of Christ (vv.6-8)
- To the witness of God's Spirit (vv.9-12)

NOW... we move into assurance of our destiny (v.13)

- (Col. 1:27) NLT

(John 20:30-31) NKJV

- John writes so we may believe & have eternal life.
 - Again it's another layer of **Assurance of Faith.**

ALSO...

- The confidence we have in prayer (vv.14-15)
 - Example: (2 Chronicles 1:7-12) NLT

NEXT...

- Notice healing & forgiveness of sin (James 14-15) NLT
 - (1 Cor. 6:9-11) NLT

ON THE OTHER HAND...

- There's sin that leads to death...What is it?
 - Blasphemy.

The unpardonable sin today is the state of continued unbelief. The Spirit currently convicts the unsaved world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). To resist that conviction and willfully remain unrepentant is to "blaspheme" the Spirit. There is no pardon, either in this age or in the age

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*to come, for a person who rejects the Spirit's promptings to trust in Jesus Christ and then dies in unbelief.*¹

IDEA #3 – PRACTICAL TRUTH: (vv.18-21)

(v.18) *We know* = As a child of God we do not practice sin...

(v.19) *We know* = We are children of God & the world is controlled by Satan.

(v.20a) *We know* = God has given us understanding...

(v.20b) *We can know* = The true God.

- (Luke 24:45) NKJV

IN OTHER WORDS...

- We've been given the knowledge of things that pertain to salvation.
 - The Spirit brings together in our mind...
 - So we comprehend what God has said.

FINALLY... (v.21) NLT

- An IDOL is a substitute for the real thing!

HOW CAN WE RECOGNIZE AN IDOL?

- It's affections that steer our attention away from God.

SOMETIMES...

- People think they have a boring life!
 - I would encourage you to reframe that thought.
 - And consider how God is protecting your heart.

WHEN LIFE IS SIMPLE... Life is easy.

(1 Tim 6:8) NLT – “*If we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.*”

~ IN CLOSING ~

¹ Got Questions Ministry 2024. Article: *What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?* Sourced: March 9, 2024 from <https://www.gotquestions.org/blasphemy-Holy-Spirit.html>

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The Christian Life requires a radical reordering of priorities...

- As your changed from pleasing self, to pleasing God.
 - As you learn to obey God (a life of faith).

Paul tells us we're to *“walk in the Spirit”* (Gal. 5:25) NKJV.

- The idea is to take one step at a time, as we learn to walk under...
 - The instruction of the Holy Spirit & word of God.