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**pretoria north baptist church**

## “The Necessity of Self-Examination and Test 1”

### 2 Cor 13:5 & 1 Joh 1:1-4

#### Introduction:

- **Q:** *What are some of the most UNNERVING passages for you in the Bible?*
- One that we must certainly consider is **Matt 7:21-23**
- The thought that “**many**” people will one day stand before Jesus and **THINK** and even **BELIEVE** that they are **OK...!** That they are **SAVED** and were even doing “**MINISTRY**” in the Name of Jesus...!
- And then hearing these **FRIGHTENING** words that will echo in their minds for **ALL ETERNITY** – “**I never knew you; depart from Me...**”
- **Q:** *How do we GUARD against that? How do we guard against being DECEIVED like that?*
- **WE NEED TO EXAMINE OURSELVES!**
- **2 Cor 13:5**
- This verse talks about “**testing**” yourself...
- We also guard against this by following the **INSTRUCTION** that we find in **Heb 3:7-19**...
- This is then the great reason for spending the next few studies focusing on **EXAMINING OURSELVES** by *Testing our Salvation*.
- What we need in order to do this is an **OBJECTIVE STANDARD** to **MEASURE** ourselves against whereby we can draw an **OBJECTIVE RESULT** whether or not we have been saved!
- *What will be your ANSWER in EVIDENCE of your salvation when you are asked whether or not you have been saved...? What STANDARD will you use to MEASURE yourself against?*
- Our **HEARTS** are **DECEITFUL** and if it is all that we have to go on are what we **THINK** or **FEEL** or **EXPERIENCE**, then we are liable to **DECEIVE** ourselves.
- And so, we find this **OBJECTIVE STANDARD** in the book of **1 John** which gives us clear tests by which we can **EXAMINE** ourselves to determine if we are “**in the faith**”, if indeed **CHRIST IS IN US...!**
- I would highly recommend that you maybe make some time today to read through **1 John**... (it’s just **FIVE** chapters and will take you about **30 MINUTES**...)

• **Q:** *Why is this so NECESSARY to EXAMINE OURSELVES against the STANDARD of **1 John**?*

- To bring **TRUTH** in the place of **DECEPTION**...
- To bring **ASSURANCE** in the place of **UNCERTAINTY**...
- To bring **LOVE** in the place of mere **OBLIGATION**...
- To bring **JOY** in the place of being **BURDENED**...
- To bring **PEACE** in the place of **RESTLESSNESS**...
- To bring **GROWTH** in the place of **PARALYSES** and even **CINISISM**...

### **Study Points:**

• We will look at the **FIRST TEST** that we find in **1 John** in this study and then for the following **FIVE STUDIES** we will cover **TWO TESTS** at a time to complete the **ELEVEN TESTS** that we find in **1 John**...

• Please read **1 John 1:1-4**

• In this **OPENING VERSES** the apostle John is **TESTIFYING** to and **PROCLAIMING** the **TRUTH** that **JESUS CHRIST IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN** and that **ETERNAL LIFE** is in **HIM ALONE** – He is the **WORD OF LIFE**.

• Everything that he testifies to as an eyewitness in **verse 1**, refers to a **COMPLETED OCCURRENCE** in the **PAST** that have a **PRESENT IMPACT** on their lives.

• The fact that he is **PROCLAIMING** it refers to the **AUTHORITY** he has been given as an **APOSTLE** of Jesus Christ to speak on behalf of Jesus Christ, to speak the **WORDS** of Jesus Christ.

• What is important for us to note in this study is the **PURPOSE** why John is proclaiming this and we find this in the middle of **verse 3**: “so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

• It is in this **PURPOSE** that we find the **FIRST TEST** of **SALVATION**:

• **TEST 1:** *Someone who has been saved have **FELLOWSHIP** with the **FATHER** and the **SON** and with **OTHER BELIEVERS**.*

• “**FELLOWSHIP**” is “*a mutual participation in a shared life.*”

- The kind of fellowship the apostles had with the Father and Son and that John refers to in **verse 3** was based on the **PAST COMPLETED OCCURRENCE** of what they have **HEARD, SEEN, LOOKED ON** and **TOUCHED** and now impacted their lives to **FOLLOW** him – to be in **UNION** with Jesus where **HIS LIFE** was now **THEIR LIFE...!**

- **FELLOWSHIP** with the Father and the Son is to be in **UNION** with the Father and Son, to share in their life.

- **Col 3:1-3; Rom 6:4-5; Gal 2:20**

- To be in fellowship with the Father and Son is nothing less than being in a **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** with God – to **KNOW HIM (Joh 17:3)** to the extent of **UNDERSTANDING** who He is and **EXPERIENCING** the reality of His **PRESENCE** in my life that results in **TRUE JOY, PEACE** and **LOVE (Joh 10:10)**.

- This **LIFE OF FELLOWSHIP** with God starts when you are **BORN AGAIN**, when you **TRULY REPENT** of your sins and you become an **AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN**.

- This is how David Platt words it: *“When you become a Christian, when you follow Jesus, you die to everything you were before – including the sin that was keeping you from God – and Jesus becomes your life... This is the stunning message of Christianity: Jesus died for you so that He might live in you... The Christian life thus becomes nothing less than the outliving of the indwelling Christ. This is the essence of being a Christian – a follower of Christ.”*

- To be **IN FELLOWSHIP** with God is to **EXPERIENCE** His **PRESENCE** and to have a **LOVE** for Him that **DRAWS** you **CONTINUALLY** to His presence because there is a **LONGING** for His presence... it is to experience the **SWEET EXHILARATION** of **PRAYER** – the **JOY** of **TALKING** with the living God... it is to experience the **OVERWHELMING GRACE, LOVE, HOLINESS** and **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of God as you discover a new truth in His word...

- But there is a **SECOND ELEMENT** to this test...

- Fellowship with God is revealed to be **AUTHENTIC** when there is **REAL, BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP** with **OTHER BELIEVERS...!**

- In the book of **Acts** we find that the believers were in **TRUE FELLOWSHIP** with one another, they were in **ONE ACCORD** with one another (**Acts 1:14; 2:42, 44-47**) – this is a revelation of their **INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP** with God that **BOUND** them together into **ONE ACCORD**.

- **TRUE FELLOWSHIP, UNITY, SHARING OF LIVES** can only be found among those who are in **TRUE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD...!**

- Those that are in true fellowship with God **WILL BE** in true fellowship with other believers as well.

- This is **NOT** to say that it will be **EASY**, but it will be a **REALITY**...
- In **Eph 4:1-3** the **FIRST THING** that Paul commands this **BELIEVERS** to do if **Eph 1-3** is **TRUE** of them and they are **IN CHRIST**, is to **MAINTAIN** the **UNITY OF THE SPIRIT**...to **KEEP THE FELLOWSHIP**, the **SHARING OF LIVE**, to be in **ONE ACCORD**.

**Conclusion:**

- This then is the **FIRST TEST OF SALVATION**.
- The **SECOND** will help us even discerning more if this is true of us namely **IF WE ARE TRULY IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**, whether we truly **KNOW** Him or not...
- *You need to **EXAMINE** yourself by asking yourself **THESE QUESTIONS**:*
  - ✓ Do you have a **SENSE** of the **PRESENCE OF GOD** in your life?
  - ✓ Does your **LOVE** for Him **DRAW** you to **LONG** for His presence **MORE AND MORE**?
  - ✓ Is your **HEART WARMED** and **AFFECTED** by the **WORD OF GOD** as He reveals further truths about Him from the Word?
  - ✓ Is there a **RENEWAL** of your **THOUGHTS, DESIRES, ATTITUDES** and **LONGINGS** as you spend time in fellowship with God?
  - ✓ Are you in **TRUE FELLOWSHIP** with **OTHER BELIEVERS** – are there a **SHARING OF YOUR LIFE** and being in **ONE ACCORD** with other believers?
  - ✓ Are you **STRIVING** to keeps the **UNITY OF THE SPIRIT**?

**PNB Lock Down 2020**

**The Tests of Salvation**

(Part 2 of 6)

**“Test 2 & 3”**

**1 Joh 1:5-2:6**

**Introduction:**

- I want to start this study with just two “**simple**” **YES** or **NO** answer questions:
  - 1) Do you **KNOW** God?*
  - 2) Do you have **FELLOWSHIP** with God?*
- **TALK IS CHEAP...!**

- Many of us experience this on some personal level every year around New Year when so many of our family members and even us have all these *New Year's Resolutions...* (Or wishes rather – resolutions are to strong word for what most people mean...)
- They want to exercise more... spend more time with their families... take more weekends of...
- *Read the Bible more... make more time for family devotions... pray more regular and specifically... attend church more consistent... be involved in ministry more...*
- All these things **SOUND** so good and they are all **GOOD THINGS** even to **ASPIRE** to, but **TALK IS CHEAP...!**
- You know the saying: “*You can talk the talk, BUT can you walk the walk...*”
- When it comes to being a “**CHRISTIAN**”, it is exactly like that... It is so **EASY** to **CALL** yourself a **CHRISTIAN**...
- **PROFESSING** to be a Christian is not what **MAKES** someone a Christian...
- Remember what we read in the last study in **Matt 7:21**...
- It is even possible to “**WORSHIP**” God with your **LIPS**, in **WORDS**, while your **HEART** and **TRUE AFFECTION** is **FAR** removed from Him... **Matt 15:8**...
- It is easy to **SAY** that you “*know God*” and “*have fellowship with Him*”... we need to **TEST** if that is truly so...!
- In the first study we looked at the **FIRST TEST** namely: *Someone who has been saved has FELLOWSHIP with GOD and with OTHER BELIEVERS.*
- Let us consider **TWO MORE** in this study.

### Study Points:

#### Test 2: *Someone who has been saved is SENSITIVE to SIN.* (1 Joh 1:5-10)

- One of the **ROLES** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** is to bring **CONVICTION OF SIN** - **Joh 16:8**
- Where there is **NO CONVICTION** of sin, the **POSSIBLY** is **GREAT** that the **HOLY SPIRIT** is **NOT PRESENT** in the life of a person which in turns brings **Rom 8:9** into consideration...
- When the Holy Spirit is **ACTIVE** in a believers life, he will realize his **NEED** of a **SAVIOUR** because of his **SINFUL NATURE** – we **SIN** because we are **SINNERS** (cf. **1 John 1:10**).
- Jesus taught that our **ISSUE** was not that we are **BASICALLY GOOD**, but rather that **SIN** is **PUMPING** through our **HEARTS** into our **VEINS** and is **BLEEDING ALL OVER OUR LIFE** – an unsaved person bleeds sin...!
- **Mark 7:20-23** (cf. **Rom 3:23; 8:7-8**)

- A **TRUE CHRISTIAN** will then further be **AWARE** of his **SHORTCOMINGS** and his **WEAKNESS** to still be “*prone to wander*” into **SIN** and that he needs God’s **FORGIVENESS DAILY** (cf. **1 Joh 1:8-9**).
- He will however **NOT** make a **HABIT** or **LIFESTYLE** of **LIVING IN SIN**...! (cf. **1 Joh 1:6**)
- They will produce **GOOD FRUIT** because they are a **GOOD TREE**... **Luk 6:43-45** (cf. **Matt 7:15-20**)
- He knows that **IF** he is going to **WALK** in a **RELATIONSHIP** with **GOD**, have **FELLOWSHIP** with Him, he has to be **HOLY!** (**1 Pet 1:14-16**)
- When sin then does **OCCUR** in his life, he will **CONFESS** it by going to **JESUS** as his **ADVOCATE** (cf. **1 Joh 1:9; 2:1-2**)... **AND** he will then **FIGHT** it...!
- He will **OFTEN** come to the place where he is **FRUSTRATED** and **GRIEVED** by his **SIN** and will hate his sin just as God hates sin...! (cf. **Rom 7:14-25**)
- He will **HANDLE SIN AS SIN** and won’t try and **COVER** it up or **BLAME** it on or **JUSTIFY** it as an *illness, disorder, generic addiction, personality trait, family history or circumstances*... he realizes that although all these things have an **INFLUENCE** on him, all that they actually do is **REVEAL HIS HEART**...!
- He will therefore **DEAL** with His sin in a Biblical manner – **Prov 28:13; Ps 32:1-5; Rom 6:12-13; 8:12-13**

• *Here are then a few questions to test yourself by:*

- ✓ *Are you **AWARE** of the **spiritual battle** raging within you?*
- ✓ *Are you **WILLING** to and **CONFESSING** and **FORSAKING** sin in your life as you become aware of it?*
- ✓ *Are you **STUMBLING** in sin or **WALKING** in sin?*
- ✓ *Have your **RELATIONSHIP** with sin **CHANGED** from **LOVING** it to **HATING** it?*
- ✓ *Are you **FRUSTRATED** by your sin and **LONGING** to be **FREE** of it?*

**Test 3:** *Someone who has been saved **OBEYS GOD’S WORD.** (1 Joh 2:3-6)*

- To **KNOW** God is to **KEEP** His Word...!
- It is to be **WATCHFUL** and **CAREFUL** in your daily life so as to give **THOUGHTFUL OBEDIENCE** to the Lord.
- It is **NOT** just concerned with the **OUTWARD ACT** of obedience but also with the **INWARD SPIRIT** of obedience – it will be **MOTIVATED** by **LOVE!**
- The **LOVE** we have towards God is **SHOWN** by our **OBEDIENCE** to Him.

• **Joh 14:15**

• It is to **PRACTISE** a **WILLING, HABITUAL SAFEGUARDING** of the **WORD** and this is not **BURDENSOME** for the **BELIEVER**.

• **1 Joh 5:3**

• Those who are truly **IN** Him will **ABIDE** in Him by a **CONSISTENT WALK** of **OBEDIENCE** – obedience will **NOT** be the **EXCEPTION** but the **RULE**...!

• **2 Joh 1:9**

• It is then a **CLEAR CONTRADICTION** to say that you **KNOW** God and **YET** you are **NOT OBEYING** Him... John says it like it is in **1 Joh 2:4** namely that someone like that is a **LIAR** and that the **TRUTH** is not in him...

• To **WALK** as Jesus **WALKED** is to walk in **COMPLETE OBEDIENCE** to the Father! (**Joh 6:38; 8:29; 14:31**)

• *Here are some more questions to test yourself by:*

- ✓ *Are you busy **OBEYING** God's Word? In you **MARRIAGE, PARENTING, WORK, MINISTRY LIFE**?*
- ✓ *Is it your **DESIRE** to obey God out of **LOVE** and **GRATITUDE**, even though you **STRUGGLE** sometimes?*
- ✓ *Is it the **OVERALL PATTERN** of your life one of **OBEDIENCE** towards God?*

**Conclusion:**

• Those then who **KNOW** God and have **FELLOWSHIP** with Him, are those that are **NOT** walking in **DARKNESS**, namely living in **OPEN, CONTINUAL, UNREPENTANT SIN**, but rather those who are **WALKING** in the **LIGHT** namely those who are **PRACTISING** a **LIFESTYLE** of **LOVING OBEDIENCE** to God out of **GRATITUDE** in their hearts.

• If this is **NOT** true of you, we have the remedy right here among these two tests! – **1 Joh 1:9; 2:1-2**



## Introduction:

- So far, we have covered the first **THREE TESTS** of SALVATION namely:

**Test 1:** *Someone who has been saved have FELLOWSHIP with the FATHER and the SON and with OTHER BELIEVERS. (1 Joh 1:1-4)*

**Test 2:** *Someone who has been saved is SENSITIVE to SIN. (1 Joh 1:5-10)*

**Test 3:** *Someone who has been saved OBEYS GOD'S WORD. (1 Joh 2:3-6)*

- The next two tests deal with our **AFFECTIONS** and **PERSPECTIVE**.
- **THINK** about these two questions:
- **Q:** *Who do you LOVE...? WHAT or WHO is in POSSESSION of your HEART?*
- **Q:** *Are you living with a TEMPORARY or ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE...?*

## Study Points:

**Test 4:** *Someone who has been saved will REJECT this EVIL WORLD in light of their LOVE FOR GOD. (1 Joh 2:15-17)*

- **LOVE** for the **WORLD** and **LOVE** for **GOD** are **MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE** loves – you **CANNOT** have both because God and the world are **NOT COMPATIBLE...**
- **“World”** in this context refers to this *evil wicked system* that stands for exactly the *opposite* of what God’s kingdom stands for. (cf. **1 Joh 5:19**)
- **Jam 4:4** – is even **STRONGER** and focus even more on our **AFFECTION...** if someone **“wishes”** to be a friend of the world, it **REVEALS** where there **TRUE AFFECTION** lies... where there **HEART** really is. (cf. **Matt 6:19-24**)
- **Q:** *What does LOVE for the WORLD look like?*
- It is when you **PURSUE** the things of this world:
  - 1) **“Desires of the flesh...”** - the **CRAVINGS** and **DESIRES** of an **EVIL HEART** that is **COMPLETELY FOCUSED** on **SELF** and primarily focused on **PLEASING** our **PHYSICAL DESIRES ...**
  - 2) **“Desires of the eyes...”** - the **SEEING** of **THINGS** and having a **CRAVING** to **HAVE** what you are seeing. It is to **PURSUE MATERIALISM** and be **DISSATISFIED, DISCONTENT**, with what you have; being **COVETOUS; WORSHIPPING IDOLS...**
  - 3) **“Pride of life...”** - to achieve **POSITIONS** that will bring **GLORY** to you rather than to God; to pursue **FAME** for the sake of being **KNOWN** and even **WORSHIPPED** by others; the selfish and therefore sinful longing to **BE IMPORTANT...**

- When God causes someone to be **BORN AGAIN**, their response towards **LOVING HIM** verses what they have in this **WORLD**, is the response of the man who discovered **TREASURE** in the field... “**in his joy he goes and sells all that he has...**” - **Matt 13:44**
- The apostle Paul manifested the **SAME RESPONSE** after His **SALVATION** - **Phil 3:4-11**
- The **REASON** for this is that our **NEW LIFE** in **CHRIST** plants within us **LOVE** for **GOD** and the **THINGS** of God!

• *Here are then a few questions to test yourself by:*

- ✓ *Do you **REJECT** the world with its **FALSE RELIGIONS, GODLESS LIVING** and **VAIN PURSUITS**?*
- ✓ *Instead, do you **LOVE GOD**, His **TRUTH**, His **KINGDOM**, and all that He stands for?*
- ✓ *Do you **DELIGHT** in **GOD** more than you **DESIRE** the **THINGS** of this **WORLD**?*

**Test 5:** *Someone who has been saved will **EAGERLY** await **CHRIST’S RETURN**. (1 Joh 3:1-3)*

- There will be an **ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE** present with those who see this world for what it truly is.
- To live with a **TEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE** is to have what Paul Tripp calls “**Eternity Amnesia...**” It is to live as if this world is our **PARADISE...** this ties in with the previous test, because if you think **THIS WORLD IS IT**, you will set your heart on this world as your treasure...
- **BUT**, if you are **TRULY SAVED**, you will **GROW** in your **UNDERSTANDING** that this world is **NOT** it and you will **GROW** in your **EAGER EXPECTATION** that **JESUS IS COMING AGAIN...!** (cf. **Phil 3:20-21**)
- This is a **THEME** that is **PERVASIVE** in **ALL** of the New Testament!
- Just note these few passages: **Rom 8:18-25; 2 Cor 4:16-5:11; 1 Thess 1:10; 2:19-20; 3:11-13; 4:13-18; 5:23-24**
- The true Christian will have **HOPE** in his heart and his **HOPE** will be focused on **CHRIST’S RETURN!**
- That hope will **PURIFY** his life...! (cf. **1 Joh 1:3; 2 Pet 3:11-13**)
- **LONGING** for His **RETURN** is **LONGING** to be **LIKE HIM** and therefore it will have the **EFFECT** that you will **NOW LIVE DIFFERENTLY** – you will **STRIVE** for **CHRISTLIKENESS** while you are still here on earth...!
- **Tit 2:11-14** is **TRUE** of those who are **SAVED** and **LONGING** for the **RETURN** of **JESUS** – they will **RENOUNCE** living in an **UNGODLY** way and **PURSUE GODLINESS...** they will

be **ZEALOUS**, full of **ENERGY** and **PASSION**, to do **GOOD WORKS** that will **GLORIFY GOD!** (cf. **Matt 5:16**)

• Those who **EAGERLY AWAIT CHRIST'S RETURN** will live **EVERY DAY** in such a way as to **BETTER PREPARE** them for that day...!

• *Here are some more questions to think about:*

- ✓ *Do you **LOVE CHRIST** so much that you **EAGERLY** await to see Him **FACE-TO-FACE** at His return and be **MADE** like Him?*
- ✓ *Do you **DESPISE** the **SIN** in your fallen nature and long to **BE LIKE JESUS**?*

### Conclusion:

- The **REALITY** is that man in **BONDAGE OF SIN** can have **NO TRUE AFFECTION** toward God – he is **DEAD** to God and the things of God...
  - That is why **Ezek 36:26** is so **FUNDAMENTAL** to being a Christian – **GOD** must **CHANGE** your heart and **INSTIL NEW DESIRES** in you...
  - If you are still in **BONDAGE OF SIN**, you will **NOT** eagerly await Christ's return, because you know He will come in **JUDGEMENT** and send you to **HELL** – you will be **TERRIFIED** in thinking about His return... (cf. **2 Thess 2:5-10**)
  - That **ALL CAN** and **WILL CHANGE** if you **TRULY BELIEVE** in **JESUS** and **REPENT** from your **SIN** towards God...!
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The Tests of Salvation

(Part 4 of 6)

“Test 6 & 7”

**1 Joh 3:4-16**

### Introduction:

• The ultimate reality that we are trying to discern through these questions of **TESTING** your **SALVATION** is this:

*Are you **REBORN**? Have you been **RESTORED** to a **RELATIONSHIP** with God?*

- I want to start this study then by just quickly **REMINDING** us of what happened... we can **NEVER** hear the Gospel too much!
- God created man in His image – **Gen 1:26-27**
- The result if this is that man can **KNOW** God and that is what the reality was for Adam and Eve...
- But then they **SINNED** and the **IMMEDIATE REACTION** of man was to **HIDE AWAY** from God – **Gen 3:8**
- That is what sin does – it **SEPARATES** us from God because God is **HOLY** and He cannot **TOLERATE** sin or **LOOK** upon sin without His **RIGHTEOUS ANGER** being **STIRRED UP**.
- Man **BROKE** – he fell into a **STATE OF SIN**...
- **Q: Where does sin come from?**
- **Gen 6:5-6; Jer 17:9; Mark 8:20-23**
- The **SOLUTION** is that we need to be **REPAIRED** and only the One who **DESIGNED** and **MADE** us can do those repairs...
- This happens by being **BORN AGAIN** – **John 3:3, 5-8**
- **GOD** is the One whom **THROUGH JESUS** made it **POSSIBLE** for us to be **BORN AGAIN** through the **HOLY SPIRIT APPLYING** this work to our **HEARTS**.
- Jesus was referring here in **John 3** to the Old Testament prophesy that we find in **Ezek 36:25-28** concerning the work of **GOD** to bring about this **WORK** of **REBIRTH**...
- God comes and **RESTORES** us to a **RELATIONSHIP** with Him through our **FAITH** in Jesus as our Saviour which flows from the work that He does **IN** us:
- **Ezek 36:25:** He gives us a new **PURITY** – He forgives us by placing all of our sin on Jesus...
- **Ezek 36:26:** He gives us a new **PASSION** – He raises us up with Christ so that His desires becomes our desires; His live becomes our live...
- **Ezek 36:27:** He gives us a new **POWER** – He places His Holy Spirit in us that enable us to obey Him.
- **Ezek 36:28:** He gives us a new **PURPOSE** – He makes us His people who live for Him (**Rom 7:4**)
- All of these tests are then to discern if this work of **REBIRTH** took place in you...
- Lets then look at the **NEXT TWO TESTS**.

## Study Points:

**Test 6:** *Someone who has been saved will see a **DECREASING PATTERN OF SIN** and an **INCREASING PATTERN OF HOLINESS** in their lives. (1 Joh 3:4-10)*

- Those that make a **PRACTISE** of sinning are living a **LIFESTYLE** of **CONSTANT SIN** and it is not **BOTHERING** them at all...
- The **UNREGENERATE** is **CHARACTERISED** by this kind of **LIFESTYLE**
- “**Lawlessness**” is to live “*as if there is no law*”, meaning that God has **NO RULES** and **NO WILL** that we are to **OBEY** and **SUBMIT** under...
- Jesus appeared to put this kind of lifestyle to an **END** – bringing **FORGIVENESS** of sins through Him **PAYING** the **PENALTY** of our sin because He was the **ONLY** One **QUALIFIED** to pay the penalty in our place...
- **WHY?** Because “*in Him there is no sin...*”
- The very **PURPOSE** that Jesus came was to **SAVE** us from **SIN** – its **POWER** and **DOMINION** so that we **DON’T** live in sin anymore. Those who claim to be Christians and yet still **LIVE** in the **SAME PATTERNS** and **PRACTISES** of **SIN**, is **LYING** and there is no truth to their claim that **GOD** has granted them **REBIRTH**...
- To say that I am **REBORN** and still makes a **PRACTISE OF SINNING** is to say that the **WORK OF GOD** in and through Jesus in my life, salvation, has been **INEFFECTIVE**...
- John MacArthur: “*Christ’s death served the very useful purpose of taking away not only the penalty of sin but also the pattern of sin in the believer’s life.*”
- Therefore those who **KNOW** Jesus **CANNOT** keep on sinning, but rather they shall **PRACTISE RIGHTEOUSNESS**...
- To “**PRACTISE RIGHTEOUSNESS**” is to be marked as a person of **OBEDIENCE** to the will of God. If you think about your life, your actions will be **MARKED** by **OBEDIENCE** **RATHER** than **DISOBEDIENCE**...
- This test does not mean that you will **NEVER** sin – that will be in direct conflict with the second test and what John states in **1 John 1:8**...
- The simple logic of reasoning is that if God has given you a new **HEART** and **DESIRES** and a new **POWER** to enable you to **OBEY**, you would not **WANT** to keep on practise sinning and will be **ABLE** to practise righteousness...!
- God’s “**seed**” is in the Christian, planting a **NEW NATURE**, a **NEW LIFE PRINCIPLE**, a **NEW DISPOSITION** that will **GROW** into a pattern of righteousness and this is an **IMPERISHABLE** seed (cf. **1 Pet 1:23**).
- **Verse 10** is the summary of this test and also introduces us to the **NEXT TEST**...

**Test 7: *Someone who has been saved will LOVE OTHER CHRISTIANS. (1 Joh 3:10-18)***

- Basic to the life of a Christian is the life of Christ and the **LOVE** that He **MANIFESTED** in His coming to die on the cross.
- Basic to the life a Christian then will be the **CHARACTERISTIC OF LOVE** and especially for those whom **JESUS LOVED** and **GAVE HIS LIFE** for...!
- Outside of Christ we **CANNOT** love in a Biblical way, but **IN** Christ we cannot **BUT LOVE** as **HE LOVES!**
- **1 John 4:19; Rom 5:5; 1 Thess 4:9-10; John 13:34-35; 1 Pet 1:22**
- John also helps us with an important **DISTINCTION** here namely that to **LOVE** is **NOT** to **BE LOVED**... loving one another will **NOT** result in the world loving you... actually the **OPPOSITE** will happen...
- **BUT** the Christian will love **OTHER CHRISTIANS** and will be **LOVED** by **THEM** as well.
- This love is a love that is **DEMONSTRATED** – a true concern for others will mark you and not an **INDIFFERENT, UNCARING**, or an “**AT LEAST IT IS GOING WELL WITH ME**”, attitude...
- **Verse 16** sets the **STANDARD** – “*sacrificial love*”... **THIS** is true Biblical love – the **DENYING** of self and **FOCUSING** on others...
- It may be that we **SAY** that we do not **HATE** other believers, **BUT** living a **SELF-CENTRED, SELF-FOCUSED** life is the same as hating them because **LOVING** one another is shown through **SACRIFICE**...
- To have the love of God in us is to **DEMONSTRATE** His love in the **SAME WAY** He demonstrated His love to us... love must be **SHOWN**...
- This kind of love is **NOT NATURAL** to us and can only come to those who have been **BORN AGAIN**.
- **BIBLICAL LOVE** is one of the things that we **CANNOT FAKE** or **IMITATE**... it is **PRODUCED** by God in us through the ministry of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- Those who have been born again can also not live without showing it, because they will **LOVE** as they have **BEEN LOVED** – this will be the **FRUIT** of the Spirit in their lives.

**Conclusion:**

Here are then some **QUESTIONS** and **THOUGHTS** to think about:

- ✓ *Are your **PATTERNS** of **SIN DECREASING** in your life and your **PATTERNS** of **HOLINESS INCREASING**?*

- ✓ *Think about this past year – is there **ANY AREA** where you are becoming **MORE OBEDIENT** to God in your life **OR** are your life **MARKED** by becoming **MORE DISOBEDIENT** to God...?*
- ✓ *Those who are saved have received positional sanctification – in Christ God sees them as perfect – and this positional sanctification will lead to progressive sanctification – a life more and more in line with the will of God and reflecting His character... **IS THIS TRUE OF YOU**...?*
- ✓ *Are you **LOVING** other Christians to the extent where it is a **SACRIFICIAL** and **DEMONSTRATED LOVE** – do other Christians **FEEL** loved by you...?*
- ✓ *Is your heart **BURDENED** with the **NEEDS**, physical or spiritual, of **OTHER CHRISTIANS** to the extent where it leads you to **DO** something about their needs...?*

• If not, may the **LOVE OF GOD** in Christ **OVERWHELM** you and **CAUSE** you to **CALL** on Him – **1 John 3:16; Rom 5:6-8**

## PNB Lock Down 2020

## The Tests of Salvation

(Part 5 of 6)

### “Test 8 & 9”

**1 Joh 3:19-24** (cf. **4:13-14 & 5:13-15**)

#### Introduction:

- One of the **OUTCOMES** of these tests is to bring **ASSURANCE OF SALVATION** and corresponding **JOY** in your salvation...
- This is something that is a sad thing to see in the church today – people with **NO JOY** in Christ...
- Now we know that **SIN** robs us of our joy as we see that David is praying in **Ps 51:12**...
- But I believe many Christians do not **THINK** about the **GREATNESS** of their **SALVATION** enough and therefore they don't live in this joy that **IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL**...
- **WHATEVER** happens in life, if you go through these tests and discern that you are in the faith, then that is **ALL** the work of God in which you can **REJOICE** and have the **ASSURANCE** that the **GOOD WORK** He has started, He will complete!! (cf. **Phil 1:6; 1 Thess 5:23-24; Jud 24-25**)

- A passage that I turn to often just to **MEDITATE** upon the **GREATNESS** of my **SALVATION** is **1 Pet 1:3-12...**
- In the **MIDST** of **PERSECUTION** breaking out against the church, the first thing Peter instructs the church to do is to **PRAISE GOD FOR THEIR SALVATION** as we saw in our Easter Sunday message.
- And so **THAT** is why it is so **CRUCIAL** to have **ASSURANCE** of salvation, so that you can **REJOICE** in your **SALVATION...** that you can **REJOICE** in your **SAVIOUR...!**
- Having covered the first **SEVEN** tests, let us now focus in this study on Test **EIGHT** and **NINE...**

### **Study Points:**

#### **Test 8: *Someone who has been saved will EXPERIENCE ANSWERED PRAYER.***

**(1 Joh 3:22 cf. 5:14-15)**

- You can **KNOW** you are a **BELIEVER** if **GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS.**
- The only way that can happen is if you **KEEP** His commandments and the only way you can do that is if you **BELONG** to Him... (cf. **1 Joh 2:3-6; Joh 15:7**)
- **1 Joh 5:14-15** – God **ALWAYS** answers prayers that are **ACCORDING TO HIS WILL...**
- Those who have been saved strive to **UNDERSTAND** and **KNOW** what the will of the Lord is (cf. **Eph 5:10, 15-17**) and, in their prayers, they pray **ACCORDING** to what they **DISCERN** His will to be – it is a **JOY** for God to answer those prayers because it brings Him **GLORY** and **BLESSING** upon His children!
- This is a **COMMON THEME** through the Bible that God **LISTENS** to those who **BELONG** to Him and **LIVE** according to His will and therefore **SEEK** that His will, will be accomplished **BUT** that He does **NOT** listen to those who live in **SIN** and not according to His **COMMANDS...**
- **Prov 15:8, 29**
- **Ps 34:15-17; 66:16-20; 145:18-20** – God **LISTENS** to those who **FEAR, HONOUR** and **OBEY** Him... He listens to those that are **SAVED!**
- Some believers **STRUGGLE** with being assured of their salvation because they have little experience concerning answered prayer which comes from a **SKIMPY PRAYER LIFE...!** (**Jam 4:2b**)
- If that is true of you, **REVERSE** that trend in your life...! **ASK, SEEK** and **KNOCK...!** (**Matt 7:7**)



• Not just is this a test for our salvation, but also an encouragement to **PRAY** and **OBEY – GOD HEARS YOU...!**

• **Joh 15:7, 16**

• *Here are some questions to give some thought to:*

- ✓ *Have you had your prayers **ANSWERED**?*
- ✓ *Have you prayed for an **UNBELIEVER** and seen that person **COME TO CHRIST**?*
- ✓ *Have you prayed for someone in **GREAT DISTRESS** and seen God turn the situation around into **BLESSING** and **JOY**?*
- ✓ *Have you sought God about a **VOID** in your life and seen Him **FILL** it?*
- ✓ *Have you prayed for **FORGIVENESS** and a **CLEAR CONSCIENCE** and received it?*
- ✓ *Have you asked God to enable you to present His **TRUTH** to an individual or group and experienced His **GRACE** to do so with great **CLARITY**?*
- ✓ *Have you sought **POWER** in **PROCLAIMING** the **GOSPEL** and received it?*
- ✓ *Have you sought **CONTENTMENT** in the midst of **TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES** and experienced God's **PEACE** as a result?*
- ✓ *Have you prayed for **WISDOM** in a trial and received it?*

**Test 9:** *Someone who has been saved will experience the **MINISTRY** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.*

(**1 Joh 3:24** cf. **4:13-14**)

- If you **CONFESS** that Jesus is the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, and have **COMMITTED** your life to Him, that was the **SPIRIT'S** doing. **APART** from the Holy Spirit you would not **KNOW** who Christ is (**1 Cor 2:10-12**) and you certainly would not **CONFESS** Him as **SAVIOUR** and **LORD**... (cf. **Joh 3:8** – He **APPLIES** salvation to us...)
- **CONVICTION** of sin comes through the **MINISTRY** of the Holy Spirit – **Joh 16:8**
- **UNDERSTANDING** of the Scripture comes through the **MINISTRY** of the Holy Spirit – **1 Joh 2:27**
- **INTIMACY** with God and a **LONGING** for His presence and Fatherhood comes through the **MINISTRY** of the Holy Spirit – **Rom 8:15** (cf. **Gal 4:6**)
- **HOLINESS** comes because of the **LEADING** of the Holy Spirit in **KILLING** our sin – **Rom 8:12-14**
- **PRAISE** and **ADORATION** comes from being **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit – **Eph 5:18-19**
- All the **SPIRITUAL GRACES** comes as a **FRUIT** of the Spirit being at work in your life – **Gal 5:22-23**
- The Holy Spirit is the One **EMPOWERING** a Christian for every and all kinds of **FRUITFUL MINISTRY** – **1 Cor 12:11**

- In all of these things you need to understand that you **CANNOT DO ANY** of this out of yourself – **ALL** of this is the **WORK** and the **MINISTRY** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** in your life...!
- It is as the Holy Spirit is working these things in the life of a believer that **Rom 8:16** comes to **FULL REALITY...**
- So when you see these things happening in your life – **PRAISE GOD** and find **JOY** in your salvation...!!

• *Think upon these question:*

- ✓ *Do you experience **CONVICTION** of your sins?*
- ✓ *Do you grow in your **UNDERSTANDING** of the **WORD** of God?*
- ✓ *Are you growing in **HOLINESS**?*
- ✓ *Is your **LONGING** for and **INTIMACY** with God **GROWING**?*
- ✓ *Is your **HEART** filled with **PRAISE** for God and are you **WORSHIPPING** Him?*
- ✓ *Are you experiencing some form of **FRUITFUL MINISTRY**?*

### **Conclusion:**

- **Are experiencing answered prayer and the ministry of the Holy Spirit?**
- If you do **PRAISE** God and find your **JOY** in Him!
- If not, **REPENT** and **STOP LIVING** in your **SIN**!
- **STOP** building a **WALL** between you and **God** by your **SIN** (cf. **Is 59:1-2**) and **STOP RESISTING** and **GRIEVING** the Holy Spirit! (cf. **Acts 7:51; Eph 4:30**)

**PNB Lock Down 2020**

**The Tests of Salvation**

(Part 6 of 6)

**“Test 10 & 11”**

**1 Joh 4:1-6; 3:12-13**

### **Introduction:**

- Please watch the *shared video* if that is possible for you...

• We all have **ISSUES...** but the **GREATEST SINGLE ISSUE** everyone must face and address in this world is:

***WHERE DO I STAND WITH GOD? HAVE I BEEN SAVED?***

- There is **NO GREATER THING** to be concerned about in this life than your salvation! (cf. **Matt 16:26**)
- There is no greater thing to find **JOY** in than in your salvation!
- There is no greater **LIFE MISSION** to give yourself to than to make **KNOWN** the gospel so that by the grace of God other people can come to salvation!
- The age we are living in is the **AGE OF GRACE** and as long as there is still a **TODAY** there is **HOPE** that people will be saved!
- This is what is to be our **PRIMARY CONCERN** for this **AGE**, the **PRIMARY CONCERN** of the **CHURCH** and the **MISSION** of the church above all other things – **THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL...**!
- This is especially important here where we live because there are so many **FALSE “gospels”** going around and so many people “**thinking**” that they are saved – judging themselves according to **OTHER PEOPLE** or some **EXPERIENCE** in the past, their “**good**” lives, some or other **RITUAL** they performed or their **STATUS** in the church...
- All these are **GREATLY SUBJECTIVE** and we need an **OBJECTIVE STANDARD** to examine our salvation by.
- This is what we have been studying in **1 John...**
- So far, we have covered **NINE TESTS** and so there are only **TWO LEFT** to consider...

**Study Points:**

***Test 10: Someone who has been saved will be able to DISCERN between SPIRITUAL TRUTH and ERROR. (1 Joh 4:1-6)***

- **EVERY RELIGION** believes that there is a “**God**”, a “**Being**” that is **BIGGER** than us and ultimately **IN CONTROL**.
- The point that brings **DIVISION** between these religions is when you start talking about **JESUS...**!
- **WHO** He is and **WHAT** He has done and that He is the **ONLY WAY** to be saved...!
- It is through **LEARNING CHRIST** that we can be saved (cf. **Eph 4:20**) – someone who **ISN’T CLEAR** about **WHO JESUS IS** and **WHAT HE HAS DONE**, cannot have assurance of salvation because it is **TRUST** in **JESUS** that brings about salvation!

- Therefore someone who has truly been saved **KNOWS** these truths and he will be able to **DISCERN** when error concerning **WHO** Jesus is and **WHAT** He has done is being presented.
- This is a **DOCTRINAL** test – what you **KNOW** the **TRUTH** to **BE** and **BELIEVE** in and is **NOT** focused on **EXPERIENCE** or **MORAL CONDUCT**... (cf. **1 Joh 5:1**)
- This test calls us to **TEST** the “spirits” and **NOT JUST BELIEVE** everything we hear and see – just like the Bereans did in **Acts 17:11** – note that they gave Paul the “benefit of the doubt” and that they treated them “innocent until proven guilty” – it is this possible to have a **DISCERNING** and **SCEPTICAL** approach without **STONING** someone **BEFORE** you hear what they have to say...!
- But **YES**, we have to **DISCERN** between **TRUTH** and **ERROR** because here are **MANY** false prophets and **THE WAY** by which the devil is **WAGING WAR** on the church is to send **TROJAN HORSES INTO THE CHURCH** and attack the church from **WITHIN**, through **FALSE PROPHETS** and **HERESIES**, and then specifically about **JESUS CHRIST – HIS PERSON** and **WORK**!

• **1 Thess 5:19-22**

- To **DISCERN** if someone is in the truth is to determine **TWO THINGS**:
  - 1) *What do they **BELIEVE** about **JESUS**? Do they confess Him as **DIVINE LORD**?*
  - 2) *What do they **BELIEVE** about the **WORD OF GOD**? Do they **MESS** with it and **ADAPT** it or try and **REPLACE** it?*

*Someone who has been **TRULY SAVED** then will not **WAFER** or **QUESTION** the **PERSON** or **WORK** of **CHRIST** or the **RELIABILITY** and **TRUTH** of the **WORD OF GOD**!*

- They will be able to **DISCERN** between **SPIRITUAL TRUTH** and **ERROR**.

**Test 11:** *Someone who has been saved will **SUFFER REJECTION** because of their **FAITH**.*

(**1 Joh 3:12-13**)

- Jesus was **HATED** by the world and taught us that if we are to **FOLLOW HIM**, **WE** will be **HATED** by the world as well...!

• **Joh 15:18-21; Joh 17:14**

- The **REASON** why the world will hate you is because they will see their **OWN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS** as you are **LIVING IN THE LIGHT** and **PURSUING RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

• If you are **LOVED** by the **WORLD**, and the world with all of its sinful practices feels **COMFORTABLE** around you, there is something **WRONG** with your confession of following Jesus...

• **Matt 10:34-39**

• We are **NOT** to strive to be **FRIENDS** with the world... to be **LIKED** by the world... (cf. **Jam 4:4**), neither are we to **SEEK OUT** being hated by the world...

• If you are simply **FOLLOWING JESUS** in the truest sense of the word, it will **NOT** make you **POPULAR** with the world... it will make you **HATED**...!

• This **WILL** be so because there is **TWO RADICALLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES** and **PURPOSES** for which the **CHRISTIAN** and the **WORLD** lives:

*The **WORLD** lives to **PLEASE THEMSELVES** and the **CHRISTIAN** lives to **PLEASE GOD**...*

• This is how we **ONCE WALKED** and when we do **NOT** want to walk that way anymore, they get **ANGRY** with us... **1 Pet 4:1-5**

• It is in our **HUMAN NATURE** to want to **FIT IN** and be **LIKED** by everyone, but knowing Jesus brings a **CHANGE** in us that makes us realize that all the praise of the world is **EMPTY** and **VAIN** and that what **JESUS** says of us, **THAT** is what **TRULY MATTERS**...!

• The Christian will **SUFFER REJECTION** because of his **FAITH** and he will even do so **REJOICING** in it...!

• **Acts 5:41; Matt 5:10-12**

### Conclusion:

• *What are you to do when these things are **NOT** true of you...? Does that mean there is **NO HOPE** for you? Does that mean that **GOD** maybe does not **LOVE** you...? Can you be **STILL BE SAVED**?*

• Read **Rom 5:6-8** and if you **REALIZE** that you are a **SINNER** in **NEED** of the **GRACE** of **GOD** that He has revealed in **JESUS CHRIST**, **CALL** upon His Name! **REPENT** of your sin and **TRUST** in **CHRIST ALONE** and you will be saved! (**Rom 10:9-13**)

• *What happens when I **DISCERN** that I **AM SAVED**, but then I **STUMBLE** and do not **MEASURE UP** to what I am called to be...? What happens when we **MESS UP**...? Does that **CHANGE** the **LOVE** God has for me? Does that **CHANGE** my **POSITION** before Him...?*

• **NO!** Read **Rom 8:31-39** and **REJOICE** in His **LOVE** for **HIS CHILDREN!**

- These **TESTS** of **SALVATION** is given to us that we can **KNOW** if we have been saved or not – **1 Joh 5:13**
- May the **LORD** use it to help you **EXAMINE** yourself!