

Chapter 8

Make Certain About His Calling & Choosing You

“Set your minds, then, on endorsing by your conduct the fact that God has called and chosen you. If you go along these lines there is no reason why you should stumble. Indeed if you live this sort of life a rich welcome awaits you as you enter the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:10-11, Phillips Translation).

“This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother” (1 John 3:10, *New International Version*). It did not say, “This is how we save ourselves.” It says, *“This is how we know who the children of God are...”* (1 John 3:10, emphasis mine).

Jesus said it like this, *“By their fruits ye shall know them”* (Matt. 7:20, emphasis mine).

In Scripture, God speaks of salvation in two ways: (1) that salvation is by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9) and (2) in terms of the good works that every saved person will perform (Eph. 2:10). Why are we afraid to speak of the **fruit** of the believer? The Bible does not shy away from such a subject. Here is **how we can know** we are in God’s kingdom and under God’s rule:

1 John 2:3-5 – [3] We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. [4] The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. [5] But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him.

If **you know** that He is righteous, **you know** that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him (1 John 2:29). (Doesn’t this make sense? The nature of God and Christ is righteousness, and everyone who practices righteousness is giving evidence of sharing His nature or, as John says, has been born of Him).

1 John 3:5-10 – [5] But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. [6] No-one who lives in him keeps on sinning. (In Greek, this is in the present tense; this conveys continuous, or habitual, action. The Bible reader can significantly enhance their understanding of the passage by supplying the words: continuously, repeatedly, over and over again, uninterruptedly, constantly, keep on, customarily, habitually, as a lifestyle.) No-one who continues to sin (present tense) has either seen him or known him. [7] Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does (present tense: repeatedly, over and over again does) what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. [8] He who does what is sinful (present tense: habitual as a lifestyle because it’s their nature) is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son

of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. [9] **No-one who is born of God will continue to sin** (*present tense: that is, as their lifestyle, showing an unrepentant heart*), **because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning** (*present tense: uninterruptedly*), **because he has been born of God.** [10] **This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does** (*present tense*) **not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love** (*present tense*) **his brother.** (*John says, "This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are." Those who do not practice righteousness and love show that they do not have the nature of the Father. Is evidence of the new birth not important?*)

1 John 3:14 – We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

1 John 4:6 – We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us (*the apostles*); **but whoever is not from God does not listen to us** (*the apostles*). **This is how we recognize the Spirit (or spirit) of truth and the spirit of falsehood.**

1 John 4:8 – He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (*Love is the mark of a believer, for the nature of God is love.*)

1 John 5:2 – This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God (*present tense: and continually loving Him*) **and carrying out** (*present tense: and continuing to keep*) **his commands.**

1 John 5:18-19 – We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin (*present tense: as a lifestyle, showing an unrepentant heart*); **the one who was born of God keeps him safe** (*King James Version – keepeth himself, present tense: and continues to keep himself*), **and the evil one cannot harm him.** [19] **We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.**

WHY DID THE APOSTLE JOHN SHARE ALL THESE THINGS WITH US? I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know** that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

Conclusion: Righteousness, holiness, love, the fruit of God's Spirit are evidences of the new birth. You yourself have no confidence that you belong to Him (God) while practicing an ungodly lifestyle. The conscience condemns, and there is no confidence toward God. The Apostle Peter admonishes you to make your calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10); i.e., assure your heart that you really do belong to Him by a lifestyle that corresponds to the glorious Gospel. I did not say, "This is how we are saved"; I said, "This is **how we know** we belong to Him."

Questions

1. **Read Acts 8:13, 18-22.** First John is speaking about the “fruit,” or evidence of a true believer. These are all issues that spring from the heart. When a believer’s heart is found not to be right (such as Simon’s), what are they to do?
2. **Read 2 Peter 1:5-11.** What is the proof, or evidence, that a person is really among those God has called and chosen?
3. **Read Matthew 25:34-40.** What are the qualities demonstrated by the believer in these verses?
4. **Read John 13:35.** Jesus’ disciples are known by what?
5. **Read Matthew 7:21-23.** Why were these individuals turned away from God’s kingdom?
6. **Read John 14:23.** If a person loves Jesus, what will they do?
7. **Read Acts 26:20.** What is this verse saying?
8. **Read James 2:17.** If your faith is not followed by good works, or actions, then what kind of faith is it?

Answer Key

1. **Read Acts 8:13, 18-22.** First John is speaking about the “fruit,” or evidence of a true believer. These are all issues that spring from the heart. When a believer’s heart is found not to be right (such as Simon’s), what are they to do? Repent of your sin (wickedness) and pray to God that the thought of your heart be forgiven.
2. **Read 2 Peter 1:5-11.** What is the proof, or evidence, that a person is really among those God has called and chosen? They add to their faith all the qualities of the Spirit, the qualities of their new nature.
3. **Read Matthew 25:34-40.** What are the qualities demonstrated by the believer in these verses? Practical works that proceed from faith—such as giving food to the hungry, hospitality toward others, clothing the destitute, caring for the sick, reaching out to those in prison, etc.
4. **Read John 13:35.** Jesus’ disciples are known by what? The love they show one another.
5. **Read Matthew 7:21-23.** Why were these individuals turned away from God’s kingdom? They were workers of iniquity. In Greek, the present tense is used, which indicates that iniquity was their lifestyle, their nature. Jesus said He never knew them. They were lost religious people that had never had a change of heart, a change of mind that turned them toward God.
6. **Read John 14:23.** If a person loves Jesus, what will they do? Keep His Words, or do His sayings.
7. **Read Acts 26:20.** What is this verse saying? Prove your repentance by what you do.
8. **Read James 2:17.** If your faith is not followed by good works, or actions, then what kind of faith is it? Dead faith, Non-saving faith (James 2:14).

