

The Proof that One Really Loves God – 6 Tests (part 1)

1st John – Chapter 3.1-24

Last week our focus was on seeing the proof that one really knows God. How we are to know in our hearts and minds that we really do know who God is. This week and next we will focus on the proof that one really loves God.

Test 1 – Experiencing God’s Incredible Love

1 John 3: 1-3 ¹ See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- ❖ 1. The **privilege** of God’s love: We are called children of God ¹ See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
 - A great love given by God to us so we may be part of His family.
 - **Bestowed** g1325 didōmi to give – as in an act of granting a blessing
 - **children** g5043 teknon a child – in virtue of gracious acceptance
 - **John 1:12-13** ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - **John 11:51-52** ⁵¹ Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.
 - Did you notice the children who are scattered abroad? That would be us
 - **Romans 8:14, 16** ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God
 - **2 Corinthians 6:18** ¹⁸ “And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.
 - A love so great the world does not understand believers, they do not **know** Jesus
 - **Know** g1097 ginōskō perceive, understand, acknowledge, conclude

- **John 15:18-19** ¹⁸ *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*
- **John 15:21** ¹ *But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.*

❖ 2. The great **hope & mystery** of God's love: Eternal transformation ² *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

- What we will be is unknown, none of us has seen the Lord in His redeemed body as John has. He had the closest idea of what we might be like because he had actually seen Jesus after the resurrection but not even he could say any more that we would be like Jesus
 - **Beloved** g0027 agapētos dear friends, brothers – in a special loving relationship.
 - **Romans 8:19, 23** ¹⁹ *For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*
 - **1 Corinthians 13:12** ¹² *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*
 - **Colossians 3:4** ⁴ *When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*
- We will be like Him, we will be transformed to be like Christ
 - **2 Peter 1:4** ⁴ *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*
 - **2 Corinthians 3:18** ¹⁸ *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*
- The book of Job was written in about 3000 BC, Job was a righteous man who endured some amazing griefs as Satan tried to 'break' him. In my mind, Job has one of the most touching confessions of the mystery of God's redeeming love and eternal transformation...
 - **Job 19:25-27** ²⁵ *"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. ²⁶ "Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; ²⁷ Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!*

- One of my favorite songs comes from my childhood and reminds me that God's love is living and precious and that my Redeemer lives... This is a link for this song from Samuel Medley in 1775.
 - https://my.hymnary.org/song/dynamic/143/i_know_that_my_redeemer_lives_what_joy?toolkit=veroviostatic
- ❖ 3. The **incentive** of God's love: Purification ³ *And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*
 - We have this hope, the positive assurance that we love God as we are being purified, sanctified unto the Lord. Jesus is pure (hagnos) – we are being purified (hagnizō).
 - **Purifies** g0048 hagnizō to cleanse from defilement
 - **Pure** g0053 hagnos free from ceremonial defilement, holy, sacred
 - **Matthew 5:8** ⁸ *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
 - **Pure** g2513 katharos clean
 - **1 Peter 1:3** ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*
 - **1 Peter 5:4** ⁴ *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory*
 - **Revelation 22:3-4** ³ *There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴ they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.*
 - **John 17:18-20** ¹⁸ *As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.*
 - ²⁰ *"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word*
 - **2 Corinthians 7:1** ¹ *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Test 2 – Turning Away from Sin & It's Enslavement

1 John 3:4-9 ⁴ *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. ⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

- ❖ 4. The **need** for deliverance: Humans are by nature sinful ⁴ *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.*
 - Humans by their very nature practice sin, sometimes big, sometimes small but still it is sin. We can turn away from sin and it's enslavement thru the deliverance of the Cross. The question is do we love God enough to turn from our sins – habitual or occasional?
 - **Lawlessness** g0458 anomia means lawless, a violation of law
 - **Romans 4:15** ¹⁵ *for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.*
 - Humans break the law – maybe not the 'laws' of man but here John is talking about the laws of a Holy God from which we all need deliverance
 - **1 John 5:17** ¹⁷ *All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.*

- ❖ 5. The **provision** of deliverance ⁵ *You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.*
 - It says in Scripture that Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, took away our sins
 - **Matthew 1:21** ²¹ *She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*
 - **John 1:29** ²⁹ *The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** ²¹ *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
 - **Titus 2:14** ¹⁴ *who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*
 - **1 Peter 2:22** ²² *WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH*
 - **1 Peter 3:18** ¹⁸ *For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit*

- ❖ 6,7. The **proof** of deliverance ⁶ *No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.* ⁷ *Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous*
 - If we abide, live in Christ we do not continue to sin – not perfection just doing what is right
 - **Abide** g3306 menō in this verse means 'to indwell'
 - **3 John 1:11** ¹¹ *Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.*

- If we keep on sinning, we do not know Christ for if we truly know Christ, we will want to be like Him – not sinning with His help; Imitating Him.
- We can be deceived about the matter of sin & righteousness
 - **Deceives** g4105 planaō to lead astray, to cause to wander, seduce, delude
 - **1 John 2:26** ²⁶ *These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.*
- We must be practicing righteousness, we haven't completely learned it. So, we are students practicing what we are taught, and becoming righteous in the practicing.
 - **Righteousness** g1343 dikaiosynē fair & equitable dealing, justice, integrity, virtue
 - **Righteous** g1342 dikaios signifies 'just', without prejudice or partiality
- ❖ 8. The **great conquest** of Christ in deliverance ⁸ *the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*
 - John says much about the devil or the evil one. He has sinned from the first time he rebelled against God. He is the instigator of human sin. He is in the world and has the whole world of unbelievers under his control. But he cannot lay hold of the believer to harm him without the consent of God
 - We see in this verse that the person who practices sin is of the devil
 - **Practices** g4160 poieō do, make, bring forth, commit, work, perform
 - **Matthew 13:38** ³⁸ *and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one*
 - **John 8:44** ⁴⁴ *You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
 - The Son of God came to earth to destroy the devil's work
 - **Destroy** g3089 lyō to loosen, break up, destroy, dissolve, to do away with
 - **Matthew 4:3-4** ³ *And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"*
 - **John 12:31** ³¹ *Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out*
 - **John 16:11** ¹¹ *and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*
 - **Hebrews 2:14-15** ¹⁴ *Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*

- ❖ 9. The **result** of deliverance ⁹ *No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*
 - The result of our deliverance is being freed from living in sin – nobody explains this better than Paul to the Ephesians. This is us, this is how we used to live. Praise God that He loved us so much that we have been delivered.
 - **Ephesians 2:1-10** ¹ *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Test 3 – Being Marked by Righteousness & Love

1 John 3:10-17 ¹⁰ *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; ¹² not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?*

- ❖ 10. **Love & righteousness** reveal a person's true nature ¹⁰ *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*
 - The children of God practice the righteousness of God

- **John 1:12-13** ² *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*
 - **Romans 8:16** ⁶ *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God*
 - **1 Timothy 1:5** ⁵ *But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*
- ❖ **11. Love is the message** heard from the very beginning ¹¹ *For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another*
- As children of God, we practice the love of God because we listen to our Father, we read His Words in scripture and we know that love is the message, even in our crazy world.
 - **John 13:34** ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*
 - **Colossians 3:14** ¹⁴ *Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*
 - **John 15:12** ¹² *“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:9** ⁹ *Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another*
 - **1 Peter 3:8** ⁸ *To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit*
 - **1 Peter 4:8** ⁸ *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*
 - **Ephesians 5:1-2** ¹ *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children*
- ❖ **12, 13. Love does not persecute** the righteous ¹² *not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.*
- John uses the Genesis story of Cain and Abel to show the point that Cain’s deeds were evil while his brother Abel’s were righteous. Cain’s actions showed that he did not have love for his brother.
 - **Genesis 4:3-10** ³ *So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. ⁴ Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; ⁵ but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. ⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.” ⁸ Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.*

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.

- **Hebrews 11:4** ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

- We should not be surprised if the world hates us, nor should we give in to their hatred
 - **Hates** g3404 miseō to detest (especially to persecute), to love less
 - **John 15:18** ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you
 - **John 17:14** ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world

❖ 14. **Love is the proof** that a person has passed from death to life, the life of and in Jesus ¹⁴ *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.*

- The proof is there because we love Jesus and have given our lives to Him
 - **John 5:24** ²⁴ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:9** ⁹ Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another
 - **1 Peter 1:22-23** ²² Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, ²³ for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
 - **Romans 12:10** ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor

❖ 15. **Love does not hate** ¹⁵ *Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

- John says that he who 'hates' his brother is called a murderer; for the sin lies in the inward disposition of the person, of which the actual act is only an outward expression. Jesus indicates that anger (like that of Cain) is the same as hate, then murder physically or mindfully.
 - **Hate** g3404 miseō to detest, to love less, to pursue with hatred, having malicious and unjustifiable feelings towards another, whether towards the innocent or by mutual animosity.
 - **Matthew 5:21-22** ²¹ "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' ²² But I say to you that

everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

- Hatred exempts a person from eternal life and **manifests** itself in many ways which Paul points out in his letter to the Galatians
 - **Galatians 5:19-21** ⁹ *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- ❖ **16. Love is the proof** that a person understands the love of Christ ¹⁶ *We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*
 - Jesus loved us so much that we gave His life for us. We should be imitating that self-sacrificing love – even to the extent that we lay down our lives for our brothers
 - **John 10:11** ¹¹ *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*
 - **John 15:13** ¹³ *Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends*
 - **Ephesians 5:2** ² *and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

- ❖ **17. Love has compassion** and gives to meet the needs of people ¹⁷ *But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?*
 - Compassion for the less fortunate has been a command from the beginning. If we shut our eyes and hearts to those in need how can we say that we really love God. He is has shown us mercy and grace, the ultimate in compassion – we cannot do any less if we truly love Him
 - **Deuteronomy 15:7-8** ⁷ *"If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; ⁸ but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks.*
 - **Colossians 3:12** ¹² *So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience*
 - **Hebrews 13:16** ¹⁶ *And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*
 - **James 2:15-16** ¹⁵ *If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?*

Test 4 – Having a Clean Heart

1 John 3:18-24 *1 John 3:18-24* ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. ¹⁹ We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him ²⁰ in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

- ❖ 18, 19. A clean heart is **produced by loving** with action & not with words only ¹⁸ *Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.* ¹⁹ *We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him*
 - Love assures the truth, if our hearts are clean we will love not only by our actions (deeds) and our words but by our very lives as we serve the Lord.
 - **Truth** g0225 alētheia signifying ‘the reality lying at the basis of an appearance; the manifested, veritable essence of a matter’. Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary: the meaning is not merely ethical “truth,” but “truth” in all its fullness and scope, as embodied in Jesus; He was the perfect expression of the truth
 - **Romans 12:9** ⁹ *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.*
 - **1 Peter 1:22** ²² *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart*
 - Love satisfies conscience by knowing in our minds and hearts that we are of the truth

- ❖ 20,21. A clean heart is **produced by God** ²⁰ *in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.* ²¹ *Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God*
 - God knows our need for cleansing, release, rest of conscience. He also knows when and how our heart(mind) is condemning us. He knows how easy it is for us to convince ourselves of the greatness of our ‘sins’. He also knows when we are lying to ourselves that some things just don’t matter. But we must remember God is greater than our hearts and knows all things.
 - In God our hearts will be cleansed, and He will free us of whatever is condemning us – when we give it all to Him, lay it at the cross and don’t be taking it back.
 - **1 Corinthians 4:4** ⁴ *For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.*

- **2 Corinthians 1:12** ¹² For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you
 - God assures us
 - **Job 22:25-27** ²⁵ Then the Almighty will be your gold And choice silver to you. ²⁶ “For then you will delight in the Almighty And lift up your face to God. ²⁷ “You will pray to Him, and He will hear you
 - **Romans 14:22** ²² The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what He approves.
 - **Ephesians 3:11-12** ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.
 - **1 John 5:14** ¹⁴ This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- ❖ 22. A clean heart is **produced by obeying the commandments** ²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
 - Knowing that what we ask of Him we may receive if we ask according to His will helps to keep our hearts clean and pure. Here we are commanded to ask the Father for our needs, keep His commandments and do what is pleasing to Him.
 - **Jeremiah 29:12-13** ¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.
 - **Matthew 21:22** ²² And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.
 - **Mark 11:24** ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.
 - **John 9:31** ³¹ We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him
 - **James 1:5-6** ⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- ❖ 23. A clean heart is **produced by obeying the supreme commandment** of God ²³ This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.
 - We must believe in God’s Son, Jesus Christ
 - **John 14:15** ¹⁵ “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments

- **John 15:10** ¹⁰ *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*
 - **John 6:29** ²⁹ *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."*
- We must love one another
- **James 5:16** ¹⁶ *Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much*
 - **John 13:34** ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*
 - **Ephesians 5:2** ² *and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:9** ⁹ *Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another*
 - **1 Peter 1:22** ²² *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart*
 - **1 Peter 4:8** ⁸ *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*
- ❖ 24. A clean heart is **produced by the Spirit's dwelling** within us ²⁴ *The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us*
- This is a mutual indwelling of the Holy Spirit with and in the spirit of the believer
- **John 6:56** ⁵⁶ *He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.*
 - **John 14:23** ²³ *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.*
 - **John 15:10** ¹⁰ *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*
 - **John 17:21** ²¹ *that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.*
- The Holy Spirit assures that God lives within us and this will produce a clean heart
- **Romans 8:9** ⁹ *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*
 - **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** ¹⁶ *Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ *If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.**