

FAQ: 1 John Lesson 26– Salvation, Obedience, and Assurance

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What is the primary purpose of the book of 1 John?

The book of 1 John is written to provide believers with confidence in their salvation and to help them validate and verify their spiritual condition. It offers moral tests or spiritual tests based on what believers believe and how they behave, leading to a certainty of assurance in their eternal life.

What is the "test of obedience" in Christian life, and how does it relate to love for God?

The test of obedience refers to a Christian's willingness and desire to keep God's commandments. The source emphasizes that obedience is a natural outflow of genuine love for God. As Jesus stated in John 14:15 (NKJV), "If you love Me, keep My commandments." This obedience, though not perfect, demonstrates a transformed heart and an eagerness to follow God's precepts. Disobedience, conversely, suggests loving something more than God.

How does the concept of "walking in darkness" relate to one's claim of knowing God?

Walking in darkness signifies a life of disobedience and sinful living. If someone claims to know God or have fellowship with Him but continues to walk in darkness, they are considered a liar and the truth is not in them. This means their claim of salvation or relationship with God is baseless and self-deceiving, potentially leading to spiritual damnation.

What does it mean for "the love of God" to be "perfected" or "completed" in a believer?

When the love of God is perfected or completed in a believer, it refers to the genuineness and maturity of their personal love for God, which is manifested through their heartfelt obedience to His word. It's not merely an emotional feeling, but a love demonstrated through actions and a desire to guard and obey God's precepts. This perfected love serves as evidence of being in Christ.

What is the "new love" discussed in 1 John, and why is it considered a supreme test of salvation?

The new love refers specifically to the commandment to love one another, particularly fellow Christians. While the source acknowledges that loving fellow believers can be challenging, it emphasizes that this love is a supreme duty and the ultimate behavioral test of one's salvation. This commandment is elevated above all others in relationships, just as loving God is supreme in one's relationship with the divine.

How is Jesus presented as the ultimate model for Christian obedience and conduct?

Jesus is presented as the perfect example for how believers ought to walk. His life exemplified complete obedience to the Father's will, always doing what pleased Him and laying down His life as commanded. Therefore, to walk like Christ means to pursue Christ-likeness, developing a mind and conduct characterized by obedience, even if perfect obedience is unattainable in this life.

What is the difference between an "old commandment" and a "new commandment" in 1 John 2:7-8?

The old commandment refers to the teachings that believers have had from the beginning, which fundamentally include the principles of loving God and keeping His word. The new commandment also refers to the same truths but is presented as new because it is made real and true in Jesus Christ, and in the lives of believers as the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. This suggests a renewed emphasis and transformative power of these commandments in the present reality of Christ's light.

Why is the presence of joy linked to the certainty of salvation in the context of 1 John?

The author notes that one of the purposes of his writing is "that your joy may be full." He connects this directly to having certainty about one's spiritual condition. If a Christian is unsure of their salvation—constantly battling doubts about whether they are saved based on their behavior—they cannot experience true joy. The moral tests provided in the book, including obedience and love, are intended to provide this assurance and, consequently, a fullness of joy.

Greek Words Used

None detected in this document.