

John writes to the church so it would know they have eternal life, 1 Jn. 5:13.

John gives evidence of **false faith** as well. 1 John 1:6, "If we say...yet walk in darkness." V8, "If we say we have no sin...we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." V10, "If we say we have not sinned...we make [God] a liar and His word is not in us."

- Paul instructs us to examine ourselves and see if we are in *the faith*, 2 Cor. 13:5
- Paul shows us that suffering is an evidence of true faith, Phil. 1:29.
- James instructs to have joy when facing trials which test our faith, James 1:2-5.

The Privileges of the Christian Life:

1. **I Get to Tell the Truth:** V7, we walk in Light (Christ), we are concerned with sin in our lives. We are continually being cleansed as sin is revealed to us. The Light shines in our hearts and exposes the darkness in our lives (see also John 3:19-21).
 - The believer doesn't practice or live a life of sin, 1 John 3: 6,9.
 - Liars do not inherit the Kingdom of God, Rev. 22:15, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, "swindlers."
 - Believers lay aside falsehoods and speak truth to one another, Eph. 4:25.
 - Believers have the privilege of speaking the truth to others and to ourselves.
 - The work of the Spirit of God is seen in our lives (1 John 2:27, Eph. 1:13-14, Rom. 8: 9, 11, 14-15).
 - The Spirit of God has come to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement, John 16:8-15. What is Christ's is being revealed to us.
2. **I Get to See More and More of My Sin:** V8, time in the Light of God's word shows me more and more of my sin. In this life the believer never attains to perfection, but time in the word of God shows us our sins and reveals God's kindness to forgive us and cleanse us of all of our sins.
 - It is a blessing to see our sins that have ensnared, deceived, and entangled us.
 - God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - The sacrifice of Christ satisfies the divine justice of God on our behalf and those who believe in Christ's sacrifice for sin (Justification: Rom. 5:1-2)
3. **I Get to See More and More of My Savior:** V10, we have a greater assurance of our salvation as we see the sin in our lives and the cleansing power of God to put off our old man and no longer be deceived by sin, Eph. 4:17-32.
 - If we say, "we have not sinned," it shows that we do not have the truth of God in us. The one who says they are not in need of a Savior or cannot understand the work of the cross as revealed in Scripture, does not have Christ and does not abide in Him.
 - We have the privilege of an Advocate, Christ Jesus, who intercedes on our behalf, Heb. 7:25, Rom. 8:34, 1 Tim. 2:5.
 - We find in the word of God the preciousness of His offering for sin and the glory of His work on the cross to bring many sons to glory, Heb. 2:10. This glory is to see and know the glory that the Son had with the Father, John 17:22-26.

Further Discussion and Application

If someone were to ask us how we know we are in the faith, how would we respond? How do we describe the holiness of God? How do we describe the fall and sin of man? How do we tell them that man was lost and destined for destruction? What was the work of Christ? Why did God have to send His One and Only Son to die on the cross?

Since we have come to faith, what truth have we learned about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? What is their work in our lives? What have they done that has shown great mercy and kindness to those who would believe? Why is it an act of the will of man to reject the goodness and grace of God? See Romans 1: 18-23 with help to answer.

What is John 3:18-21 telling us about John 3:16-17? Why does the immediate context of being born again by the Spirit (Jn. 3:5-8) the key to understanding how God demonstrated His love for us by sending His Son?

Understanding the work of Christ helps us understand our Savior even more. Isaiah 53 gives a picture of the work of Christ. What is that work? 1 John 3:8 gives another purpose of the work of Christ. What is that work? How does God demonstrate His sovereign control of all things when Jesus was just minutes old, born to Mary and Joseph, and lying in a manger? Why is God's power demonstrated in the humanity of Christ?

Jesus desires that we would possess the glory of knowing the Father as He knows Him. What will you see when you lay eyes on your Savior?