

The Life of Fellowship

Studies on 1 John

7. Faith (2)



Teacher's notes with answers

Introduction

In the previous study we began to look at the importance of our faith. We have seen John's warning against false teaching and false teachers. In this final study of 1st John we will learn what true teaching is.

TRUE TEACHING

- * How can we know the truth according to 1 John 2:20 and 1 John 4:6? Also see John 16:13-15, John 8:31
 - (i. *The Holy Spirit will anoint us and give us an understanding of the truth.*
 - (ii. *It will agree with what the Word of God teaches.*
 - (iii. *The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.*
 - (iv. *If we continue to obey God's Word we will know the truth.*)

- * Why do we need not live in fear of being led astray from the truth? 1 John 2:27, 4:3-4, 5:4
(*The One who lives in us is greater than the anti-Christ spirit in the world.*
Some people think this means that no-one needs to teach us God's Word, but this must be compared with 1 John 4:6. What it means is that the Holy Spirit, our teacher, lives in us and he will bear witness with our spirit if the teaching is true.)

- * What truths will a person believe if he really is a child of God? 1 John 2:23, 4:2, 14-15
 - (i. *He will believe Jesus is the Christ or the Messiah.*
 - (ii. *He will believe Jesus came in the flesh. I.e. He was a real man.*
 - (iii. *He will believe God sent Jesus as the Savior of the world.*
 - (iv. *He will believe Jesus is the Son of God.*)

- * How else can we be sure that we are 'born of God'? 1 John 2:29, 3:10, 4:6
 - (i. *We will listen to God's Word.*
 - (ii. *We will do what is right in God's sight.*)

- * In the previous two studies we have seen that if we love and obey God we will abide in him. What else is essential if we are to know that abiding relationship with him? 1 John 2:24, 4:12-13
 - i. *That we continue to abide in God's Word – i.e. To continue to obey God's Word.*
 - ii. *That we continue to love one another.*)

- * What certainty do we have if we abide in the truth? 1 John 2:25, 5:11-12
 - (i. *That we have eternal life.*
 - (ii. *That God has given us eternal life.*)



There are many people who have grown up in families and communities that are Christian, but they only know these truths intellectually. What is

the difference between knowing these truths intellectually and being born again? Discuss.

(Many people from Christian backgrounds know the stories of Jesus, but they have never repented of their sin and accepted Jesus as the One who can save them from their sin. Knowing the facts does not save us. Even Satan knows these facts! It is only when a person humbles himself and asks forgiveness that he is born again by the Spirit of God.)



Discuss

How can we share with a person like this, so they come to a heart knowledge of Jesus Christ and are born again? Discuss.

* What wonderful things can we know with a certainty if we are God's children? 1 John 3:2, 5, 14, 4:13, 16, 5:19

- (i. That we will be like Jesus when he returns.
- (ii. That he has taken away our sins.
- (iii. That we have passed from death to life.
- (iv. That he has given us his Spirit.
- (v. That God loves us.
- (vi. That we are of God and can know him.)



Discuss

Discuss these comments:

- a. 'It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere.'
- b. 'I'm not interested in being theoretical. My Christianity is practical.'

Conclusion

The Apostle John begins his letter by saying that he wants to share with us what he has seen and heard, so we too can have fellowship with God the Father, and with one another. What had he seen and heard? He had seen Jesus, and how he was crucified and died, and how he rose again on the third day. John shows us that it is only by believing these truths and abiding in God's Word that we can know the Father and have fellowship with him. Not only that, we can have fellowship with one another, as we belong to the same family – the family of God.

