

So That You May Know You Are Born of God I John 5:1-2

Why was the Gospel of John written? "So that you may BELIEVE that Jesus is the Messiah... and have life in His name." (Jo 20:31) Why was the Letter of I John written? "So that you may KNOW that you have eternal life." (I Jo 5:13) All spiritual "knowing" starts with "believing" (See John 6:69). But as "believing" begins to dissolve into "knowing", we start to live more confidently out of what we know. Make no mistake, we are always "faithing"... doubting our doubts, trusting the unseen, taking God at His word in the face of apparent denial. But as we increasingly live out of what we have believed and come to know, we more naturally begin to live out of an "inner-stantial" than a "circum-stantial" life.

All Christian knowing starts with one simple faith choice: Believing Jesus Christ to be the Son of God and Savior of the world. (Jo 1:12; 3:16; I Jo 4:9, 5:1) Through faith in Christ and His Saving Life, we receive the miraculous gift of new birth. (Jo 3:3,6) Being born again is no metaphor, it is our actual condition. We receive life "from God" (I Jo 4:4,6)... miraculous, conceived in love, all of grace. (There are no self-caused, self-generated re-births!) And we can come to know that we are born of God.

How do we know that? Certainly the Holy Spirit bears witness to our human spirits that it is so (Ro 8:14-17). But John gives us another indicator: our "want to" changes! "By this we know..." (I Jo 5:2) - our new birth comes with a new concern—we want to love God and His children. The faithful, loving character of God in Christ was imported into our spirits at our new birth. His "want to" - to faithfully obey His Father and to sacrificially love His Father's children—has become our "want to". The most natural, joyful, and fulfilling choices we will make, therefore, are to obey our Father's directives and to love our Father's children. In fact, for John, to faithfully obey God and to sacrificially love others are inseparable concepts. (I Jo 3:16-19; 4:20-21) And all that we need to make both happen we have freely received in Christ at our new birth.

In other words, God's children, His born again ones, will never be at home again in disobedience, rebellion or defiance. We will never be at home again in indifference, hatefulness, or contemptuousness. (You are free to choose such things, but they are so out of character with the born-again you that there will be no rest, no peace, no joy in them!) On the other hand, every time you choose the obedience of faith before God and His directives, every time you love another with the love of Christ in you for others... your awareness and your experience of your born-againness will grow, will solidify, will mature... into "knowing". And you will come to KNOW that you are, indeed, born of God!

✂

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*
13820 NW 172nd Ave, Alachua, FL 32615
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -
www.stevepettitmessages.com
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -
can be arranged by calling Steve at 352-672-1275
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** -
email your request to OICnewsletter@gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



Please inform us of any changes to your address



Greetings

Every moment has a sacramental quality to it. Each day offers a fresh and living way to live our lives before God in a way that honors God and enlarges our capacity to know Him. There is no rigid "how", no repeatable "what", no logical "why" - just a loving attentiveness, a simple devotedness to Him in the "all things" of our lives.

Some says we turn boredom into waiting on the Lord. Other days we turn from the thunder and lightening all around us to the Lord of the Storms. Every day we thank Him that by His indwelling life we have what we need for the moment and that it is livable.

This is how saints become saints. Only God can make a saint, and He makes them as He pleases. How is a poem made? The author uses one word, one sentence at a time. How is pottery made? The potter uses one lump of clay, one pressure application at a time. How is furniture made? The carpenter uses one cut, one hammer blow, one rasping stroke of the file at a time. But each is making something according to his or her design.

In the meantime? Redeem the time! Make the most of each day by embracing the moments of your day. Embrace them as the context of His perfecting expressions. Embrace them as the conditions necessary to finish in you what He has begun. Embrace them as one hour, one day, one week in the "all things" of your life that He is using to ever conform you into the image of His Son. And you can count on this—He is not going to make you into something that He is not!



CALENDAR



JULY

4,18,25

8-11

13

Parkview Baptist, Gainesville, FL

Waymart, PA (607-239-5006)

Alachua Bible Study

SEPTEMBER

13-16

19-25

Sebring, FL (863-385-6058)

South Fork, CO

OCTOBER

14-17

Louisville, KY (502-664-5622)



Praise & Prayer



For the "all things" of our lives



For God's relentless, transformative Love



A renewed appreciation of our second birth



To humbly know who we are in Christ

PERMIT NO.11

ALACHUA, FL

US POSTAGE PAID

NONPROFIT

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Alachua, FL 32615

13820 NW 172nd Avenue

One In Christ, Inc.