

"What Do I Really Believe?"

1 John 5:1-12

5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

6 This is the one who came by water and blood-Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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I can be a person who believes...

In God...His existence, creation, sovereignty
In Jesus...His life, goodness, miracles
In Christianity...attendance, worship, ministry
In righteousness...goodness, giving, helping

...and still not be saved!

**It is not just "that" I believe in the right things...
*it is "what" I believe about the essential things***

**John's great fear: that we miss the essential things!
*That Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God***

What will faith in Jesus as Christ and Son do?

We will be born of God
We will love God completely
We will love God's children
We will obey God's commands
We will overcome the world

Without faith in Jesus, none of this is possible!

God's testimony to help us believe:

The "water": His ministry initiated in baptism

The confirmation of God's voice
The confirmation of His teachings
The confirmation of His miracles

The "blood": Shed for us on the cross:

The confirmation of His atoning death
The confirmation of His resurrection
The confirmation of His promised return

The "Spirit": Jesus promise of the "comforter"

The confirmation of the church
The confirmation of the Word
The confirmation of His witness

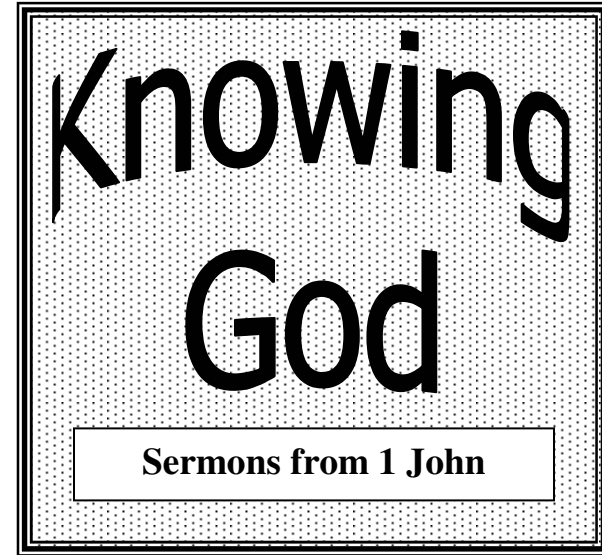
The dramatic conclusion: *"He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."*

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN.



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***"What Do I Really
Believe?"***

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www.middletownnaz.com