

FAITH AND FREEDOM

John 8:31-38
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INTRODUCTION: A GOOD KIND OF SKEPTICISM

Edgar Allan Poe

Don't believe anything you hear and only half of what you see.

The Gospel of John begins by telling us that the necessary qualification to be a child of God is faith.

John 1:12

But the Gospel goes on to show us that not everyone who claimed faith had true saving faith.

John 2:25 unbelieving believers

John 6: Followers who no longer follow

I. THREE QUALITIES OF A TRUE DISCIPLE

A. HE ABIDES IN THE WORD OF CHRIST

1. Abide
2. Word of Christ
3. "If" You Abide...

1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be evident that they all are not of us.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Obedience is the response /reaction to result of the Believer to the saving work that God has wrought in his life.

John 3:16-21

B. HE WILL KNOW THE TRUTH

C. HE WILL HAVE FREEDOM FROM SIN

The child of God has an inherent freedom from sin.

1. In Christ We Gain New Desires

Ezekiel 36:26 NLT

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

Ezekiel 73:25

Whom have I in heaven *but You*?
And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

2. In Christ We Have Freedom To Follow Those Desires

We have freedom not to sin.

Exodus 8:1

3. In Christ We Have The Holy Spirit To Guide Us

Ezekiel 36:27 NLT

And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Summary: In Christ, we have His Words to instruct, knowledge growing freedom from sin.

? What about the sin I see in my life? I can't seem to defeat it.

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 17

Of the Perseverance of the Saints

They, whom God hath accepted in His beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.

II. THREE EVIDENCES OF FALSE FAITH

A. APPEAL TO THE PHYSICAL

“We are Abraham’s children.”

Luke 18:11b, 12

God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

Matthew 9:12, 13; 1 Samuel 15:22, 23

B. NOT ACKNOWLEDGING THE DESPERATE NEED

“We have been enslaved to no one.”

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus said to them, "You have no room for my word."

C. INDIGNATION

There is some indication of indignation in verse 33 when you track the Abraham statements throughout the passage. Cp. verses 39, 41, 48, 53, 59

CONCLUSION: A THEOLOGY OF GENUINENESS

This brings together the previous points from John.

How do you become a son, a child (John 1:12-13)?

1. You must be born again.

2. You must be drawn by the Father.

3. You must be set free from sin

? Should we challenge someone else's faith like Jesus did?

1 John 4:1; Galatians 5:16-21; Matthew 18:15-18

APPLICATION:

? Have you put your faith in Jesus?

? Is your faith genuine?

2 Corinthians 13:5

? What do you see in others?

? Would you be as kind as Jesus to challenge them about their faith?