



John is building the **assurance** of salvation back into the believers at the church of Ephesus.

Chapter 5:13 is the key verse to the **intent** of the whole letter.

Verse 1a – **All** that is true about Jesus is implied there. The point is that those who are saved believe in Jesus Christ as **God**, as Messiah, as **Savior**, as Lord.

- That **continual** believing in the truth is the **result**, not the cause, of salvation.
- What John says is that what you received at salvation was a **permanent** faith, not a temporary one. (Eph. 2:8-9)

1 John 2:19 – If you **stop** believing, it was never saving faith. If you have been given new life by God, it will manifest itself in **ongoing** faith in Jesus as the Christ.

Verses 1b-2a – Salvation not only brings us into a faith relationship with God, it brings us into a **love** relationship with God and God's own people.

- It is a love of the **will**; a love that is given to others because it is needed not because it is attracted in some way.
- This test comes down to the practicality of living your life with and for **fellow believers**.

Verses 2b-3a – Another genuine proof of faith is sustained loving **obedience**. The only way you can really **demonstrate** your love for God is to obey Him.

- “*carrying out His commands*” – to continue to **do** them, action
- “*to obey His commands*” – not only to obey, but to **regard** and protect them
- Obedience is not just a matter of the outward obedience, though that is obviously necessary; it is also the **delight** in what God says.

Verses 3b-5 – God's commands are not **burdensome** to us because if we are saved, we have “overcome the **world**.”

1 John 2:15-17

The main reason we don't love God and find it burdensome to love people and obey God is that our **cravings** are for the things of the world.

The most immediate, decisive, and lasting work of God in our salvation is our **faith**: faith that sees the superior value of **Jesus Christ** over anything else.

Believing that Jesus is all the He claimed to be is what enables us to **overcome** the world and then to love Him, love people, and keep His commands – to pass all three tests.

Two Key Clarifications

- 1) Christians are not **sinless**
- 2) Christians cannot **lose** their salvation

1 John 1:8-10

When you stumble, the presence of God causes you to see it, hate it, confess it, and move forward with Christ.

1 John 2:19

Salvation is the cause of **endurance**, and endurance then is the **evidence** of our being saved.

Chapter 3:23 is the key verse in **summary**.

Go and live in the assurance of your salvation, if indeed you have the right to do so. **Believe** in Jesus and **love** each other, one step at a time.