

Is Your Faith Real?

Every thoughtful Christian will occasionally question the soundness of his faith. “Am I really saved?” or “Is my relationship with God what it should be?” The apostle John addresses this question in 1John 3:18-23 where He says that we can assure our hearts and find confidence when we obey His commands. He then gives the particular commands he has in mind, “And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us”(v. 23).

Over and over in scripture we are told that these are the most fundamental obligations God has given. We must believe in Jesus Christ. He is the eternal Son of God who came into our world in order to save us from our sin and its devastating consequences. He did this by dying in our place on the cross and then rising again the third day. We must learn to trust completely in Him and what He has accomplished for us in His death and resurrection.

The overflow of such faith is to share with others the love that Christ has shown us. This is a love defined not merely by sentiment, but by bold and sacrificial action in behalf of others. While none of us can reenact the atoning death of Jesus for others, we can strive to have the same attitude toward others that motivated Him. We can help a young mother clean her house or watch her babies while she goes grocery shopping. We can visit the elderly and the sick. We can open our homes to children who have no home. We can have compassion on those who have never known about Jesus and share with them the news of His love and power to save. John tells us that in doing these things we gain confidence that we are truly the children of God.