

1 JOHN: DEFEATING MISLEADING SPIRITUAL ERROR TRULY TO COMMUNE WITH GOD

Part VI: Blessings The Mature "Father" Has In His Walk With God

J. The Blessing Of The EXPERIENTIAL Assurance Of Personal Salvation

(1 John 5:6-13)

I. Introduction

- A. True fellowship with God produces a tremendous, multifaceted, spiritually fulfilling lifestyle even on this earth, something John briefly stated in 1 John 1:3-4.
- B. So, having revealed the basic levels of growth, John gave insight into the blessings mature "fathers" enjoy for overcoming a reliance on others (along with the world's lusts) as a "little child" and of overcoming reliance on the world system and its lusts as a "young man". The **tenth** blessing noted is that of the *experiential* assurance of personal salvation as described in 1 John 5:6-13 as follows:

II. The Blessing Of The EXPERIENTIAL Assurance Of Personal Salvation, 1 John 5:6-13.

- A. After addressing the three levels of maturity in 1 John 2:12-27, John began an extensive treatment of the blessings that spiritual "fathers" experience as motivation for his readers to mature into fatherhood.
- B. The **tenth** blessing is the *experiential assurance* of **personal salvation** as described in 1 John 5:6-13:
 1. One of the heresies John's readers faced was that taught by Cerinthus who held that "the divine Christ descended on the man Jesus at His baptism and left Him before His crucifixion. Thus he denied that one Person, Jesus Christ, came by both water [at His baptism] and blood [at the cross where His blood was spilt, cf. John 19:33-37]," Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament, p. 901 (brackets ours).
 2. John countered this error to highlight to true believers who read his epistle the *experiential assurance* of their **own salvation status**, for true believers would **RESIST** Cerinthus' *heresy* as they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit Who upholds the **full** and hence *permanent* God-man **Incarnation** of Christ, cf. 1 John 4:1-3; thus, we see how John develops this encouraging revelation in 1 John 5:6-13 as follows:
 - a. Jesus Christ Whom John upheld to be the object of the believer's faith was asserted by John to have come by water, i.e., His baptism, as well as by blood, i.e., His death on the cross, cf. 1 John 5:6a.
 - b. Thus, in contrast to Cerinthus' error, John claimed Jesus was God **incarnate**, or **God-in-the-flesh** at **BOTH** His water baptism **AND LATER** at the **cross** where He **died!**
 - c. [Later Latin (and thus less credible) manuscripts include the words " . . . in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, . . ." in verses 7b-8a KJV (Ryr. St. Bib., KJV, fn. to 1 Jn. 5:7-8. Verses 7-8 **should** read: "For there are three that bear record, the Spirit, and the water and the blood: and these three agree in one.")]
 - d. Accordingly, opposite Cerinthus' heresy, the Holy Spirit bears witness that Jesus Christ was God Incarnate not only at His baptism (the water), but also at His death (the blood), 1 John 5:6, 7a, 8b.
 - e. Now, this witness by the indwelling Holy Spirit is more sure than even the witness of the human eyewitnesses who saw these historical events, so this witness is perfectly trustworthy, 5:9 & 4:1-3.
 - f. Indeed, faith in this One who is now **forever** God incarnate leads to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit so that a true believer has this assured witness of Christ's Person abiding **WITHIN** him, 1 Jn. 5:10a.
 - g. Thus, the **inner presence** of the *persuasion* that Christ is now **forever fully** God incarnate shows the one **with** this **persuasion HAS** the **Holy Spirit** and is **SAVED**; on the contrary, the **absence** of this persuasion reveals one is **without** the Holy Spirit and so is **unsaved**, 5:10-12 with 1 Cor. 12:3.
 - h. John revealed he supplied this insight so his saved readers might have *experiential assurance* of their **OWN, PERSONAL salvation STATUS**, and that they might enjoy fullness of joy by way of their continued dependence on Christ in faith for victory in living, 1 John 5:13 with 5:4 and 1:3-4.

Lesson: Spiritually mature "fathers" have the **JOYFUL** and very **PRACTICAL, EXPERIENTIAL ASSURANCE** they are **TRULY SAVED** by observing their **RESISTANCE** to the Cerinthus heresy that Jesus was God in the flesh only for a period of time and **NOT** from His human conception **ON** for **EVER** and **EVER!** Such **RESISTANCE** shows they have the Holy Spirit and are thus truly **SAVED!**

Application: (1) If we **INWARDLY RESIST** belief in the **TEMPORAL** incarnation status of Jesus Christ, may we **REJOICE** as this **RESISTANCE** indicates we **TRULY HAVE** the Holy Spirit and are thus **SAVED!** (2) If we do **NOT** have such **INTOLERANCE**, we must **BELIEVE** to **BECOME** saved!