

The Gospel of John Part 44: The Hallmarks of Those Who Believe

John 8:30-47



John 8:30-47 As He was speaking these things, many believed in Him. 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples;

32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's seed and have never yet been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham's seed; yet you are seeking to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father." 39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, you would do the deeds of Abraham. 40 But now you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God. This Abraham did not do. 41 You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of sexual immorality; we have one Father: God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

1) A True Disciple of Jesus Follows a New Head. Jesus tells His follower that for those who abide in His word, or keep on trusting in His promise of salvation, that they "are truly My disciples." This means that the first hallmark of faith is that we gain a new head in life. Jesus becomes the lead of our life, and we belong to Him. No longer do we follow ourselves driven by selfish pride, and no longer do we follow the desires of the flesh which are the lies of the devil. Rather, when we place our trust in Jesus, we gain a new head over our lives and He commands our steps.

2) A True Disciple of Jesus Gains a New Perspective. Jesus says, "and you will know the truth." The truth He is speaking of is the life-giving power of salvation. That for unless you believe that He is the Christ then you will die in your sins. The truth of Jesus is the truth of God's word. It is a word that Jesus has seen and heard from God. It is a word that proceeds, comes, and is sent into the world by God. To believe in Jesus's word is to believe in the truth of God's word. This gives the Christian a new perspective on life. The believer can now see the world the way God sees the world, know the truth, and know how to respond rightly to the circumstances of life.

3) A True Disciple of Jesus Lives a New Condition. Finally, Jesus Says, "and the truth will make you free." This is not just any freedom; this is freedom from the bondage of sin. When Jesus declares that His followers will be liberated from sin, that means the Christian will experience three blessings as a new condition. First, that the disciple of Jesus will experience freedom from the penalty of sin. This speaks to our destiny, no longer being found under the judgement of God. Second, that the disciple of Jesus is free from the power of sin in this life. For those in Christ, we now have the capacity to live in a manner worthy of God. Finally, that the disciple of Jesus will become free from the presence of sin in the life to come. In eternity, where God dwells is where the followers of Jesus will dwell. Because sin does not exist in the presence of God, the follower of Jesus will experience an eternity free from sin.