

Traits of rebirth 2

In the first part of Traits of rebirth the following four traits were talked about:

- 1) We love one another
- 2) We are filled with the holy Spirit
- 3) We have confidence before God
- 4) We love God

1 John 5: 1 – 5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1) Belief that Jesus is the Christ

- 1 John 5: 1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.
- Rebirth changes our perspective of Jesus so that we can know Him for who he truly is
- Jesus isn't merely a man, a prophet, a good teacher – he was and is the Christ the Son of the living God
 - Matthew 16: 15 – 17 But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.
 - Rebirth is an act of God and the revelation of who Jesus is is also an act of God.
 - Peter would not have known that Jesus was the Messiah if God had not revealed it to him.
- Not only can't we know that Jesus is the Messiah unless the Father reveals it to us, we won't come to Jesus for salvation unless the Father draws us to him
 - John 6: 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.
- What is the significance of believing that Jesus is the Christ?
 - The Christ is the Son of God. Believing that Jesus is the Christ is to believe that Jesus is God incarnate – God who became flesh.
 - John 14: 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
 - Jesus and the Father are one. If we love God the Father we will love Jesus as well. If we love Jesus we will love the Father. The two are inseparable.
 - 1 John 2: 22 – 23 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.
 - Knowing Jesus as the Christ is to know the way to the Father. There is no other way to the Father.
 - John 14: 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
 - He came to set the captives free
 - Isaiah 61: 1 – 3 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

2) We keep his commands

- 1 John 5: 2 – 3 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.
- Obedience to Jesus is never an optional extra. It's the fruit of faith.
 - Romans 1: 5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.
 - Without obedience we have no faith and have not been reborn.
- Obedience i.e. keeping his commands, is not burdensome because it's done in love.
 - We love God so we keep his commands.
 - The heart attitude towards God is "I love you more than anyone and anything else and your wish is my command. I exist to please you. Whatever you say I will do".
- What are some of the commands of Jesus?
 - Mark 1: 15 The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"
 - Mark 1: 17 Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people.
 - Matthew 22: 37 – 39 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
 - Mark 11: 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.
- By loving God, loving our neighbour, repenting of our sins, believing the Gospel, following Jesus, and fishing for men, forgiving one another, our love for one another will be revealed.
 - Our practical obedience to Jesus is evidence of our rebirth

3) A victorious faith

- 1 John 5: 4 – 5 For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
- Rebirth is characterised by a victorious faith.
- What are we victorious over?
 - The world
 - 1 John 2: 15 – 17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.
- The lusts and ways of the world in all its sinfulness lures us to itself. It stands in direct opposition to all the Christ stands for.
- Our victory over the lures of the world is not in ourselves and our own strength, but in Jesus who put worldliness in us to death on the cross
 - Galatians 6: 14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
 - If we continue to live according to patterns and standards of the world then it's evidence that we have not been born again and that love of God is not in us.
- Rebirth not only enables us to overcome the world, but gives us a hatred for all worldliness in the light of the grace of God in Jesus Christ.