

RELIGIOUS AFFECTIONS— PROOF OF OUR SALVATION Letters to My Children

THE GREAT AWAKENING AND JONATHAN EDWARDS:

The Problem: False Conversions to Christ

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, (why) so that you may know that you have (what) eternal life.
1 John 5:13

The Answer: The Test of Religious Affections

Test yourselves (why) to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!
Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you— unless indeed you fail the test? 2 Corinthians 13:5

ELEVEN BIBLICAL TESTS OF GENUINE SALVATION:

One, Have you enjoyed fellowship with Christ and the Father?

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, (why) so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.
1 John 1:1-3

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may (1) have life, and (2) have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Two, Are you sensitive to sin?

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
1 John 1:5-6

Three, Do you obey the Word of God?

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
1 John 2:3-4

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”
Luke 6:46

Four, Do you reject this evil world?

Do not love the world (*kosmos*) nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the (1) lust of the flesh and the (2) lust of the eyes and the (3) boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
1 John 2:15-16

Five, Do you eagerly await Christ’s return?

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, (why) because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has (what) this hope fixed on Him (does what) purifies himself, just as He is pure.
1 John 3:2-3

Six, Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life?

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared (why) in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. 1 John 3:4-10

Seven, Do you love other Christians?

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who (1) does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor (2) the one who does not love his brother.
1 John 3:10

Eight, Do you experience answered prayers?

We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, (why) because we (1) keep His commandments and (2) do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
1 John 3:19-22

Nine, Do you experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
1 John 4:13

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.
Romans 8:14-16

Ten, Can you discern between spiritual truth and error?

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits (why) to see whether they are from God, (why) because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.
1 John 4:1-3

Eleven, Have you suffered because of your faith?

For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous. Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.
1 John 3:11-13

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them.
2 Timothy 3:12-14