

What We Believe and How We Believe

1 John 5:1-5, 11-13, & 18-21

We were born with an _____ awareness of God. This innate but incomplete awareness of God leads in two directions: to _____ what we intuitively know to avoid responsibility, or to _____. What the Bible makes clear repeatedly is that our ability to find when we seek to know God is the result of God's _____ of Himself to us. God's truest revelation of Himself is found only in the person of _____ the Christ.

Earlier in the letter, John outlined the main indicators that show a person truly has a relationship with God resulting in eternal life. These indicators are a gradual _____ over sinful behaviors, obeying God's _____, and _____ one another. John seems eager to ensure we know that these are only indicators. They are not the _____ to a relationship with God that results in eternal life.

Just because you are loving or obey the Word or live respectably doesn't make you a _____ of God. John makes his most important point explicit in several verses here. He states that a relationship with God that results in an abundant, eternal life with God hinges on _____ that the Jesus, revealed in Scripture, is the _____ (God's anointed one who brings salvation.)

The word translated "believe" doesn't mean _____—a function only of the mind. It means to have _____ in, to put your trust in, to _____ wholeheartedly to something.

John says it is only this kind of believing in that includes _____ in Jesus as God's anointed one that establishes a relationship with God. It is committing to Jesus, His _____ and His _____ on the cross as the sacrifice that makes possible your _____ that brings about eternal life.

If you have chosen to trust Jesus and committed to follow Him, you can _____ today that you are loved like a child to God and that your life and eternity are _____ and safe. If you have not yet chosen to trust in Jesus, it is not _____.