

LOVE FROM ABOVE
(Fullness of Joy through Biblical Fellowship in Christ)
Studies in 1 John

'Check for A Pulse'



When medical personnel come upon a person who is unconscious, they immediately check for a pulse. The victim may look dead but not be and how you deal with a comatose patient is quite different than what to do with a corpse. If there is a pulse, you call for an ambulance; no pulse – call for the hearse. If there is a pulse, a doctor will help you get healthy and well again; no pulse – the undertaker will dress you up for the funeral.

When talking to people with problems, it is absolutely essential to check their 'spiritual pulse' in order to know what God wants you to do. If the spiritual vital signs of life aren't there, the person doesn't need biblical counseling they need new life in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

If the biblical vital signs of a spiritual pulse are evident then biblical prescriptions of truth and grace will rehabilitate even the most debilitated child of God. Many people today profess to be Christians but lack the true signs of life God says must be true of a genuine child of God (*Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Timothy 3:5, Titus 1:16, etc.*).

The Holy Spirit through John's first epistle is taking the pulse of the early church members to see if they truly were 'born again' children of God. (*2 Corinthians 13:5*). Perhaps their lack of agape love was due to lack of 'saving faith' from above. Maybe the reason they failed to overcome the world, love the brethren, or be interested in the Bible, yet be so susceptible to false teachers in their midst was because they weren't really saved! Love from above can't flow from a heart that is still so clogged up with self and sin that the agape of God can't flow in, let alone flow out.

The problem with many 'professing Christians' who think the Christian life doesn't work is that they are correct – it will not work unless first of all you're a Christian. And if it doesn't work for you then, most likely you aren't truly saved. Such don't need a verse or two to think about or someone to pray for their ordeal – they need to be brought to life by a miracle of the grace of God.

Someone 'dead in trespasses and sins' (*Ephesians 2:1-3*) doesn't need a spiritual aspirin; he or she needs a total heart-mind transplant that comes when one truly repents and calls out to Christ for salvation. Then the agape love from above will transfuse their soul with His Spirit and the pulse of grace will be the first of many vital signs of life from above.



Heart Throbs of Real Christians:

(Biblical Signs of Spiritual Life)

1 John 4:17-5:5

Love for God's Perfect Plan

"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" 4:17-20

Love for God and His Son

"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him Who begot also loves him (Him) who (Who) is begotten of Him" 5:1

Love for God's People Who Love Him

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments..." 5:2

Love for God's Word and Obedience

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." 5:3

Love for Victorious Christian Living

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" 5:4-5