

## **“Combining the Three Tests”**

### **I John 5:1-5**

**Believing, Obeying, and Loving...** In today's passage we see that those born of God believe, obey, and love – this is the proof of their spiritual birth. John braids these three proofs tightly together, showing that they are inseparable in the life of a Christian.

**Believing...** We must believe the truth about Jesus Christ as recorded by the Apostle's in the scriptures. This believing, however, is not merely an exercise of our intellects, but is an experiential believing that proves we are born of God.

**Obeying...** As children of God we will have a desire to love and obey our Father. Obeying His commands is not a burden to us because we are made able to obey through our faith in Jesus who has already overcome the world.

**Loving...** Finally, we see that the object of our love as Christians is not only the Father but also the other children who are born of the Father. Our faith is proven true by our love for fellow Christians.

#### **\*Questions for Reflection & Discussion:**

1. What does it mean to be “born of God?” Have you experienced this spiritual birth? How can you be sure?
2. Do you think of God's commands as a burden? Why? Why not?
3. How do you need to love your fellow Christian better?

**(Reading/Meditation Assignment: I Timothy 6)**