

CHAPTER SIX

CHALLENGING MENU ITEMS FOR THE BRAVE

For those wishing to pursue in-depth themes in 1 John,
here are a few topics to consider.

A. PRAYER

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that,
if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know
that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have
the petitions that we desired of him. 1 John 5:14, 15

A prominent TV personality criticized fundamentalist Christianity at a banquet where he had been given an outstanding award for his work on behalf of the environment and world peace. He said he had a strict Christian upbringing and at one time considered becoming a missionary. However, he became disenchanted with Christianity after his sister died, despite his prayers. He stated that the more he strayed from his faith, "the better he felt."

How do you respond to the above?
Has God always answered your prayers?
If not, why not?

B. CULTS

Many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1
How do you determine if someone is a false prophet?

Definition of a Cult

Every cult can be defined as a group having all of the following 5 characteristics:

1. It uses psychological coercion to recruit, indoctrinate, and retain its members
2. It forms an elitist totalitarian society
3. Its founder leader is self-appointed, dogmatic, messianic, not accountable,
and has charisma
4. It believes 'the end justifies the means' in order to solicit funds
and recruit people
5. Its wealth does not benefit its members or society.

The Devil's grandest desire is to so deceive people that they would turn away
from the true Christ and follow after another.

With that goal in view, He does all he can to teach false doctrines concerning Christ.

C. FOODS WHICH MAY CAUSE INDIGESTION

1:6,7	hypocritical walk	2:9	hating our brothers
1:8-10	sin	2:15-17	loving the world
2:3, 4 5-3	disobedience to God's laws	3:6 5:18	sinless perfection

D. FOODS YOU WILL NOT FIND ON THE MENU

1:5	darkness
2:9	hate
2:28	shame
3:20, 21	condemnation

1:10	lies
2:15, 16	worldly affections
3:8	works of the devil
4:18	fear

E. A WELL-BALANCED DIET IN 1 JOHN PRODUCES RESULTS

1:4	joy
2:10	we love our brothers
2:15	we are not enticed by worldly entrapments
2:20, 4:13	we are endowed with the Spirit of God
2:24	we have a continuing walk with God
2:17	we seek the will of God
3:1	we are the children of God
3:17	we show compassion
3:19	we have a clear conscience (TLB)
4:1-6	we can discern error and truth
4:19	we love God
5:4	we have victory, not defeat

1:7	light, fellowship, cleansed from sin
2:12	our sins are forgiven
2:17	we seek the will of God
2:21	we know the truth
2:28	we are eager for the Lord's coming
2:29	we pursue righteousness
3:2	we will be like the Lord
3:18	we do good deeds
3:21	we have confidence in God
4:17	we will have boldness in the day of judgment
5:2, 3	His commandments are not grievous
5:14, 15	our prayers are heard and answered

Believers are not **SINLESS**, but they **SIN LESS**!

Death is the last chapter of time and the first chapter of eternity.

We live in the world, but the world must not live in us.

No-one has ever choked to death from swallowing his pride.