

# 1 John 5:1-12

## Subject: Faith Creates Overcomers

Transition into the background of the book of 1 John

To get the full background go to the refuel website: [www.usfbcm.com/refuel](http://www.usfbcm.com/refuel)

Author: John

Date: Between AD 85 and 95 – about 50 years after Christ's Death and resurrection, and after the huge persecution of Christians by Nero.

Reason: To combat the early form of Gnosticism. False teachers had risen up to capitalize on the success of Jesus. They twisted the teachings of Jesus in order to gain a following. Basically, where all matter is evil and only the spiritual is divine. This led to a rejection of morality and a focus on "special knowledge." This special knowledge that only a small amount can have is how you achieved salvation. There could be no fellowship with God when you were currently in your own body. The Greek word for knowledge is *Gnosis* which is where Gnosticism came from. Many other NT letters were written to also combat this heresy.

5 purposes for writing 1 John:

1. That we may have fellowship 1:3
2. That we may have joy 1:4
3. That we may not sin 2:1
4. That we may not be deceived 2:26
5. That we may know we are saved 5:13 – Wiersbe

### 5:1-5 – faith in Jesus creates overcomers

v. 1 – We become children of God through an act of faith in the Son. However, we are being the children of God through loving other children of God.

v. 2 – Love for others is grounded in love for God, loving others is part of God's commands! (Ten Commandments – first 5 are about loving God and last 5 about loving others)

v. 3 – not burdensome – in contrast to man-made religious traditions.

### (Matt 23:1-4)

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: <sup>2</sup> "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. <sup>3</sup> So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. <sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

- The yoke of Jesus is easy and the burden is light

### Matt 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

“This does not mean that God’s laws are not exacting or demanding. Rather, it means that God’s laws are not oppressive or crushing. They are not a terrible weight we cannot bear. God’s moral standards are high, but God gives the Christian grace to be able to live up to that standard!”

(4:4 – You, dear children, are from God and have #overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.)

v. 4-5 – The believer is a victor over the invisible system of demonic and human evil that the devil operates. John repeats the reference to overcoming three times to get his point across. If we love God, we will find obeying Him a pleasure!

v. 4 – is in present tense and not past! We are currently experiencing the victory

v. 5 – saving faith is only found in Jesus Christ the Savior.

**Rev 12:11** “They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”

This first section talks all about faith but what is John saying we are to have faith in?

### **5:6-9 – The Spirit testifies of Jesus**

v. 6 – Weirdest verse of 1 John. Many theologians also claim this to be the most confusing verse in the NT. Water refers to Jesus’ baptism; blood refers to Jesus’ death. – False teachers (Gnostics) taught that Jesus’ divine Spirit came upon the human during His baptism and left Him right before he died. Jesus’ blood is how we are saved – if he wasn’t of water AND blood then salvation wouldn’t be possible (OT sacrificial system). It would’ve been a human who bore our sins which was impossible and the main reason for God coming down himself. God took our sins upon himself and absolved them...pardoning us from condemnation that leads to spiritual death and separation. No human alone can ever do that. There would be no difference between Jesus, Muhammad, Joseph Smith, etc.

What is the testimony of the Spirit? – The Spirit opens our eyes to see the truth of who Jesus is.

**John 15:26** “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.”

John Calvin – “He it is who seals in our hearts the testimony of the water and the blood.”

v. 7-9 – OT law required “the testimony of two or three witnesses” in order to prove something true. These three testimonies/witnesses attest/agree to the truth of Jesus being the Christ complete. So John is “implying that the Spirit, water and blood converge on the same point, and work together toward the same result: that of establishing the truth that Jesus is Messiah and Son of God.” Without the resurrection we are not conquerors, his resurrection puts to death all of our doubts. Jesus had to be man to reach us, but He had to be God to lift us up.

### **5:10-12 – Results of faith**

The purpose of testimony to Christ is to evoke faith in Christ.

v. 10 – “ask Jesus into your heart” switched from calling a Christian a liar to calling God a liar! – Anyone who rejects Jesus as Savior is calling God a liar. Ultimate form of blasphemy – John was using language to shock the people of the church.

v. 11 – Eternal life is not a wage to be earned, but a gift to be received from God (Rom 6:23)

v. 12 – John clearly states that our relationship with the Son determines whether we have eternal life. However, this is present tense, not past or future again. (#overcomer) “Son of” is added to remind the people that you can’t have God without Jesus, they are inseparable. Many people believe in God but few follow Jesus as well. Overcomers **John 14:6**

“The genuine proof of love is obedience, and the genuine proof of faith is love.”

Gal 5:6 – the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love

- If we love God we will obey his commands
- If we love God we will love his people
- If we love God we will overcome
- Our faith creates a love for God
- Common theme is: **Faith creates overcomers**
- **Rom 8:15-16** – “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”  
<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”

### **Faith creates overcomers**

Overcome (*nikaō-to conquer, to have victory*) – (to overpower or triumph) winning the battle over the lure and temptations of the world. Our goal should be to escape the grip of sinful habits and desires. To overcome the world we need the power of Christ active in our lives through faith in him. This word is used in the NT 24 times. John uses it 21 times.

Characteristics of overcomers:

- Saving Faith v. 1 (past and present)
  - Continuing Faith v. 1 – Theologian Smalley – “The regenerate Christian (past decision) must constantly live out (present decision) his faith in Jesus as Messiah, and also give his sustained allegiance to the love command.”
- Loving Faith v. 2-3, 1 (matt 22:36-40)
  - Both God and other believers
- Obedient Faith v. 2-3 John 8:31-32, 14:15, 21, 15:10
  - Keep/Carrying Out = constant obedience/faith v. 3
  - **John 14:15** – if you love me you will obey what I command

Results of being an overcomer: Finds their Strength in Christ V. 12

- **John 16:33** – “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

**2 Corinthians 2:14** In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance.” –Message–

Because of our union with Christ we also partake in this victory (**Romans 8:37**, “No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

John is saying that an overcomer trusts that God is telling the truth about Jesus. When we believe, John tells us that we have the life of an overcomer. This person knows the abundant life we have because of Christ’s sacrifice. (John 10:10 Jesus says he has come so that we may have an abundant life). We not only have eternal life but we have a life that is led by God. We have a life that helps us to overcome our fears, a life that helps us to overcome temptation, a life that overcomes the enemy, a life that overcomes death. This is a life that creates joy, peace, dreams, a love for others, help during the junk of our life, and a community of people who also love us.

We need to live life as overcomers. Jesus died for us to be overcomers...

End with story of Arlene Aunty – Stage 3 colon cancer

Read Text: “God has really kept me in the center of overwhelming peace and love. I sense the victory! Prayers are critical and yours are so appreciated.”