

HE STANDS UP FOR US – PART IX

I John 4:13-21, I John 5:1-5

¹³By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. **I John 4:13-21 NASB**
Now to the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. **I Timothy 1:17 NASB**

- We know God by his spirit, His word, and His love.
 - We abide in Him, and He abides in us by the Holy Spirit. (**I John 4:13-16**)
 - He is immortal, external, and invisible.
 - We can't know him purely by the use of our senses.
 - He is not a collection of sensory data and information to be analyzed, organized, and categorized.
 - He is an infinite eternal person who is Love and who is Truth.
 - So how do we know that we know that we know?
 - We have been given the Holy Spirit. (See **Acts 2:38-39, Romans 9:9, Ephesians 5:18**)

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- We have the testimony of the Apostles. (See **John 15:26-27, 2 Peter 1:16, I John 1:1-4**)
- We have our own personal acknowledgement of Jesus as God's Son. (**I John 4:13-15**)
- We have our confidence in the love of God. (See **Philippians 1:9, I John 4:16-19**)
 - Our confidence is based on His love and His finished work.
 - Fear and love are mutually exclusive. Our word 'phobia' is a transliteration of 'fear'.

¹⁷ In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion *and* attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world.¹⁸ There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors *and* expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection]. **I John 4:17-18 AMPC**

- Love is the offspring of freedom...when we are free from fear, love reigns and confidence in God flourishes.
- We have confidence when we love the family of God and are loved by them. (**I John 4:19-21**)
- Look at **I John 4:17...**'As He is, so are we in this world.'
 - Just what He is (in Heaven) we also are in the world." - **Weymouth**
 - "Here in the world, we are living as He did." – **Williams NT**
 - "All that Jesus now is, so are we in this world." – **The Passion Translation**
 - "We must know men in order to love them, but we must love God in order to know Him." **Pascal**

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- Faith, love and overcoming...victory!

¹Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **I John 5:1-5 NASB**

- The two main ingredients of Christianity...faith and love in one verse. (v9).
- Faith and love do go together.

¹⁵For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers. **Ephesians 1:15-16 NASB**

³We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints. **Colossians 1:3-4 NASB**

And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory. **I Peter 1:8 NASB**

- Faith that does not lead to love is meaningless. Love that is not based on faith is powerless.

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- John uses faith here as a noun and it is not used anywhere else in his writings as such. He also uses faith as a verb (believing) but here he uses the noun.
- Our faith is not some subjective abstract idea...Christians trust that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God...that is not a tenet of faith...it is the faith...if a person doesn't believe that, they're not a Christian.
- (See **v1**) ...Who ever believes (present tense) that Jesus is the Christ is/has been born of God. (Past tense)
- God takes the initiative in the new birth, and grants us the gift of salvation...
- He made us alive in Christ Jesus even when we were dead in our transgressions and sins.
- John's focus here in these verses is on the object of our faith...Jesus...not just the subjective experience of believing.
- Are there still moral absolutes? Yes!! The Bible is God's word, Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and there is a salvation in no one else.
- Our faith is in Him, who He is and what He has said and has done.
- Our faith in Jesus means we have been born again; born of God.
- Everyone who is born of God loves the Father and His family. (**I John 5:1-2**)
- A literal translation of **I John 5:1...**" Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah has been begotten of God, and the one who loves The One who begets, loves the one who is begotten of Him." (See **I John 1:7**)
- The Bible teaches that love for God demonstrates that we love God's children and our love for the family of God shows our love for God. He feels strongly both ways!
- **I John 5:3** tells us that we are pleasing God when we keep his commandments.
- This passage also says that His commands are not burdensome.

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- Pleasing God and keeping His commands don't have statistical measurements (no cyber metrics!)
- Pleasing God and keeping His commands are a response on our part to God's love in our life.
- We love because He loves us first.
- So, His commands are not 'heavy'...they are a heart response from us...a response to Him having loved us.
- As He is so also are we in this world (see **I John 4:17**) ...we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey.
- If we truly have faith that Jesus is the Son of God, then we have overcome the world.
- The 'word' for overcome comes from the same root word as the word for victory...
- It doesn't say that we will overcome the world but because of the new birth, we have overcome the world.
- Victorious faith in Jesus means we have been transferred out of darkness into the light of His kingdom. It means we have passed from death (see **Ephesians 2:1-10**) unto life and we have overcome the world.
- Faith is not so much the key on our goal to victory...it is the victory. (**I John 5:4-5**)
- For the Apostle John, 'God is love', is not some romantic idealism...it is the ultimate truth.