

- 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.
- 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.

HE STANDS UP FOR US – PART X

- 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.
- 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.

HE STANDS UP FOR US – PART X

⁶This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. ¹⁰The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. ¹¹And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. The Spirit, the water, and the blood. **I John 5:6-12 NASB**

- The Spirit, the water, and the blood

⁶ This is He Who came by (with) water and blood [His baptism and His death], Jesus Christ (the Messiah)—not by (in) the water only, but by (in) the water and the blood. And it is the [Holy] Spirit Who bears witness, because the [Holy] Spirit is the Truth.

⁷ So there are three witnesses *in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are One;*

⁸ *and there are three witnesses on the earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree [are in unison; their testimony coincides].* **I John 5:6-8 AMPC**

- The Spirit of Truth

²⁶ “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, ²⁷and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. **John 15:26-27 NASB**

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. **John 16:13 NASB**

- ...” our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth (of the Bible) is from the work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts...” **Westminster Confession**

He who possesses the Son has that life; he who does not possess the Son of God does not have that life. **I John 5:12 AMPC**

HE STANDS UP FOR US – PART X

- He who believes in the Son of God...has the testimony...this divine attestation within himself...
- “The objective realities of all that Jesus accomplished for us by His death, burial, and resurrection become internalized in our experience now. – **David Jackson**

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. **Romans 8:16 NASB**

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **Galatians 4:6 NASB**

- Eternal life...the life of eternity is in God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. **John 5:21 NASB**

For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **John 5:26 NASB**

²even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. **John 17:2-3 NASB**