

Jesus Alone
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1 John 5:1-12

This morning we're focused on the first twelve verses of 1 John chapter five. However, verse thirteen summarizes both this lesson and the whole book. John states in verse thirteen:

1 John 5:13 (ESV)

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

- John is writing to Christians...some of whom have been confused by false teaching.
- Christians who need assurance. Assurance that salvation is real; assurance they are living as Jesus commanded; assurance they can overcome evil and have victory as a follower of Christ. You and I need those same assurances today.
- If we circled words that are repeated in these verses, we find three key ideas:
 - Belief (or faith) = six times
 - Love = five times in this passage and 27 times in chapter four!
 - Obedience = twice
- Faith in Christ leads to love for Christ and other believers; love leads to obedience to Christ.
- Beginning with verses one through five. Let's see: What it says; what it means; what it means for us.

1 John 5:1-12 (ESV)

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- Verse one is a verse worth underlining or highlighting. It states an important truth.
- To be born of God, **what must we believe? How do people get this wrong?**
- We learned in 1 John 2:22-23, To be born of God, one must believe in Jesus the Son of God.
- If we love God we'll love His son Jesus. If we love Jesus, we'll love other believers.
- Verse two: **What proves that we love God's Son and God's children?**
- If we love God we'll obey his commandments. **Which commandments?**
- Jesus' teaching "fulfilled" all the moral law of God (Matt. 5:17) If we obey what Jesus taught we'll be keeping all the commandments of God. **How does verse three describe those commandments? What does the word "burdensome" mean? Do you agree?**

In Matthew 11:30 (ESV), Jesus told us: 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- Doing something out of love doesn't feel burdensome. That doesn't mean it's "easy."
- What's "heavy" for one might be no burden at all for another, even if it's hard. (Illustrations)
- Doing what Jesus says can give us a feeling of "lightness" and a spring in our step. **Why?**

- That all sounds nice in theory. But we live in a very evil world filled with temptations.
- **What does God promise in verse four? What does verse four say triggers our victory?**
- Key terms: Overcome = overpower; victory is the Greek word “nike.” Yes, like the shoes!
- England’s Lord Nelson, after defeating the French navy in the Battle of the Nile, surveyed the carnage of battle and made one of the greatest statements about an overwhelming VICTORY. He said: *“Victory is not a name strong enough for such a scene.”*
- Based on 1 John 5:4, followers of Christ can look at the cross of Calvary and say: *“Victory is not a name strong enough for such a scene!”*
- Everyone born of God by believing in Christ, overcomes the world because of our faith!
- How can we be so certain that Jesus is God? Beginning in verse six, John gives a striking testimony of three “witnesses” who verify that Jesus is the Son of God.

6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. 9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

- Verse six says Jesus came by water and blood. The precise meaning of water in that verse is debated by scholars. **Any ideas what water might symbolize?**
- Verses seven and eight tell us the three “witnesses” to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God are, the water; the blood; and the Spirit. Let’s talk about them.
- The water - **Why do the events at Jesus’ baptism confirm His deity?** (Matt. 3:16-17)
- The blood - **What events at the crucifixion confirmed Jesus deity?** (Matt. 27:45, 50–54)
- Just before the crucifixion, God the Father again supernaturally affirmed His Son:

John 12:27–32 (ESV) Jesus is speaking...

27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30 Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

- Those supernatural events of God’s voice, and the events at the crucifixion would have been compelling proof that Jesus is God’s Son. You KNOW those events were widely talked about in the first century. We’re STILL talking about them today!
- The Spirit - The third “witness” is the most personal to you and me today.

John quoted Jesus in John 15:26 (ESV)

26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”

- A question for those of you who are believers: ***“How did you KNOW when the Spirit of God was speaking to YOUR spirit convincing you that Jesus could be trusted for eternal life?” If an unbelieving friend asked that, how would you answer (in your own words)?***
- Here’s the exciting reality: We can say with certainty to an unsaved person, “If you think the Spirit of God is moving in your heart to accept Jesus Christ as Savior...HE IS!”
- 2 Peter 3:9 says God is *“...not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*
- Caution: I’m NOT saying lead people into “false salvation.” Ask them the questions, take them through the Roman Road. Make sure they understand. But, if they are asking questions about what they’re feeling, we can confidently point them to Jesus.
- An unsaved person might struggle with trusting in these “witnesses” that Christ is God’s Son.
- People often say: “I wish I could just have faith!” We do...every day, all day long.
- **What are some ways we have faith in just the day to day events of life?** We have more faith than we think!
- Verse nine basically says, *“Why would you trust human beings for your day to day survival, but not trust God who has been proven faithful through the centuries?”*
- Verse ten: John get’s blunt. **What is he basically saying in verse ten?**
- John summarizes again in verse twelve:
12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

So, What’s the Takeaway?

One of the great things about John’s writing is how he summarizes what he teaches in concise, direct statements. He writes the “takeaways” for us. Here are John’s takeaways:

- Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ (our Savior) has become a child of God.
- And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.
- Loving God means keeping/obeying his commandments.
- If we love Him, keeping His commandments is not a burden. Not easy, but not a burden.
- How do we obey when we’re surrounded by so much evil and temptation?
- Every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.
- Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God can win this victory over an evil world.

That’s all well and good, but what does that mean for ME this week?

- Faith in Christ leads to love for Christ and other believers. Love for Christ leads to obedience to Christ.
- Have you really trusted in Christ as Savior? If so, are you actively, daily loving Him more?
- *“How do I love him more?”* The same as any love relationship: presence; listening; and loving.
- Spend time with Him in prayer; listen to Him through His word; love what He loves and who He loves. As the old hymn says, ask Him *“...for grace to love Him more.”*
- As we grow our love for Jesus, more and more we’ll obey what His word tells us to do.
- And even when it’s hard to live that way, His Spirit will make us an “overcomer” of temptation and sin. The key is our FAITH! How do we put our FAITH in ACTION? Here’s a great answer from Warren Wiersbe:

“The great men and women named in Hebrews 11 all won their victories “by faith.” They simply took God at His word and acted on it, and He honored their faith and gave them victory. Faith is not simply saying that what God says is true; true faith is acting on what God says because it is true. Someone has said that faith is not so much believing in spite of evidence, but obeying in spite of consequence.”

- "...Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world is our faith." Now, let's go put that faith in ACTION!