

That our joy may be complete – 1 John

1 John 5:1-5

“Overcoming the world” – May 3rd, 2020



Introduction

Waiting is never easy. Though the Christian is made a child of God now ([1 Jn. 3:2](#)), what we *will be* has not yet appeared. Between the time we come to know God and Christ's return we live *in* this world but have to resist the pull of the world. After a while, we may hit a wall of fatigue, leaving us asking, “How can we keep going? Where do we find hope and strength to keep following Jesus rather than caving to the pressure of the world?” The answer is faith, which we see in v1, 4, & 5. To help us overcome, John describes Christian faith.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Faith looks to Jesus
- II. Faith is a gift of God
- III. Faith leads to love
- IV. Faith leads to victory

Read & Discuss

Read [1 John 5:1-5](#)

Faith looks to Jesus. Though the world tells us many roads lead to God – that it doesn't matter what you believe so much that you believe something - the Bible teaches us *Jesus* is the object of our faith. Why is it essential to Christianity that we get Jesus' identity right? Why is the object of our faith...not the strength of it, most important?

Faith is a gift of God. If sin has affected us such that our starting point is being dead in our trespasses and sins ([Eph. 2:1](#)), it follows that we must be made alive – or as John likes to say, we must be born of God ([Jn. 3:3](#), [1 Jn. 5:1](#)). Faith is a gift of God ([Eph. 2:8](#)) to undeserving sinners – highlighting the generous, gracious heart of God. How does seeing that faith is a result of the radical change of our being born of God build our confidence that God will get us to the finish line? How does it encourage us as we share God's word with others?

Faith leads to love. Trusting God is not just agreeing the facts about Jesus are true. The work of the Spirit is to open our eyes to the faithfulness, goodness, and beauty of God in Christ (see [2 Cor. 4:6](#)). As we see God the Spirit ignites a growing love for God. This love for God

leads to a love for others. At first glance, the idea that God's commandments are not burdensome may sound surprising. What makes the commandments of God *not* burdensome?

Faith leads to victory. John says faith is the means by which we overcome *the world*. There is something in the world that pulls us away from the love of God and obeying His command to love others. Our enemies (the world, our flesh, and the devil) aim to get us to trust something *other* than God – an idol that we have some sense of control over – but life is found in God – not in looking into our hearts or the gifts of God. Jesus says in John 16:33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” How is the Christian's ability to overcome related to Jesus' having overcome the world? How does knowing that Jesus *has* overcome give confidence that we can overcome?

Additional Reading: 1 John 2:15-17, Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 12:2

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text: we turn to 1 John 5:6-12 "Eternal life is in the Son"**