

Beloved: A Study of 1, 2, & 3 John
Lesson Seven – Be Overcomers
1 John 5:1-12

“We cannot believe in Jesus Christ without loving the Father and His children (1–2a); we cannot love the Father without obeying His commands and overcoming the world (2b–4a); and we cannot overcome the world without believing in Jesus Christ” (John Stott, *The Letters of John: An Introduction and Commentary*, Logos).

I. The Three Themes of 1 John

- Love of God
- Love of Others
- Obey God’s Commands

II. Love Proves our Faith (1 John 5:1-5)

Danny Akin explains,

John is arguing once more that love for others is grounded in the love of God (cf. 4:8, 16, 19). When we love God, we will keep His commands, which also involves having love for others (3:11; 4:7, 21). Therefore love for God and love for others are interrelated. Each feeds and strengthens the other, though love for God is the basis for any and every other manifestation of love (Danny Akin, *1, 2, 3 John*, Logos).

James Montgomery Boice writes, “The life of God within makes obedience to the commands possible, and the love which the Christian has for God and for other Christians makes this obedience desirable” (James Montgomery Boice, *Epistles of John*, p.156).

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

III. The Three that Testify (1 John 5:6-8)

- The Spirit
“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,” (John 15:26).
- The Water
- The Blood

In the middle of describing what a Christian looks like, John pauses to present the case for Christ, the One who gives us position and power to overcome.

IV. Do You Believe? (1 John 5:9-10)

Genesis 3:10 – The Result of Sin: Death

“I was afraid...”

“...because I was naked...”

“...so I hid myself.”

We read in Hebrews:

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.** Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:12-16, emphasis mine).

V. Real Life (1 John 5:11-12)

1 John 4:7-8 – If you do not love, you do not know.

A.W. Tozer writes:

The Christian cannot be certain of the reality and depth of his love until he comes face-to-face with the commandments of Christ and is forced to decide what to do about them. Then he will know. “He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings” (John 14:24), said our Lord. “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me” (John 14:21). So, the final test of love is obedience. Not sweet emotions, not willingness to sacrifice, not zeal, but obedience to the commandments of Christ. Our Lord drew a line plain and tight for everyone to see. On one side He placed those who keep His commandments and said, “These love Me.” On the other side He put those who keep not His sayings, and said, “These love Me not.” (A.W. Tozer, *That Incredible Christian*, p. 166)

Mature Love – “There 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” (1 John 4:18).

Living Loved

Safe
Secure
Known
Satisfied
Peace
Unoffended

Living Unloved

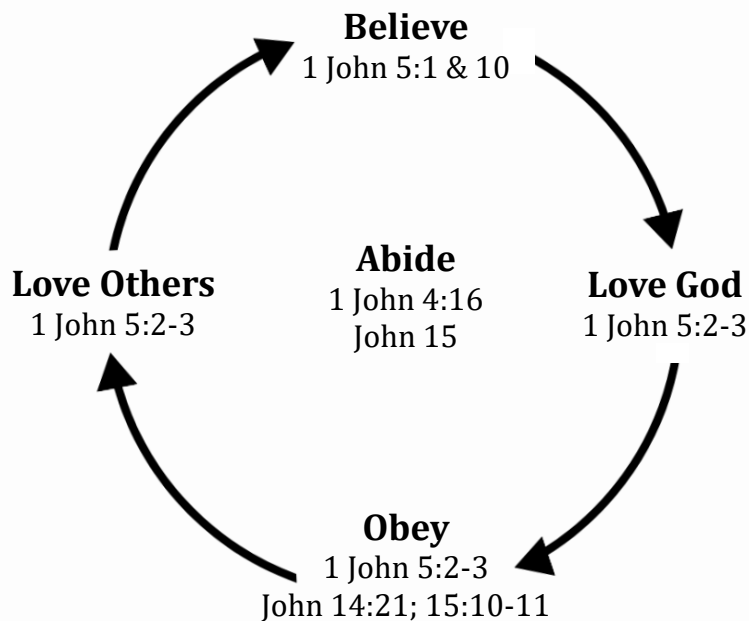
Afraid
Insecure
Unknown
Unsatisfied
Anxiety
Offended

What has a grip on your heart? Anything other than the love of God is a cruel task master that will lead you to living unloved.

Faith Overcomes the World

1 John 5:4-5

Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:57



Jesus is Life for all who Believe!

1 John 5:11-12

What you are longing for is found in Christ. The provision is in the Person – Jesus!
Overcomers obey and they are on the offensive – Daniel did not take a defensive pose. He was looking forward – to the city not made with human hands (Hebrews 11:10).

Thomas R. Kelley writes, “Religion as a dull habit is not that for which Christ lived and died. There is a degree of holy and complete obedience and of joyful self-renunciation and of sensitive listening that is breath-taking” (Thomas R. Kelly, *A Testament of Devotion*, p. 27).