



**“Our Faith is the Victor”**

**1 John 5:1-5**

**Perfect Love: The Book of 1 John**

**Introduction: Our name carries with it the assurance of victory.**

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

**I. Experience Victory by Believing in Jesus (v. 1)**

- **Know Who to Believe** – Jesus is the essential character of human history.
- **Know What to Believe**
  - **Jesus is God** – Jesus demonstrated His omnipotent power: Calms the storm (Matthew 8:23-27).
  - Healing the sick (Luke 4:40). Cast out demons (Luke 4:33-36). Brought the dead back to life (John 11:43-44). Authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:7).
  - **Jesus is Messiah** - John 1:29 – “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
  - **We have been born again** - 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

**II. Experience Victory by Loving Others (v. 1-2)**

- **Supernatural love** - John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- **Different than the world’s love** - Luke 6:32-34 “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.”

**III. Experience Victory by Obeying God (v. 2-3)**

- **God’s Commandments Are a Blessing** - Love one another (John 15:12). Visit orphans and widows (James 1:27). Make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2).

- **God’s Commandments Aren’t a Burden (secret of the easy yoke)** - Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
- “The most restful gift he can give the tired is a new way to carry life, a fresh way to bear responsibilities... Realism sees that life is a succession of burdens; we cannot get away from them; thus, instead of offering escape, Jesus offers equipment. Jesus means that obedience to his Sermon on the Mount will develop in us a balance and a “way” of carrying life that will give more rest than the way we have been living.” – Fredrick Dale Bruner
- **Psalm 119** is filled with the psalmists love for the Word of God.
- “Perfecting love produces joyful obedience.” Warren Wiersbe

#### IV. Experience Victory by Overcoming the World (v. 4-5)

- **You Must Be Born of God** - Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
- **You Must Believe in Jesus** - 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.”
- Romans 6:4 - “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”
- Ephesians 2:4-6 - “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

#### Conclusion

The people of God enter upon victory by the obedience of faith: they experience victory in God’s victory.

#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

1. In general, in life right now do you feel victorious or defeated?
2. Read 2 Thess. 1:3 & Eph. 1:15-16. What are the two reasons Paul gives for his thankfulness and why might these be important qualities of a healthy church?
3. Take a moment to assess your love for one another? Does it continually increase? Would Paul rejoice upon hearing about said love?
4. Read Mark 7:1-13. Why is Jesus so upset? What words does He repeat?
5. Spend some time coming up with a list of scriptural commands given to us as new covenant believers. Then come up with a list of things that tend to be expected but aren’t actually commanded. How can we give more resources to the Not Optional commands of God?
6. In your own words, what is the secret of the easy yoke?