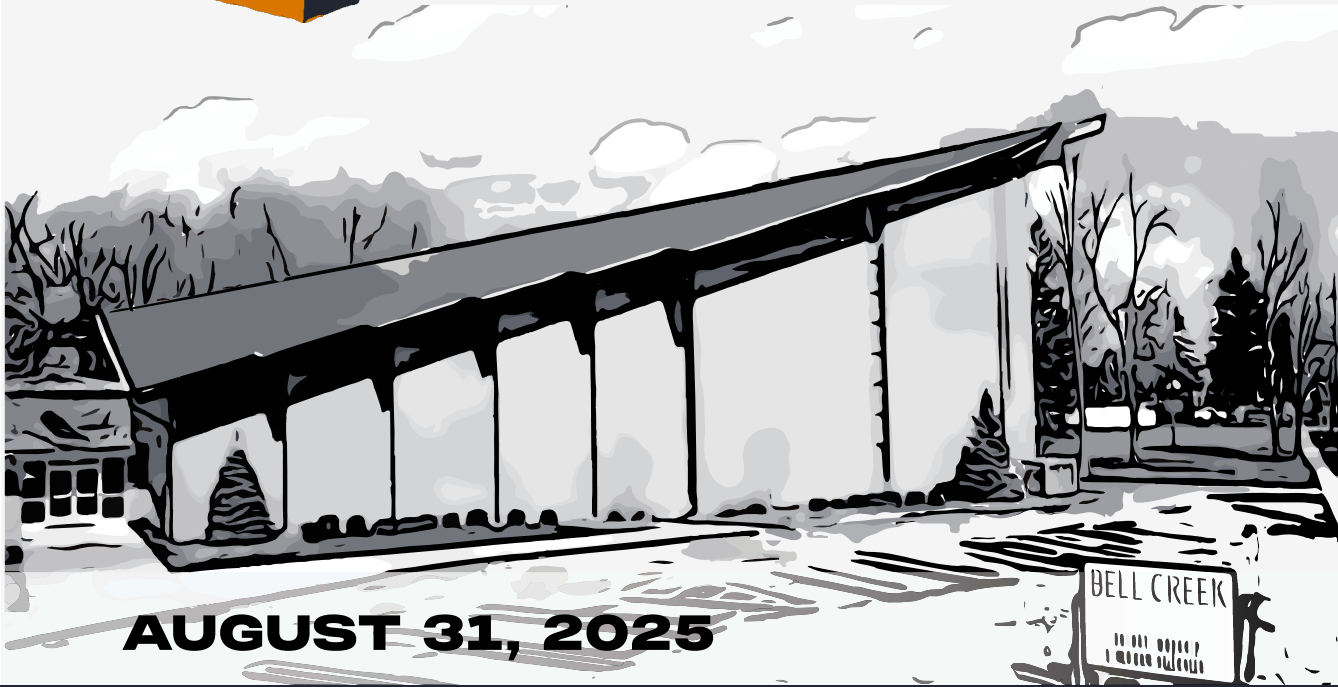


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



AUGUST 31, 2025

WHAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD?

1 JOHN 5:1-5

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

WHAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD?

1 JOHN 5:1–5

Those Born of God

His Commands are Not Burdensome

What Overcomes the World?

FOR NEXT WEEK

For Next Week, read the entire book of 1 John!
It will only take you about 15 minutes or less!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

AUGUST 31: EZEKIEL 16-17
SEPTEMBER 1: EZEKIEL 18-19
SEPTEMBER 2: EZEKIEL 20-21
SEPTEMBER 3: EZEKIEL 22-23
SEPTEMBER 4: EZEKIEL 24-27
SEPTEMBER 5: EZEKIEL 28-31
SEPTEMBER 6: EZEKIEL 32-34

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

BETWEEN TWO TREES BOOK STUDY

Our Between Two Trees study will meet this Sunday, September 14 at 9:15 in the Prayer Room to discuss Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortlund. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There is an exceptional opportunity for several men to attend a Bible Study starting September 11 called The Good Fight-God's Plan for Every Man. It was developed to provide men hope and healing through a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. We will meet every Thursday from 6:30-8:30 PM for 11 weeks. To register, please contact Don Henderson (don.h@healinghearts.org) or Ron Peavler (Ron.p@healinghearts.org).

BAPTISM

Our next Baptism opportunity will be on Sunday, September 28. If you are interested in being baptized as a believer, please contact Pastor Adam (adam@bellcreek.org).

ART OF MARRIAGE CLASS

Mike & Mary King and Alex & Elyse Quint will be leading a 3-day Marriage Class in November. The class will consist of a series of videos, work together as a couple, and group discussions. This is the same series as the class we hosted in May, so if you already did the class, you do not need to repeat it. The class will meet on the following dates: Friday, November 14, 6:30-9:00 PM; Saturday, November 15, 6:30-9:00 PM; Sunday, November 16, 6:30-9:00 PM.

To register for the class, you can do so by visiting www.bellcreek.org. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org) or Elyse Quint (elyse@bellcreek.org).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

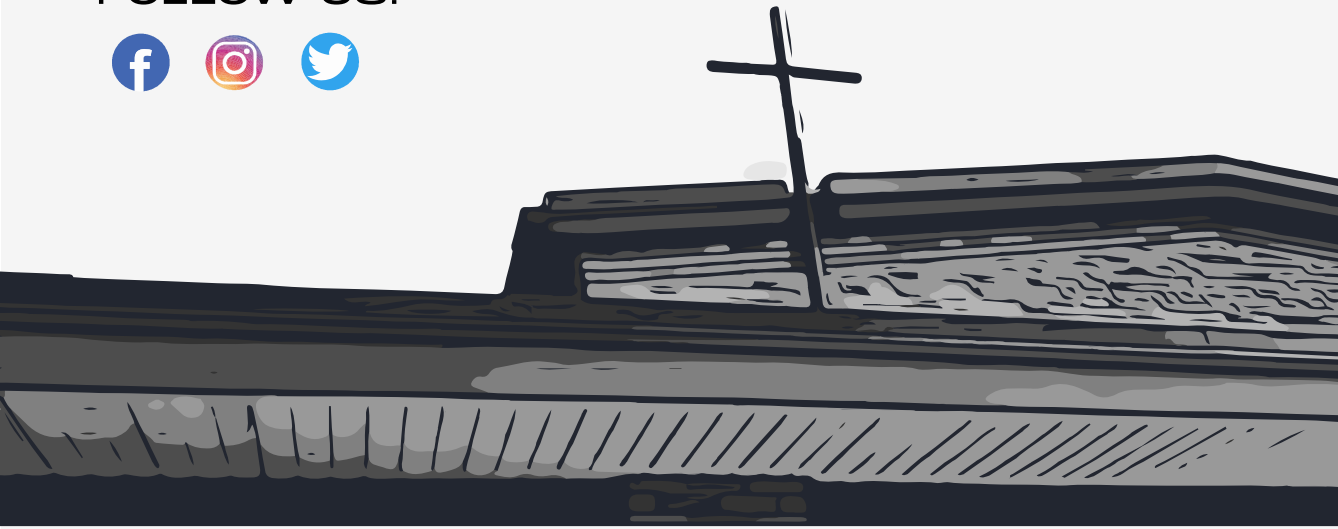
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

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FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon 08.31.2025

1 John 5:1-5

Sermon Title: What Overcomes the World?

1. Those Born of God

“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.” (1 John 5:1, ESV)

What does this phrase “born of God” mean? It appears six times in 1 John, and the concept of being “born of God” is seen in John’s gospel and elsewhere in the Scriptures:

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:25–26, ESV)

“Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”” (John 3:3, ESV)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (1 Peter 1:3, ESV)

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12–13, ESV)

For those who don’t know Jesus yet...

How do we “receive Him?” Remember this — Jesus has made a commitment, a promise, that He will save anyone — even those who have ignored Him, rejected Him, or broken every single one of His commands — who comes to Him, admits they are a sinner, and asks for forgiveness. Will you receive Him today? If not, why wouldn’t you? What is stopping you? What doubts hold you back? It’s not wrong to have doubts, but it is wrong to let those doubts sit unanswered. Seek the truth. Bring your questions to Him and to those of us who have also wrestled with doubts. Please don’t leave them unresolved, given what is at stake. What’s at stake? Your eternity (which matters most) but also the relationship that God wants to enjoy with you now.

2. His Commands are Not Burdensome

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.” (1 John 5:2, ESV)

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3, ESV)

Jesus says, “My yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (see Matthew 11:28-30 below).

Is He telling the truth? Are His commands not burdensome? Does His way of life lift our burdens?

“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.” (Matthew 11:28-30, ESV)

Let’s look at some of God’s commands and see if they are burdensome or if they free us from our burdens...

God's Command: Forgive Those Who Wrong You

Scripture Says: “Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37; Matthew 18:21-22).

The World’s View of Unforgiveness: Holding grudges feels powerful; revenge seems just.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Forgiveness frees us from bitterness, imitates God’s forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32), and opens the door to reconciliation.

God's Command: Love Your Enemies

Scripture Says: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

The World’s View of Enemies: Enemies should be defeated and destroyed.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Reflects God’s mercy toward us (Romans 5:8-10) and opens the door for reconciliation.

God's Command: Resist Sinful Anger

Scripture Says: “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger... be put away from you” (Ephesians 4:31; James 1:19-20).

The World’s View of Anger: Venting anger is powerful, healthy, or necessary to “stand up for yourself.”

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: God’s way prevents destructive words and actions, promotes reconciliation, and protects relationships.

God's Command: Reject Fearful Anxiety

Scripture Says: “Do not be anxious about anything” (Philippians 4:6; Matthew 6:25-34).

The World’s View of Anxiety: You should be afraid. And worry shows you’re being responsible and realistic.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Trust in God’s care frees us from fear and brings peace that “surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

God's Command: Refuse to Give in to Despair

Scripture Says: "Hope in God" (Psalm 42:5, 11; Romans 12:12). "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;" (Lamentations 3:21–22, ESV)

The World's View of Despair: During tough times, despair is unavoidable, and you are free to let it control you.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Anchors us in the truth of God's love which He expresses through His promises. fuels perseverance, and leads to joy in trials (Lamentations 3:21–24).

God's Command: Let Go of Regret

Scripture Says: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13–14).

The World's View of this Command: Past failures define you or should be dwelt on endlessly.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: God's sovereign love for us uses even our past mistakes for good in our lives. Ultimately, we cannot thwart His good, loving purposes for us.

God's Command: Be Sexually Pure

Scripture Says: "Abstain from sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

The World's View of Human Sexuality: Sexual freedom is essential to personal fulfillment.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Protects emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being; fosters covenant love.

God's Command: Honor Marriage as a Covenant

Scripture Says: "What God has joined together, let not man separate" (Mark 10:9; Hebrews 13:4).

The World's View of Marriage: Marriage is whatever you want it to be, and it's disposable if it's not meeting your needs.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Provides stability, security, and pictures Christ's love for the Church.

God's Command: Be Generous

Scripture Says: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

The World's View of Giving: Keep what's yours; protect your security.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Breaks greed's hold, blesses others, and trusts God's provision.

God's Command: Be Humble Instead of Proud

Scripture Says: "Humble yourselves before the Lord" (James 4:10; Philippians 2:3).

The World's View of Pride: Pride is strength; self-promotion is necessary.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Pride blinds us to need, damages relationships, and provokes God's opposition; humility brings grace.

God's Command: Resist Greed

Scripture Says: "Be on your guard against all covetousness" (Luke 12:15).

The World's View of Greed: As a famous line from an "80s" movie stated, "Greed is good." Accumulating more is always better; security is in possessions.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Greed never satisfies (Ecclesiastes 5:10) and leads to spiritual ruin; contentment brings peace (1 Timothy 6:6–10).

God's Command: Reject Covetousness

Scripture Says: "You shall not covet" (Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21).

The World's View of Envy: Envy is natural and motivates achievement. Those who have more than we do don't deserve it.

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Covetousness breeds discontent and resentment; gratitude fosters joy and love for others.

God's Command: Resist Addiction

Scripture Says: "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:12).

The World's View of Addiction: Overindulgence or dependency is a personal choice as long as it doesn't "hurt anyone else."

How This Command Lifts Our Burden: Addiction enslaves, destroys health, destroys careers, racks up incredible monetary costs, damages relationships, and clouds judgment. God calls us to freedom (Galatians 5:1) and to be filled with His Spirit, which brings self-control and life.

For Those Who are Suffering:

These passages offer a profound invitation for those of us who are hurting: the way of Jesus is not another weight to carry, but the very path to relief and life. The world often sees God's commands as restrictions that limit joy, but in reality, they free us from the crushing loads of bitterness, hatred, uncontrolled anger, anxiety, despair, guilt, broken relationships, greed, envy, and enslavement to sinful desires. Each command of God reflects His loving character and works for our good — protecting us, restoring us, and leading us into life and peace. When Jesus says His yoke is easy and His burden is light, He is telling the truth: to walk in His ways is to lay down the burdens we made for ourselves (or someone else placed on us) – burdens that are killing us, and to find rest for our souls in Him. And when we follow Him, we do not walk alone. Jesus walks beside us in the yoke – remember? God gives us His Holy Spirit to be with us and in us. He also gives us each other – His people — the church — to bear one another's burdens, to pray for one another, and to help each other keep in step with the

Spirit. His call is not to bear more life-killing burdens, but to come to Him, trust Him, and let Him carry what you cannot, surrounded by brothers and sisters who will help you along the way. So will you keep carrying the burdens that are crushing you, or will you come to the One who can truly set you free?

3. What Overcomes the World?

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (1 John 5:4, ESV)

“Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5, ESV)

For those of us who know Jesus...

If you already know Jesus, John’s words remind you that your new birth is not just the start of your faith - it is the power for your ongoing victory. You have been born of God, given a new heart, a new Spirit, and a new identity as His child. That means you are no longer enslaved to the world’s ways, fears, and lies. God’s commands are not meant to weigh you down, but to free you to live in the joy, love, and strength that come from Him. Victory over the world is not about your strength, but about trusting and following Jesus day by day. So, where is the battle fiercest for you right now, and how will you trust Him to give you victory in it this week?

BENEDICTION

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

(Jude 24–25, ESV)

After-Sermon Questions

For Sunday's Sermon on 08.31.2025: What Overcomes the World?

1. What did you think of the sermon, "What Overcomes the World?"
2. If being "born of God" means a new heart, new Spirit, and new identity, how should that truth reshape the way you approach your biggest struggles this week?
3. Which of God's commands have you been tempted to see as burdensome, and how might they actually be invitations to freedom and peace?
4. Where in your life right now are you most "heavy laden," and how can you take that specific burden to Jesus for rest?
5. How are you actively helping other believers bear their burdens, and who could you come alongside someone this week?
6. If victory over the world comes through faith in Jesus, what's one practical step you can take this week to express that trust in a difficult area of your li