



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Authentic Victory

Passage: 1 John 5:1-12

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: Do you ever feel like your back is against the wall? Life is hard. How can we live in victory when the enemy keeps advancing and growing stronger? The battle is real, the struggle is intense, and sometimes it feels like there's no way out. But do you want real, lasting victory in your life? That's exactly the question John raises in this passage. When the world presses in and doubt, deceit, and worldliness threaten to crush us, God steps in with deliverance. John reminds us that victory doesn't come from fighting harder in our own strength but from trusting in God's Son. What we need for eternal life, confidence, and overcoming power isn't found in ourselves—it's found only in Jesus Christ. And here's the good news: God specializes in turning impossible situations into victories.

I. Overcoming Worldliness (Verses 1-5)

“It is the devotion to temporal interests; attachment to the things of this world and its pursuits, to the neglect of religious duties and interests.” — Noah Webster

Worldliness blinds us with something desirable. Then it holds us captive.

A. Put Christ First in Your Life

The starting point for victory is being born again. If Christ is not first, the world will always win.



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"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." (Psalm 40:2-3)

When you decide that the temporal, worldly, vain, and empty things are no longer going to get the victory in your life, and you choose Jesus, everything will change!

B. Do the Right Thing

The world says God's rules are heavy, restrictive, burdensome. John says they are life-giving, freeing, and good.

When we choose to "rewrite" or ignore His commandments, we're introducing mutations into our spiritual life. Just like cancer starts small and spreads, so does disobedience. But when we follow His commands, we align with His perfect design — and that is where freedom and health are found.

C. Trust Jesus

Victory over temptation, over worldliness, and over sin doesn't come by trying harder, but by trusting deeper.

Overcoming worldliness in your life will not happen apart from a close relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39)

II. Overcoming Deceit (Verses 6-8)

A. Don't Pick and Choose What You Believe



SUNDAY MORNING
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Our faith is built on the full person and work of Christ—you can't remove His humanity or His sacrifice without losing everything.

How often is God's Word and His commands as clear as day to us, yet somehow we've talked ourselves into justifying our sinfulness.

B. Trust Who God Is

We can trust God because He is absolutely consistent. The Father, the Son (the Word), and the Holy Ghost all agree in perfect unity. God cannot lie, and His Spirit always bears witness to the truth.

When the world is filled with confusion and error, we don't have to wonder what's right—the Spirit of God will always point us back to Jesus Christ.

C. Trust What God Has Done

The water, the blood, and the Spirit agree together. God's testimony is clear: Jesus is the Savior.

Victory over error isn't won by clever arguments, but by anchoring in what God has already done in Christ.

III. Overcoming Doubt (Verses 9-12)

A. Realize God Is Always Right

We often trust people without thinking twice. But often when it comes to God's Word, sometimes we hesitate, question, or doubt. John reminds us: if we can trust imperfect people, we can certainly trust a perfect God. His Word is true, and His promises never fail.

B. Rest in God's Testimony of His Son



SUNDAY MORNING

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Your assurance isn't based on how you feel, or how strong your faith seems today. Feelings change. Faith wavers. But God's testimony never changes. If you've believed on Christ, His Spirit gives you the witness inside that you belong to Him.

C. Rejoice in the Gift of Eternal Life

Eternal life is not about what you achieve—it's about what you receive. If you have Jesus, you have life. That means you don't have to live in fear, wondering if you've done enough or if you might lose it. Your security is not in what you've done, but in who He is.

Conclusion: Victory over worldliness, deceit, and doubt doesn't come from us. Not from trying harder, doing better, or by gritting our teeth. It comes from trusting the One who has already overcome. Jesus Christ came by water and blood; He died, and He rose again. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit stand together in perfect unity, declaring that salvation is in Him. And the testimony is clear: "*He that hath the Son hath life.*" If you want victory—real, lasting, authentic victory—it won't be found in this world, in your own effort, or in empty religion. It is found only in Jesus Christ. So let me ask you—do you have the Son? If you do, you have life. If you don't, you're still stranded on the shore. But if you'll trust Him today, He will rescue you, deliver you, and fill your heart with overflowing joy.



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