

## Faith is the Victory

How does faith in Christ give us victory?

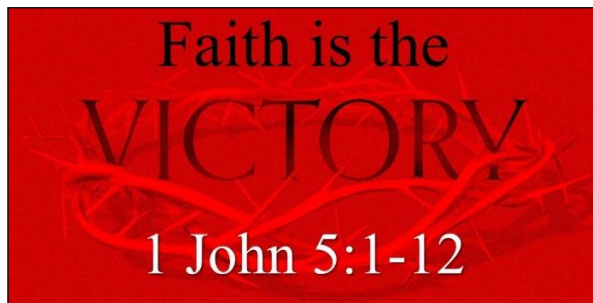
¿Cómo nos da la victoria la fe en Cristo?

1. Faith shows that we are \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
La fe demuestra que somos \_\_\_\_\_ de Dios.  
1 John 5:1-2 (1 Juan 5:1-2)  
John 1:12 (Juan 1:12)

2. Faith helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ God.  
La fe nos ayuda a \_\_\_\_\_ a Dios.  
1 John 5:3-4 (1 Juan 5:3-4)  
Mark 9:21-24 (Marcos 9:21-24)  
1 John 5:5-6 (1 Juan 5:5-6)

3. Faith gives us a greater \_\_\_\_\_.  
La fe nos da un \_\_\_\_\_ mayor.  
1 John 5:9-10a (1 Juan 5:9-10a)  
Revelation 12:10-11 (Apocalipsis 12:10-11)

4. Faith gives us assurance of \_\_\_\_\_.  
La fe nos da la seguridad de la \_\_\_\_\_.  
1 John 5:11-12 (1 Juan 5:11-12)  
John 20:30-31 (Juan 20:30-31)  
1 John 5:13 (1 Juan 5:13)



# Life Group Discussion Questions

**Week 10: May 24-31**

**Scripture: 1 John 5:1-12**

In 1 John chapter 5, we read about our identity in Christ as children of God. Some of the Christians John was writing to were struggling with doubts about their relationship with God. The Gnostics were teaching false doctrines about Jesus and salvation. They claimed to have secret knowledge from God that no one else had and you couldn't be saved unless you had their secret knowledge. But as Christians, we have certain characteristics that the Holy Spirit is developing in us that help us to know that we really have been born of God.

David Allen writes,

Many times, family members are known by certain characteristics or certain birthmarks that go along with being in the family. Some members are identified because of the size of their frame, others because of the curvature of their nose or their hair color. Family members sometimes exhibit certain physical characteristics, and we use those characteristics to identify people with certain families. The same is true in the family of God. John talks about three spiritual birthmarks that identify people who are in the family of God. One of those birthmarks is love, another is obedience, and the third is faith. These three birthmarks recur in the letter, and we find them again here in our passage. (Allen, 212)

## **Read 1 John 5:1-12**

1. According to verse 1, who is born of God?
2. How can a person know if he or she loves God's people? (5:2)

Morris Womack observes,

Loving God and brother is more than just an emotional experience, or even a "doing good" experience. John makes clear in 5:2, "This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands." Since God is the Father of the family and his very nature is love ("God is love," 4:16), then it is one of the family traits for us to love God and our brothers if we are a part of the family of God. (Womack, 116)

3. Why does John say that the commands of God are not burdensome? (5:3-4)

4. How can we overcome the world? (5:4-5)

5. How did John describe the coming of Jesus in verse 6?

6. What three things are in agreement concerning their testimony about Jesus? (5:7-8)

The three witnesses are the water, the blood, and the Spirit. The water refers to the baptism of Jesus. At the baptism of Jesus, the voice of God was heard saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The blood refers to the crucifixion of Jesus. When Jesus shed His blood on the cross and died for the sins of the world, there were several miracles that took place showing that Jesus really is the Christ, the Son of God. The most important miracle took place three days later when Jesus rose from the dead. The Spirit refers to the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist was told, "The One on whom you see the Spirit descending and resting, He is the One." And at the baptism of Jesus the Spirit descended and rested on Jesus. These three witnesses continue to testify about Jesus in our lives today. When we are baptized into Christ, we remember the baptism of Jesus, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us follow Christ. When we take the Lord's Supper, we remember the crucifixion of Jesus and how He shed His blood for our forgiveness.

7. Why is God's testimony greater than man's testimony? (5:9)

8. What testimony has God given concerning His Son? (5:10-11)

9. What do we have if we have Christ in us? (5:12)

Womack notes,

The testimony that we have been given eternal life is based on our relation to the Son. If we accept and obey Jesus as the Son of God—both his human and divine character—then we have been given eternal life. We have already learned from our previous studies in this epistle that the gift to us is not a blind, meaningless gift. It depends on our faith, our love, and our obedience to his commands. John gave his assurance, "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

(Womack, 126)

10. What does it mean to be born of God?

11. What is the connection between believing in Christ, loving God, and keeping His commands?

12. What would you say to a Christian who thinks that the commands of God are too burdensome?

Jesus invites us to come to Him for rest when we are spiritually weak and weary (Matthew 11:28-30). God knows our limits and He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear (1 Cor. 10:13). As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit within us to help us grow in our faithfulness (1 John 4:4). When we remember how much God loves us and how much we love God, we will obey Him (John 14:15; 1 John 4:10; 5:3).

13. What does it mean to overcome the world?

14. How does our faith help us to overcome the world?

15. What victory have you experienced because of your faith?

16. What does it mean to believe that Jesus is the Christ? What does it mean to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

17. What does John mean when he says that Jesus came by the water and by the blood?

18. How can God's testimony about Jesus be seen in the lives of Christians?

19. What steps will you take this week to experience spiritual victory in your life?

20. How will you share your faith and testimony about Jesus with someone this week?

**Sources cited:**

Allen, David. *1-3 John: Fellowship in God's Family*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.

Womack, Morris. *1, 2, & 3 John*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1998.