

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



“Forgiven. Known. Victorious.”

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): 1 John 2:12-14; 1 Jn 2:1-11; 2:15; Jer. 24:7; 31:32-33; Jn 14:6-7, 15-17

Sometimes we need to be reminded who we are before we are ready to hear what we must do. John does something deeply pastoral in 1 John 2:12–14. Before he gives the strong command in verse 15, “*Do not love the world,*” he pauses and looks directly at the congregation. He does not begin by saying, “You are failing.” He says, “You are forgiven. You have known the Father. You have overcome the evil one.”

That’s important because the life of faith is not driven by fear, shame, or self-effort. It is driven by the truth of what God has already done in Messiah Yeshua. John has been speaking about walking in the light, confessing sin, keeping His commandments, and loving our brothers and sisters. But now he reminds the community that these exhortations are rooted in grace. Through every stage of the believer’s life—from little children, to the mature, to those strong in the battle—we must remember this: we are forgiven, we know Him, and in Messiah we overcome.

1. YOU ARE FORGIVEN ON ACCOUNT OF HIS NAME

John writes, “*I am writing to you, children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of His name.*” This is where the life of faith begins. We do not enter the family of God because we earned our way in, cleaned ourselves up, or proved ourselves worthy. We are children because our sins have been forgiven through His name. And His name is not merely a label. His name speaks of His whole person—His character, His authority, His mercy, His faithfulness, His atoning work. To believe in the name of the Son of God is to believe in Yeshua Himself.

This is why John has already said, “*He is the atonement for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the whole world*” (1 Jn. 2:2). The call to walk in the light is not a denial that we still need mercy. John has already told us that if we sin, we have an Advocate, Messiah Yeshua the righteous One. So the believer’s life is not a life of pretending we have no darkness. It is a life of bringing the darkness into the light, trusting that forgiveness is readily and continually available because of Him. You are not forgiven because of your performance. You are forgiven on account of His name.

2. YOU HAVE KNOWN THE FATHER AND THE ONE FROM THE BEGINNING

John continues, “*I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known the One who is from the beginning,*” and then, “*I have written to you, children, because you have known the Father.*” This language reaches into the deep promise of the New Covenant. In Jeremiah, ADONAI promised that He would give His people a heart to know Him, that His Torah would be written within them, and that His people would know Him from the least to the

greatest. John is saying that in Messiah, this promise is being lived out among them. They have not merely learned religious information. They have come to know the Father.

And the only way to know the Father is through the Son. Yeshua said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life! No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (Jn. 14:6). So John is not writing to people who lack the truth. He is writing because they do know the truth, and now they must continue in it. The mature must hold fast to the One they have known from the beginning. The young in faith must remember that they truly have come to know the Father. The whole congregation, from the least to the greatest, must be anchored in the same reality: God has made Himself known through Messiah Yeshua.

3. YOU HAVE OVERCOME THE EVIL ONE

John also writes, *"I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one,"* and then he strengthens that statement: *"I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one."* This is not a shallow triumphalism. John is not saying believers never struggle, never stumble, or never sin. He has already made clear that anyone who claims to have no sin is deceiving himself. Victory is not found in moral perfection. Victory is found in knowing the way of life and continuing to walk in it.

This is especially important as John prepares to say, *"Do not love the world."* The believers have already chosen the path of life, but now that initial choice must become a continued commitment. Victory is not a plateau we reach and then relax on. It is a path we keep walking. We overcome because the Word of God abides in us, because the Spirit of truth lives in us, and because Messiah has already secured the way. You have overcome, and therefore you can continue to overcome—but you must continue in the way.

CONCLUSION

John's words are intended to be planted in our hearts: forgiven, known, victorious. These are not motivational slogans. They are covenant realities. Your sins have been forgiven on account of His name. You have known the Father through Messiah Yeshua. The Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Before John warns believers not to love the world, he reminds them who they are. That is the order of grace. Identity first, then exhortation. Assurance first, then obedience.

So when correction comes, do not hear it as rejection. Hear it as the Father calling His children to remain in the light. When the world pulls at your affections, remember who you are. When false teaching creates confusion, remember what you have known from the beginning. When the enemy accuses you, remember that your sins have been forgiven on account of His name. And when the battle feels heavy, remember that you are strong—not in yourself, but because His Word abides in you and His Spirit lives in you.

Maybe you have been trying to earn what Yeshua already purchased. Maybe you have been carrying shame that He already bore. Maybe you have known the Father, but the noise of the world has made His voice seem distant. Or maybe you have grown tired in the battle and forgotten that in Messiah, you are not defeated—you are called to continue walking in victory. Bring all of that into the light. Bring the sin, the confusion, the weariness, the divided affection, the places where the world has become more desirable than the way of God. Come again to Yeshua, your Advocate, your atonement, your way to the Father. Let Him remind you who you are: forgiven on account of His name, known by the Father, strengthened by the Word, and called to overcome as you continue in His way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think John reminds believers who they are before giving the command, *“Do not love the world”*?
2. What does it mean that our sins are forgiven “on account of His name,” rather than because of our own effort or performance?
3. John connects forgiveness with knowing the Father. How does Yeshua make true knowledge of the Father possible?
4. In what areas of modern life are believers tempted to forget who they are and begin operating according to the values or systems of the world?
5. John says the young men are strong because the Word of God abides in them. What would it look like this week for the Word of God to remain in your thoughts, decisions, relationships, and responses?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Avinu Malkhenu, Our Father, Our King, thank You that through Messiah Yeshua our sins have been forgiven on account of His name. Thank You that we do not come to You by our own righteousness, strength, or religious performance, but through the atoning work of Your Son. Help us to bring every hidden place into the light, trusting that You are faithful and just to forgive and cleanse.

Lord, give us hearts that truly know You. Write Your Word deeply within us. Strengthen us by Your Spirit so that we continue walking in the way of life and do not turn aside to the love of the world. Remind us who we are: forgiven, known, and victorious in Messiah Yeshua.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.