

# Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



## “Faith that Has Overcome”

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### Devotion and Discussion Questions

**Key Texts (TLV):** 1 John 5:1-5; 1 Jn. 4:13-21; 1 Jn. 3:23; 1 Jn. 4:2-4; Jn. 16:33; Matt. 11:28-30; Matt. 23:23; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-27; Rev. 3:5-6, 12-13, 21-22

There are times when faith can feel like something we hold in one part of our lives, while love and obedience live somewhere else. We can talk about trusting God, but then we struggle to love the people right in front of us. We can talk about loving people, but then we can disconnect that love from trust in Messiah and obedience to what God has said. John will not let us divide these things up. He brings them together into a whole, into a fullness, into the *echad* – the unity, the oneness – of walking with God.

At the beginning of 1 John 5, John is not changing the subject from chapter 4. He is carrying the thought forward. Chapter 4 has been dominated by love: God loved us first, God sent His Son, and the one who loves God must also love his brother. Now John shifts the emphasis toward faith, but faith and love are not separated. The faith that has overcome is the faith that trusts in Messiah Yeshua, is born of God, obeys His commandments, and is expressed in love.

#### 1. FAITH IN YESHUA BRINGS US INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD

John begins, *Everyone who believes that Yeshua is the Messiah is born of God* (1 Jn. 5:1). This is the entry point into the family. The chief trait, the family resemblance, is love, because God is love. But the entry into that family—being born into that reality that expresses itself in love—is faith. It is trust in Messiah Yeshua, trust in the love of God fully expressed in Him. We do not make ourselves new. We do not birth ourselves into God's family. We believe that Yeshua is the Messiah, and we are born of God.

And John is not speaking vaguely about Yeshua. He has already shown us who Messiah is. He is the One with whom we have fellowship, the righteous Intercessor with the Father, the One denied by the anti-Messiah, the One in whose name we are commanded to trust, and the One who has come from God in human flesh. So when John says that everyone who believes Yeshua is the Messiah is born of God, he is saying that true faith in the fullness of who Yeshua is does something transformative. We have been begotten of God, brought forth from Him, made new from Him. And everyone who loves the Begetter loves those begotten of Him.

#### 2. LOVE FOR GOD AND LOVE FOR HIS CHILDREN BELONG TOGETHER

John says, *everyone who loves the Father loves the one born of Him* (1 Jn. 5:1). If I have been made new by Him, if I have been birthed from Him, then His love is being birthed in me. That love is not defined the way the world defines love. It is not self-seeking. It is self-sacrificial. It is the love we see fully expressed in Messiah Yeshua. And that means

love for the children of God becomes one of the ways we test the legitimacy of our claim to know God and love God. As John has said throughout the letter, we do not love merely in word and tongue, but in truth and action.

Then verse 2 flips it around: *We know that we love God's children by this—when we love God and obey His commandments* (1 Jn. 5:2). It sounds circular, and it is—but it is not a vicious circle. It is a loving circle. It is the wholeness of walking with God. Love for God and love for others demonstrate and reinforce one another. Faith, obedience, and love are all working together. Our love for people cannot be reduced to a horizontal kindness with no vertical direction toward God. And our love for God cannot be real while we despise the people He loves. If we love God, we learn to love what He loves and who He loves.

**3. GOD'S COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT BURDENSOME BECAUSE FAITH HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD.** John says, *For this is the love of God—that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome* (1 Jn. 5:3). This is not about earning approval or trying to pile up enough obedience to make God love us. Pleasing God is our response to His love already poured out in our lives. His commandments are not heavy like the crushing burdens Yeshua rebuked. They are not disconnected religious weight laid on people's backs. His commands bring us to the heart of what He has always desired: love God and love people. Everything hangs on that.

And they are not burdensome because *everyone born of God overcomes the world* (1 Jn. 5:4). The victory that has overcome the world is our faith. John does not say that we might overcome *someday* if we work hard enough. He speaks of a present reality. Those born of God overcome because their trust is in Messiah Yeshua. The world presses evil, hopelessness, deception, and self-defeat against us day by day. But Yeshua said, *Take heart! I have overcome the world!* (Jn. 16:33). The only One who has overcome the world shares His victory with those who put their trust in Him. So who overcomes the world? No one except the one who believes that Yeshua is the Son of God.

## **CONCLUSION**

The faith that has overcome is not a faith disconnected from love. And it is not a love disconnected from obedience. It is a whole life rooted in Messiah Yeshua. We trust Him, we love Him, we do what He says, and what He says is that we love one another. Apart from the vine, there may be leftover fruit for a little while, but there will not be ongoing fruitfulness. We must abide in Him. When we are rooted in Him, born of Him, and remaining in Him, His life continues to produce fruit in us in an ever-increasing way.

So the call today is simple, but it reaches deep. Have you placed your trust in Yeshua as Messiah, as *Ben-Elohim*, the Son of God? Are you abiding in Him, or are you trying to produce love apart from the vine? Are you separating faith from obedience, or obedience from love? Today, return to the wholeness of walking with God. Trust in Messiah. Receive His love. Let His Spirit make you new and keep making you new. And then, from that

place, love God, love His children, and walk as one who has overcome—not because of your strength, but because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. John connects faith, love, and obedience together. Which of those do you find easiest to separate from the others in your own life?
2. What does it mean that everyone who believes Yeshua is the Messiah is “born of God”? How should that change the way we see our identity?
3. John says that loving God and loving His children belong together. Are there people in your life right now whom God may be calling you to love in truth and action, not just in word?
4. In a modern world that often defines love as approval, affirmation, or personal emotion, how does God’s self-sacrificial love reshape our understanding of real love?
5. Where do you feel the pressure of the world most strongly right now—fear, compromise, hopelessness, distraction, bitterness, or something else? How does faith in Yeshua’s victory help you stand firm?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkhenu*, Our Father, Our King, thank You that You loved us first and sent Your Son, Messiah Yeshua, as the full expression of Your love. Thank You that through faith in Him, we are born of You, brought into Your family, and made new. Teach us to trust You more deeply, to love You more fully, and to love Your children in truth and action.

Lord, help us not to separate what You have joined together. Let our faith be expressed in obedience, and let our obedience be filled with love. Remind us that Your commandments are not burdensome, because You have set us free to walk in life. Strengthen us to overcome the world through faith in Yeshua, the Son of God. Greater are You in us than he who is in the world.

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