

# The First Epistle of JOHN

## Chapter 5:1-5

### “How To Overcome The World”

#### > FOUR KEYS TO OVERCOMING THE WORLD:

##### KEY # 1 – OVERCOME BY BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST! (v1)

> THE FACT! - Turn to Matthew 16:13-19 - JESUS IS THE CHRIST! — *anointed*, the Greek translation of the Hebrew word rendered "*Messiah*" (q.v.), the official title of our Lord, **occurring five hundred and fourteen times in the New Testament**. It denotes that he was anointed or consecrated to his great redemptive work as Prophet, Priest, and King of his people. He is Jesus the Christ (Acts 17:3; 18:5; Matt 22:42), the Anointed One. He is thus spoken of by Isaiah (61:1), and by Daniel (9:24-26), who styles him "*Messiah the Prince*." The Messiah is the same person as "the seed of the woman" (Gen 3:15), "the seed of Abraham" (Gen 22:18), the "Prophet like unto Moses" (Deut 18:15), "the priest after the order of Melchizedek" (Ps 110:4), "the rod out of the stem of Jesse" (Isa 11:1,10), the "Immanuel," the virgin's son (Isa 7:14), "the branch of Jehovah" (Isa 4:2), and "the messenger of the covenant" (Mal 3:1). This is he "*of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write*." The Old Testament Scripture is full of prophetic declarations regarding the Great Deliverer and the work he was to accomplish. **Jesus the Christ is Jesus the Great Deliverer, the Anointed One, the Saviour of men**. This name denotes that Jesus was divinely appointed, commissioned, and accredited as the Saviour of men (Heb 5:4; Isa 11:2-4; 49:6; John 5:37; Acts 2:22). To believe that "*Jesus is the Christ*" is to believe that he is the Anointed, the Messiah of the prophets, the Saviour sent of God, that he was, in a word, what he claimed to be. This is to believe the gospel, by the faith of which alone men can be brought unto God. **That Jesus is the Christ is the testimony of God, and the faith of this constitutes a Christian** (1 Cor 12:3; 1 John 5:1). (from Easton's Bible Dictionary)

> THE FIGHT! - Kenneth Wuest, the Greek expositor writes, "The "**WHOEVER**" refers to persons, those persons "*born of God*." "**Born**" is in a perfect tense, referring to a past completed act of regeneration with the present result that that regenerated individual has been made a partaker of the divine nature and as such is a child of God (2 Peter 1:4; John 1:12 "sons,"). "**OVERCOMES**" is *nikao*, "**to carry off the victory, come off victorious**." The verb implies a battle. Here the forces of the world-system of evil, the flesh (totally depraved nature), the devil, and the pernicious age-system (*zeitgeist* German) with which the saint is surrounded, are all engaged in a battle against the saint, carrying on an incessant warfare, the purpose of which is to ruin his Christian life and testimony. The verb is in the present tense, "**is constantly overcoming the world**." It is a habit of life with the saint to gain victory over the world. To go down in defeat is the exception, not the rule."

##### KEY #2 – OVERCOME BY KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS! (v2-3)

(v2) Love one and another and keep His commandments! – Matthew 22:34-40

##### > Commandment #1- Love the Lord your God with:

(a) All your heart - Make God/Jesus your first love! - Ephesians 5:1-7- Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

**(b) All your soul - Worship God - Psalm 138:1-6-** *I will praise You with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing praises to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name. For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD, when they hear the words of Your mouth. Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, For great is the glory of the LORD. Though the LORD is on high, yet He regards the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar.*

**(c) All your mind** – While today we think of a person's mind in a morally neutral way, in the New Testament the mind was clearly thought of as either good or evil. Negatively, the mind may be "hardened" (2 Cor 3:14), "blinded" (2 Cor 4:4), "corrupt" (2 Tim 3:8), and "debased" (Rom 1:28). On the positive side, humans may have minds which are renewed (Rom 12:2) and pure (2 Peter 3:1). They may love God with all their minds (Matt 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27) and have God's laws implanted in their minds (Heb 8:10). Since Christians have "**the mind of Christ**" (1 Cor 2:16), **they are instructed to be united in mind** (Rom 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary) (**Meditate on His Word! - Read Psalm 1 & 119**)

> **Commandment #2- Love your neighbor as yourself** - The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:33) (Matthew 5:14-16 - *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.**"*)

> (v3) **"His commandments are not burdensome"** - Matthew 11:28-30 - *Come to Me, all you 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.**"*

### **KEY #3 – OVERCOME BY FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD! (v4)**

Paul wrote in Romans 10:17 - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

> **Examples of Faith that overcomes** - Hebrews ch. 11:1-7

- Abel - the **WITNESS of FAITH!**
- Enoch - the **WALK of FAITH!**
- Noah - the **WORK of FAITH!**

### **KEY #4 – OVERCOME BY TRUSTING JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD! (v5)**

> **Believe!**- Matthew 14:22-33- *Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."*