

The First Epistle of John

(Week 49 – 1John 5:1-5 – part4)

Text: 1John 5:1-5 (ESV), “*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

I. Review:

A. 1John 5:1-5

1. The first vital sign of the New Birth:
 - a. Belief in Jesus as the Christ and Son of God (vv. 1, 5)
2. The second vital sign of the New Birth
 - a. Love for God’s children (v. 1b)
 - i. We love His children by obeying His commands
 1. Even Church discipline is an act of love (Hebrews 12:6)

II. Continuation:

A. The third vital sign of the New Birth:

1. Love for God expressed in obedience to His commandments (v. 3)
 - a. **Question: Is John saying that those who are born of God will obey God’s commands perfectly?**
 - i. No, because anyone who claims to have no sin is a liar (1John 1:8)
 - ii. No, because John instructs the child of God to confess their sins to God (1John 1:9).
 - iii. No, because John tells the children of God if any of them sin, they have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ! (1John 2:1)
 - b. A child of God makes it his/her aim to please God, whether at home in the body (i.e., on the earth) or away from the body (i.e., in Heaven) (cf. 2Cor. 5:9)
 - c. Anyone who claims to be born again and isn’t concern about a lifestyle that is disobedient to God’s word should examine him/herself to see if they really are in the faith (cf. 2Cor. 13:5).
 - i. No one who is born of God makes a practice of sinning (1John 3:9)
 - ii. Sin is lawlessness (1John 3:4) and those who are born again practice righteousness (1John 3:7)
 - d. **Question: Is obedience to God’s commands always easy and effortless?**
 - i. No, because we are constantly fighting against the world, the flesh and Satan.
 - e. **Question: Then what does John mean when he says “...His commandments are not burdensome (kjb-grievous; Greek-heavy; weighty)?” (v. 3b)**
 - i. Answer #1: Compared to the Law of Moses -- which Peter described as a yoke that the ancient or present Jews couldn’t bare (Acts 15:10) – the Law of Christ offers freedom (cf. Gal. 5:1) from Mosaic customs, rites and rituals. (cf. Col. 2:14-17)
 - ii. Answer #2: Christ’s commands are in harmony with the impulses of those who have been born of God:
 1. A child of God desires to do what is right, not what is wrong!
 2. A child of God desires to please God, not to displease God!

3. The world, blinded by sin, sees Christ's commands as burdensome!
- iii. Answer #3: God's commandments are given and received in the context of love:
 1. A loving father does not tell his daughter to stay away from a busy street because he wants to take away her fun, but he loves her and wants to protect her from injury or death!
 2. An immature child may think that her father's commands are too restrictive, but she needs to trust her father's love and obey.
 3. When we see God's commands as stemming from His love for us, we see His commandments as not being burdensome.
- iv. Answer #4: God's commandments are designed to help us live the lives we were created to live. Ignoring his commands will bring grievous consequences to our lives – we ought not blame God for those consequences, but ourselves.

B. The forth vital sign of the New Birth:

1. Having faith that overcomes the world.

- a. John says in the first part of verse 4, "*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world*"
 - i. If one is part of God's Family, they have already overcome the world!
 - ii. For example:
 1. If a person served in the military and is discharged, their service is over; they are now a civilian.
 2. If they pass a high-ranking officer on the streets, do they need to salute him or drop and do 20 push-ups at his command? No, because they are no longer under that person's authority. They changed status.
 3. In the same way, when a person becomes born of God, he is set free from the bondage of sin and has been discharged from Satan's services. The world has no more authority over those who are born again!
- b. John says in the second part of verse 4, "*And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith*"
 - i. Our faith is what makes us overcome the world
 - ii. Faith is:
 1. Recognizing that God has a superior wisdom to our own
 2. Recognizing that He sees what we do not see
 3. Recognizing that He knows where certain choices will lead us
 4. Recognizing that His judgments are perfect and ours are faulty
 - iii. We consider it a wise move listen to those with greater wisdom or knowledge
 - iv. For example:
 1. Taking a doctor's advice
 2. Listening to a parent (even though we may not want to)
 3. Doing what the policeman or fireman tells us to do
 4. Taking a financial advisor's advice
 5. Following our boss' instructions
 6. Listening to a trusted counselor

- v. **Living by faith involves recognizing that God is the expert on life**
 - 1. **That He knows how we were created to live**
 - 2. **That He knows what will lead to the greatest fulfillment in life**
 - 3. **That He knows where true joy comes from.**
- vi. **Faith involves surrendering ourselves to God's judgment and wisdom.**