

# So That You May Know

## An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:1-5**

### Chapter 25- Overcoming the World

#### 227 Overcoming the World- Part 11

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WAOY Friday- Monday 08/01-04/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we're going to continue to look at what John meant when he said, "Whoever is born of God overcomes the world". So, let's read **1John 5:1- 5** again together:

**1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.**

**2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.**

**3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.**

**4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.**

**5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have been looking closely at just what John meant in verse 4, when he said:

**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.**

Now we saw on our last broadcast that during the first century- in John's day- in the Middle East- around the region of Ephesus- most of the people of that region were taught that life is all about what we as humans do for the gods. So, all they knew and all they were taught was summed up in one statement- "*What have we done for the gods?*"

But that is not at all the way it is with the one true living God of the Bible. You see, we do not rejoice that we love God- but we rejoice that God loved us! Christians, you see, are so filled with Joy because we know that Biblical Christianity is about what God has done for *us*- not what *we* have done for God.

So, we have to realize that overcoming the world and not being worldly is all about Love- Who do we love- God or this present evil world?

And we must know that we do not have the power to *manufacture* this love in ourselves or in others. We do not have the ability to give anyone a love for God- only God can do that. We cannot bring Christ down from Heaven and we cannot put Christ in a human heart. But we can share the Gospel and we can labor- but ultimately this Love *for* God and the corresponding hatred for the world- is a gift *from* God. But when Christ *does* come into a human heart; and when Christ *does* give to you a Love for God and a disdain for the world- it is truly a thing of great beauty.

This means that if we are going to be successful in defeating worldliness in our own lives- if we are going to overcome the world- then we are going to have to first acknowledge that worldliness is a sin and then secondly- we are going to have to confess that we are greatly *troubled* by worldliness; and then thirdly- we are going to have to pray for strength to overcome it.

And this is a Sovereign Work of God's Spirit. If you already love God- then pray to God that He may grace you with *more* love. And pray that as your love for God grows- your hatred and your despising and your rejection of the world will grow also.

So, a lot about overcoming the world is Trust. John says here in verse 4 that we overcome the world by and through our faith. That means that we have bold confidence in the Promises of God to such an extent that this faith or trust in God changes what and Who we love.

We trust in God that God is able to bring to us the love for Himself that we are lacking as proven by the fact that we still love the world. And this is where we have to be honest with ourselves. If we are following after the lusts of our flesh; or the lust of our eyes or the pride of life- then by default we must acknowledge, dear friends that according to the Bible- the love of the Father is not in us, and we are not overcoming the world.

In **Matthew 16**, Jesus said,

**I will build my Church...**"

So, the Head of the Church will succeed in building his Church with men and women and children just like us who are the object of Christ's Love and who have been given the ability to not love the world – but have been given the great gift and privilege and honor to love the Father.

But why is worldliness or love for the world so bad? Read with me what John himself said about this in **1John 2:17**:

**The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**

In this verse- the Apostle John told his first century audience that no matter how attached they might have been to their goods and their possessions and their dreams and their desires and their boastings- John reminded them here that the earth is the Lord's and *not* ours and that they would one day lose everything.

John said everything that they craved and sought after was at that very moment passing away and would eventually all pass away. The correct Greek language in verse 17 is,

The world is passing away- and it's desires.

Now this is a *huge* statement which should dictate our affections and loves. Why put your love and devotion and allegiance into something that is at this present moment passing and shall eventually pass away?

This verse doesn't say that one day it shall pass away- but that everything in the world is at this present moment- in the process of passing away *already*.

Now up in Quebec Canada, there is place called the Ice Hotel. And this hotel is made up entirely of four foot thick ice blocks. You can actually stay in this hotel and sleep there. But you can only stay there for three months out of the year. You know why? Because it is melting- it is passing away.

The Bible tells us that the day is coming when the world itself with all the affections; all its loves ; all its lusts; all its desires- which are in direct competition with the love of the Father- is going to pass away. It is going to be destroyed; it is going to come of naught. But the same Bible which promises that also promises that he that does the will of God; he which loves God with all his heart; he which denied his flesh and loved God and was not divided in his love and devotion and affections will abide forever- with God- in heaven- forever!

Do you love the world? Has the world robbed God of your love? Whatever happened to worldliness? Unfortunately, Worldliness is alive and well and is thriving on the earth today- but I pray that worldliness is not in your heart today but that the Love of the father is in your heart.

Now in our verse of study- **1John 5:4**- John says that we overcome the world by and through our faith- that faith is the victory that allows us to not love the world but to overcome the world. But just how does that work? Here's how.

**Hebrews 11:1** tells us what faith is. That verse says that faith is:

**... the substance (or the assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence (or the conviction) of things not seen."**

So, in other words, faith is the confidence that we feel in the good things that God has promised to do for us tomorrow and all the way into eternity. Now we can't see those Promises- but faith has the assurance that the great Promises of God, in which we hope, will absolutely come true. **Hebrews 11:6**, mentioned earlier, says,

**And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**

In other words, the kind of faith which pleases God is our coming to Him with absolute confidence that- contrary to what we may see, feel, hear, smell, taste, or think- we confidently trust that God will reward us with all the good things He has promised. So doing or saying or acting on faith like that- produces things that please God while acting or doing or saying things that are *contrary* to faith like that- produces things that are sin.

So just how does such faith produce attitudes and acts in us which are *not* sin? And to find the answer to that question- go back with me to **Hebrews 13:5**:

***Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"***

So, the Bible teaches us here and many other places- that the love of money or the desire to prove our goodness and worth by accumulating a lot of this world's goods- are both desires that displease God and that dishonor the life of faith. Therefore, we can say that to love money is to sin. **1 Timothy 6:10** confirms this by saying:

**For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**

Now the antidote to this sin of loving money and all the evils that grow from it is not to be poor- but to be content. Look at the middle of **Hebrews 13:5** again:

**... being content with what you have ...**

But the writer doesn't leave us there by ourselves so that we can try to *manufacture* this contentment by and through our own human will power. No, he goes on to give us the sure *foundation* for this godly contentment in the last part of **Hebrews 13:5**

**... for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"**

So, we can see that the *basis* for lasting contentment so that we will *not* be tempted to love money or love possessions- is the great and sure Promise of God's unfailing Help and Fellowship as He has promised us:

**"I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"**

And that Promise was *not* something that the writer of **Hebrews** made up to try to keep his congregation in line- no- these Words had been time tested and proven and were thousands of years old when the writer of **Hebrews** quoted them here because they come from **Deuteronomy 31:6**, when Moses wrote:

**Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."**

So, the writer to the **Hebrews** is saying this:

God has made such comforting, reassuring, hope-inspiring Promises in His Word that, if we have faith in these promises; if we fully trust in these Promises- we will be genuinely content. And this godly and satisfying contentment is the antidote to the love of money which is the root of all sorts of evils and to worldliness which proves that the Love of the father is not in us.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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