

1 John 5:1-5 “New Victories”

Introduction (6 mins)

Option 1: Today we start a new series; New Day, New Year. We are at the end of the 2017 year and many people are getting their 2018 resolutions ready.

Example of a few are;

- Exercise more
- Eat healthier
- Buy a House
- Get a better job
- Become more of a mature giver
- Build a business

What many people don't include in those resolutions in a way to deal and confront the challenges that will get in the way of those goals. So at the first sign of resistance or challenge we either give up or forget about the goal all together.

What if in those resolutions we write down some encouragements to help get us through the times that we are too tired to go to the gym. Or when we are tired of eating roasted vegetables. What about when have challenges in buying that house, getting a new job, building a business. What if we get our check and the enemy tries to trick us into not giving more because we don't have enough money to give more. What if we were assured that we can reach our goals if we overcame our fears, our excuses, our laziness, our doubts and our shortcomings? Would we be so quick to give up on our resolutions and goals?

Listen, if your goal this year is to be more like Jesus, the text we are about to read shows us how our victory is guaranteed. For those of you who are here for the first time I pray that the Holy Spirit allows you to see that we are all tired, weary and incapable of overcoming life by ourselves without the help of the one who already overcame the world.

“New Victories”

1 John 5:1-5

Pg. 1023

The Main Point: Genuine faith in Christ will help you overcome the challenges of this world and live in victory.

Setting up this passage (6 Mins)

We are now in the last chapter of 1 John and in the last series Radiant and Radiant love we saw John constantly refuting false teachers who were questioning Jesus divine nature (**Chapt 4:1-3**). John quickly helped us understand that those who deny Christ were Antichrists and carried that Antichrist spirit. Think about what the false teachers were implying.... They were essentially denying the redemptive work of Jesus Christ which means that there was no forgiveness of sin. This antichrist attack was meant to make us doubt the redemptive work of Jesus. Typical of the devil to try to mentally keep us confined to the shackles of sin. We know the devil is a liar and John reminded us that;

- God is light (**chapter 1:5**)
- Those who know God through Jesus are forgiven (**chapter 2:1-2**)
- Those who love God confess their sins and live like Jesus
- We can live in confidence through Jesus (**chapter 2:28 -3:3**)
- He who lives in us is greater than he who is in the world (**4:3-4**)

In chapter 5 here John expands on that last point. He who lives in us is greater than he who is in the world. He begins to talk about overcoming the world. Let's take a quick look at this word overcome as I think that it is crucial to understand as it is used in this context.

Overcome - Nikao - to gain victory or prevail. It is use in the physical sense in certain scriptures but in these passages it is used in the spiritual sense.

We also have to understand what is meant by the World in this passage. **1 John 2:16** (the desires of the eyes, desires of the flesh and the pride of life. Also called the fruits of the flesh. (**Gal 2:19-21**) sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy,[a] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these

So I want to spend some time today looking into how it is that we have overcome the world, are overcoming the world and how we can continue to overcome the world through faith in Jesus Christ. My goal today is to encourage you to be dependent on what Jesus did, is doing and will continue doing with you an through you and be confident in our victory over the world.

I. God has given us new victory over our past through the new birth. (Regeneration) 1 John 5: 1 (6 Mins)

1 John 5:1 - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God.

- This doesn't say everyone who believes in Jesus has been born of God.

- Saving faith has a particular content. It is those who believe that Jesus is the Christ.
- These false teachers didn't believe that. Why? They couldn't understand the truth because they were not born of God yet.
- Everyone who loves the father loves whoever has been born of him.

John 8:42 If God was your father you would love me.

John 8:47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God.

- **Regeneration** - is a behind the scenes act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us. This is often called being born again. (John 3:3-8)
 - We play no active part in this rebirth. We were made Children of God not birthed of blood or flesh not human will. (John 1:13)
 - It is a total work from God. God worked in us and prepared our hearts and minds to receive him and respond to him in faith. The new birth must happen before we can respond to God's calling with saving faith.

Ezek 36.26-27

“A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances”

- God empowers us with a new power filled life and causes us to walk in his statutes and careful to observe his ordinances.
- All things were made new.
- God will not hold your past sins and failures against you.
- We overcome our past transgression and past life through this new

birth.

- “We used to be children of Wrath, dead in our trespasses but he made us alive with him.” (Ephesian 2:1-10)

- We overcome our past transgression and past life through this new

birth.

Galatians 2:20a.

“I been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

We can be rest assured that we no longer live a defeated life. Our past defeats were erased at the cross and a new clean life was birthed in you to live in victory.

2 Cor. 5:17

“If any one is in Christ, he is anew creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.”

II. Love demonstrated through obedience to God’s word gives us the victory over future opposition. (1 John 5:2,3)

- **God’s commandments is the way to properly love the children of God.** The bible shows us the true way to do good for other. **Gal 5:14** “**you should love your neighbor as you love yourself.**”
- **Genuine regeneration must bring results in life.**

We often think that regeneration occurs after saving faith because we see the results or evidence of this new birth after someone experiences saving faith in Jesus. This is how we can tell someone is maturing. They want to read the bible more, they want to pray more and they begin to believe in practicing these very powerful spiritual disciplines.

Here are a few that this first letter of John mentioned previously and a couple that mentions in this chapter.

- Separation from sin (**1 John 3:9**)
 - *He will run from sin (**prov 14:16**) He who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil.
 - We have a spiritual seed (life - generating and growing power) that keeps us from living a life free of continual sin
 - Produces love
 - Produces Obedience
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- **His commands are not burdensome**

- We have to have the right attitude in obedience.
- Obedience should be produced by Love

My wife is a stay at home mom. She has been since we've been married. This was a choice we both agreed to together when we had Genesis.....

Sometimes she needed help around the house and would ask me if I could help with the dishes. My wife hates dishes and so do I, can anyone relate. I would say yes but really was not happy about it. I just thought it was my duty to help her as a husband but my heart was not in it for real. She used to tell me all of the time, why do you look so miserable when I ask you to help. I wouldn't understand the question since I was indeed helping. She would say; I want you to want to help me and do the dishes. It took me years to understand but she wanted me to let my love for her to produce the right attitude to helping her.

God doesn't just want us to obey; he wants us to let our love for him to cause us to take delight in obey him.

Psalm 40:8

“I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

Psalm 119:24

“Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.”

Psalm 119:35

“Lead me in the path of your commandments for I delight in it.”

Psalm 119:92

“If your law would have not been my delight; I would have perished in my affliction.”

We can be sure that if we love God, we will love his children (our brothers) and delight in doing his will and he will equip us against future temptations to sin.

III. Saving faith is the victory that overcomes the world today and forever. (1 John 5:4,5)

- **Has been born of God overcomes (v4)**
- **Faith the key to victory that has overcome (v4)**
- **Who is it that overcomes (v5) God abides in him and he in God (John 4:15)**

Gal 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Once God saves you he preserves you. Think about it we learned;

- He regenerated you.
 - He caused you to believe
 - He causes you to delight in obedience to his word and love.
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- So how is it that we still can hold hostility in our hearts if we have a new heart?
 - How come we have trouble loving someone who is unlovable?
 - How come we sometimes prefer to stay home and not come fellowship, or pray, or read the word?
 - How come we still have struggles with hidden sins?
 - How come I feel so defeated because I don't feel like I do enough?
 - How come we are not more of a mature givers?
 - How come we still have trouble with our tempers?
 - How come we struggle with telling people about Jesus?

That fact that John mentions the word overcomes indicates that there will be struggle and the struggle is real. We will indeed struggle with sin while we are in our sinful bodies. However through Jesus' death and resurrection, our new heart that allows us to trust in his redemptive act we are guaranteed not to be a prisoner of these sins.

We may fall, but we repent and through Jesus we are victorious over sin, death and hell. We place our trust in Christ for salvation and victory.

Here are some reasons that faith is key in victorious living;

- **Faith give you confidence of salvation.** Not because how good you are living but because of how perfect he lived, how unselfishly he gave himself to death's grip and how powerfully he resurrected.
- Faith is believing what Jesus did when he said it is finished. The victory is already one.

2 Cor 2:15 he destroyed all works of the devil. Shame him publicly by his victory in the cross.

- **We don't have to try to win a victory. We stand and live in his victory**
- Faith is not just how we receive from God but also the evidence that we

- have what God has already provided through Christ. (Heb 11:1)
- Faith says I will not trust my own abilities
 - I will not trust what I see that is opposed to God's promises and truth.

Heb 11:1

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Assurance = Confidence.

- Not a vague hope grounded in imagination or wishful thinking.
- Is faith settled in confidence that something in the future, something that has been promised by God will actually come to pass because God will bring it to pass.
- It is not a blind trust in the face of contrary evidence, not a leap in the dark.
- Is confidence that God is who he says he is
- all powerful, infinitely wise, trustworthy, never leave you nor forsake you and his promises have proven true from generation to generation.

Conclusion

Continual faith in Christ is the victory that overcome the world. It's pretty clear in these passages. So there is a decision to be made in this new year.

If you have been born again and believe in what Jesus did for us on the Cross you must decide to depend on Jesus alone to save you and provide you the victory over the influences of the World in your life.

If you have not had a chance to accept Jesus' redemptive work or have accepted him as your personal Savior but today or at some point recently have experience a change in your heart towards the gospel of Christ. Decide to give your life to him and depend on him to help you be an overcomer.

There will be new spiritual challenges this year and with continued faith in Christ we can overcome them all.