

FIRST JOHN 4:20-5:5 - OBEDIENCE BY FAITH!

1/3/26 Sat. Morn. Prayer - <https://www.ptwente.com> (20200526 1 Joh 4:20-5:5) ptwente@gmail.com 714 425 9221

(1Jn 4:20-5:5) *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? [21] And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. [5:1] Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. [2] By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep 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 he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Obedience by Faith

1Jn 4:20 *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God? (1Jn 2:4) He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. whom he has not seen? (1Jn 4:12) No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

- **Talk, without action, is cheap** and really meaningless and without value. God's love, however, if it is truly present in our lives, cannot help but to make its presence known.
- **If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar:** By this most important standard, Jesus said the world could measure our status as disciples by the measure of our love for one another. **(Joh 13:35)** *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*
- **For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?** It is often easier for someone to proclaim their love for God, because of a private relationship with an invisible God. John rightly insists that our claim of loving God is false if we do not also love our brother, and that this love must be seen.
- **How can he love God?** The fruit of the Spirit is love!

1Jn 4:21 *And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (Mat 5:43-44) "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' [44] But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, (Mat 22:37) Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'*

- **This commandment must be obeyed.** You are not dedicated to the Lord unless you demonstrate love in your life and in your service. Loving our fellow believers is not optional. It is a commandment.
- **It is impossible on our own to love our brother also** but with God's love as our resource, that really is no problem.
- **He who loves God must love his brother also:** We can also learn how to love God by loving people. One might say, "I want to love God more; I want to grow in my love for Him. But how can I love a God who is invisible?" God would say to us, "Learn to love Me, Whom you cannot see, by loving My children, whom you can see."

Overcoming the World - 1Jn 5:1 *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ (1Jn 2:22) Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. (1Jn 4:15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*

- **God is life, and that life comes through being born of God.** "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ (God's Messiah)"—this is the method, this is how one is born again. John makes it very clear here and

in the opening of his Gospel that you become a child of God through simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Joh 1:12*) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

- **This means that when you trust Christ**, you trust who He is, as well as what He did. What He did has no value if He is not who He said He was. The virgin birth is essential. Who is this that died for the sins of the world? It was not an ordinary man who could not even die to obtain his own salvation. Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. It is faith which produces the New Birth.
- **Once you have been born again, how do you know** that you have been born again? When you trust the Lord Jesus Christ, you are born again, and God becomes your heavenly Father. He is God the Father, and He becomes your heavenly Father. If He is your heavenly Father and you are begotten of Him, then you will love Him.

is born (out of, from) ***of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.*** (*Joh 1:13*) *who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

- ***But it doesn't stop there—you are also going to love the*** one who is begotten of Him. You are going to love one another of God's little children. John has said this before. We love God and should love all those who are begotten of Him. He that believes that Jesus is the (his personal) Messiah, and confides in Him for the remission of sins, is begotten of God; and they who are pardoned and begotten of God love Him in return for His love, and love all those who are His children. (*1Jn 3:11*) *For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.* Jesus said, (*Joh 13:35*) *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*
- **This expression, “born of God,” is most important!** Are you born of God? Have you been born again? You are born again when you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, and the proof of it is that you love God. You love your Father—He begot you—and you are going to love His other children because they are your brothers and sisters. The one who is born again will love others who are born again.
- **This Epistle of First John tells us how you can have** the assurance of your salvation. All the way through, John has been giving us evidences that we are a child of God.
- (*1Jn 2:29*) *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.* - A child of God will practice righteousness in his life. It is to be the practice of your life. You will slip and fall sometimes, but righteousness will be the practice of your life if you are His child.
- (*1Jn 3:9*) *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.* - A child of God will not practice sin. He will not live in it, revel in it, or make it his life. The life-style of a sinner is sin; he lives in sin all the time, and you don't expect him to do differently. We all lived in sin until we came to Christ.
- (*1Jn 4:7*) *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.* - A child of God will love other Christians. This is another test that will give assurance to you that you are born of God: Do you love other Christians?
- (*1Jn 5:4*) *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.* - A child of God will overcome the world.
- (*1Jn 5:18*) *We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.*
- **Two of the evidences, two of the birthmarks of a child of God** are given right here in this chapter; does not continue in sin and the wicked one does not touch him.
- **John is going to emphasize certain tests of true sonship**—love, obedience, and truth. No one can quarrel with these words. Love, obedience, and truth are marks of the child of God.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know (last of these 8 “by this we know” tests) ***that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep*** (regard) ***His commandments.*** (*Joh 15:10*) *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.* What are His commandments? (*Joh 13:34*) *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* (*1Jn 3:23*) *And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

- **These are the commandments for believers today.** In response to the awesome, unlimited love of God, every child of God wants to keep these commandments as the practice of his life. This is something that he desires to do, something that he longs to do.

- **You can say I love God but if you do not keep His commandments**, then your words are inconsistent with your life, with your actions. And it is important that they line up together.
- **Our love of the children of God is a proof that we love God.** Our love to God is the cause why we love His children, and our keeping the commandments of God is the proof that we love Him.
- John is actually repeating himself and that is for emphasis. You say that you love God, your love for God is manifested in your love for the brethren, your love for each other.
- How am I doing with this test--loving God, being obedient, and loving one another?

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of (for) God, that we keep (repeating of obedience) **His commandments.** (Joh 14:15) *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."*

And His commandments are not burdensome (heavy). (Mat 11:30) *"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

- **Some people may think so. Every commandment that God give us** is for our benefit! You may think that it is very difficult and almost impossible that God has commanded you to love one another. That is true without Him, but that's because God's love is not yet perfected in you. How important it is! This is the heart, this is it. If you do not have love for the brethren, then you really have no proof or assurance that you are a child of God.
- **John is saying that the child of God, out of love for Him**, wants to keep His commandments. It is something that he wants to practice; it is not difficult for him to do these things at all. The little girl who was carrying a big, heavy baby was asked by a concerned woman, "Little girl, isn't that baby too heavy for you?" The child replied, "He's not heavy. He's my brother."
- **"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments:** and His commandments are not burdensome." The point is that they impose no burden on us because we are keeping them through love.

1Jn 5:4 For whatever is (everyone) **born** (born again) **of God overcomes the world.** (Joh 16:33)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me, you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- **We are talking about this new birth**, being born again! "Whatever is been born of God,"
- **All along the way in this epistle we are being given "Birthmarks** of a Christian, self-tests to see how we are doing and what we should be doing! – We are to: Walk in the light! When we sin, we are to confess our sin! Be righteous as He walks in righteousness! We are to love one another! Help others in need if we have the ability to meet that need! Mark all false teachers! And here we are to be overcomers! Just think of these birthmarks! How wonderful! How awesome is our God!
- **We do not have to walk in any defeat in the world.** We are victors, because of our faith! We have overcome because of what Jesus has done for us!

And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (1Jn 2:13) *I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.*

- **The Bible tells about those who are overcomers** of the world and about those who are overcome by the world. In Revelation chapters two and three, Jesus is addressing the churches. He has a special promise to those in all of the seven churches who are overcomers.
- **To the Church in Ephesus (loveless church) – (Rev 2:7)** *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."*
- **To the Church in Smyrna (persecuted church) – (Rev 2:11)** *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*
- **To the Church in Pergamum (compromising church) – (Rev 2:17)** *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."*
- **To the Church in Thyatira (corrupt church) – (Rev 2:26)** *And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations*
- **To the Church in Sardis (dead church) - (Rev 3:5)** *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

- **To the Church in Philadelphia** (faithful church) - **(Rev 3:12)** *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*
- **To the Church in Laodicea** (lukewarm church) - **(Rev 3:21)** *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*
- **The world is attractive, it is very alluring.** All that is of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, the pride of life are very alluring. But whoever is born of God overcomes the world, the temptation, the allurement of the world.
- **And what is the victory? What is the place of victory?** It is our faith that gives us the victory.
- **What is it that overcomes the world? It is our faith.** It is faith that saves us, and it is faith that keeps us. We are saved by faith; we walk by faith. We are born children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, and faith is the only way in which you and I will be able to overcome this world around us.
- **When you really trust Christ, it is not a question** of your own power, but you are kept by the power of God through faith. We have faith, belief in Christ for salvation in the future and faith in Christ for salvation from the world here and now.

1Jn 5:5 *Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* (Psa 2:7) *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. (Isa 9:6) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Mat 16:15-16) He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" [16] Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

- **This love that He has given us will not compromise Christ Jesus!** The Bible has defined Him. Heaven has defined Him. He is who He is! It is not our place to re-define Him. It is our place to accept Him, who and what He is!
- **Who is he ... Who can pretend to have obtained a victory** over the world, except he who believes in the Savior? All else are worldly, governed by worldly aims and principles. It is true that a man may gain a victory over one worldly passion; but unless he has faith in the Son of God, the spirit of the world will reign supreme in his soul in some form.
- **He that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?** - That He is the promised Messiah, that He came by a supernatural generation; and, although truly man, came not by man, but by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The person who believes this has the privilege of receiving and applying the benefits of the incarnation and passion of Jesus Christ, and receives the blessings which the Jews cannot have, because they presently do not believe the Divine mission of Christ. He is Divine!

Pray Today: We thank the *LORD* for a continuing great worldwide harvest! For continuing protection and security of all believers! For a great revival in the Church! For many to come to Jesus! *President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; J.D & Usha Vance;* Senate majority leader **John Thune**; Speaker of the House **Mike Johnson**; We **thank You** for the many believers in our current leadership! We pray for more!

CALL UPON THE LORD – Elevation Worship (3:37/3:40)

We need no other hiding place. Our hope is safe within Your name. This we know, this we know. You promise never to forsake. What You began You will sustain. This we know, this we know.

I will call upon the Lord for He alone is strong enough to save. Rise, your shackles are no more for Jesus Christ has broken every chain.

All of the heavens and the earth announce the fullness of Your worth. This we know, this we know. Every enemy will have to flee as we declare Your victory. This we know, this we know.

I will call upon the Lord for He alone is strong enough to save. Rise, your shackles are no more for Jesus Christ has broken every chain.

Jesus' name will break every stronghold. Freedom is ours when we call His name. Jesus' name above every other. All hail the power of Jesus' name.

I will call upon the Lord for He alone is strong enough to save. Rise, your shackles are no more for Jesus Christ has broken every chain. [x2]