



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

1 John 5:1-5 ESV

Overcoming the World

5 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. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. **4** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **5** Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

REVIEW:

LIGHT & LOVE

1st – Light – Truth that stems from Christ and is sustained in Fellowship with each other.

2nd – Love - Treasuring God and how we value each other.

Introduction:

For the next three weeks we will be talking about the reason that John wrote this letter, the clue comes in his summary:

That You May Know

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know** that you have **eternal life**.

1 John was written to give the church then and now **ASSURANCE of their SALVATION**. To be assured means, “That for the believer they can withstand whatever the enemy throws against them, because they are assured that what Christ did for them will PRESEVE them all the way to and through final judgment.” - PJ



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

John is going to summarize and spell it out for us, why he was repeating himself, why he was continually reemphasizing over the last four chapters, and he will do it covering three different ways that we gain assurance.

- 1- Assurance through Obedience 5:1-5
- 2- Assurance through Christ 5:6-12
- 3- Assurance through Fellowship 5:13-21

Today we are covering the first part of this summation by talking about what it looks like to **gain assurance through obedience**. Simply, will you and I adhere to John’s teaching, and prove what he taught us in the Gospel of John 3, that only those that have been born again hear and obey God’s Word.

Let’s start by looking at a word that John uses in verses 1-5 that it seems he uses, to **build a desire or a lure** as to why we would want this. Why would you pursue assurance through obedience?

⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

John’s desire for you is to gain **ASSURANCE** so that you will come to know and believe that you and I can/have **OVERCOME** this world. They didn’t need what the Gnostics were selling, you and I don’t need what the Gnostics of our day are selling, by what Jesus has already accomplished it is enough. To be a Christian is to have already overcome this world. We need to believe that!

You and I have an affinity for this word (**overcome**), it is something put in our DNA, we are **born to be “overcomers”**. Let me prove it to you. You and I, being made in the image of God, were told to have dominion over the earth in Genesis ([Gen. 1:28](#)). BUT sin happened, the fall took place and life got real hard, and **dominion lost the ease** in which it was made to happen and now all things are a struggle. To be an overcomer is to go and have dominion, even though challenges have risen up against you!

Our modern-day stories reflect this trend. There are two movie themes that all people like and it doesn’t matter if you are a man or a woman. We all like movies about **Justice** and we all like movies about **Overcoming**. **First**, all of us like a good movie about **justice** when the bad guy gets it in the end: movies



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

like, *Taken*, *Equalizer*, *Born Supremacy*, or any Steven Segal / Jason Stratham movie you come across. The other type of movies we love, because again it's in our DNA, are **overcomer stories**: movies like *Rocky*, *Rudy*, or *Facing the Titans/Bad News Bears*.

This past week in your Bible reading you witnessed the **GREATEST OVERCOMER story of ALL TIME!** Thursday through Friday you saw the culmination of a lifelong battle as Jesus on Thursday (Jn 19) went to the cross and then on Friday (Jn 20) He rose from the dead, and if you have a regenerated heart, you were like, “YES!”

Jesus overcame the world! He overcame the fear of man, fear of the pain of death, the temptation to flee, and the temptation to disobey His Father. And because of His success in these things, we then witnessed in Jn. 20 that He even overcomes death! That universal sentencing that we all received and deserved in the garden, He even overcame that, and we cheer on our Lord because He gained the victory we could not achieve!

I just want to encourage my family today, if I can, as much as we all love that story, the sequel, unlike earthly sequels, will be just as good. Jesus comes back and next time He gives **ultimate justice**. All wrongs will be made right, and no one can stop Him. Better yet, while only a few saw the cross and the resurrection, **EVERYONE gets to see the sequel**. I want a front row seat, you want a front row seat, and the way we get there is we keep on believing in Jesus because only those that OVERCOME will be on the right side when JUSTICE comes with vengeance!

John has for us this week three ways to pursue as Christ did this idea of OVERCOMING this world: we will overcome by/through FAITH, we will overcome by LOVING God and others, and lastly, we will overcome by OBEYING, which is going to sum it all up nicely.

1. We overcome by faith; believing in Jesus (5:1,4-5).

5 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.



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Vs. 1 Says I have to have faith/believe that Jesus is the Christ to be born of God

Vs. 4 John says faith is a sign of those that have been born of God and faith is what is needed to overcome the world.

Vs. 5 John defines faith again as belief in Jesus as the Son of God.

You put this all together and it means **Faith is necessary for overcoming the world because only Jesus as your Savior has the power to deliver you from this world.** Now what is the world and why do I care to overcome it?

Two weeks ago, we identified that the world, at least when John is talking about it, as consisting of two things, demonic leadership, and an alternate philosophy of life contrary to God’s will. The world is the domain of the antichrist. If you do not have a faith in Jesus, as “The” Christ the Messiah, as the King that you swear allegiance to, you will then always be under the control of the world the Antichrist. There is no such thing as absolute libertarian freedom. Man is a finite and a controllable entity; we lack power to rule ourselves therefore we are subject to powers greater than us. We cannot escape being swayed to follow, it is our nature, **we were created to be followers.**

We also said it is impossible to serve two masters because the world does things to glorify itself and God created all things to glorify Himself. The battle we wrestle with is **who will you glorify** and why we need to deal with it is because **overcomers are the only ones that make it.**

In case you are not understanding that concept, God does not allow mankind to say it was too hard, I tried but I failed to overcome this world, to give glory to you when I should have. Having dominion on this earth that reflects God’s goodness, grace, holiness, all of Him has been a command from the beginning (Gen 1:28) we cannot escape it, therefore even if the world is fallen, we must still overcome.

So why is Faith necessary to overcome? Because it is the only way to ever achieve a right standing with God!



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

⁸ For by grace you have been **saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Notice v. 8. Paul reiterates that **FAITH is required for Salvation**. What's more, is that Faith is a gift, of grace, meaning you didn't deserve it. Then again v. 10 claims that there is some type of “good works” that must be done beforehand, that we should walk in them, wow that sounds a lot like dominion (Gen. 1:28), living for God's glory.... Then Paul has this clarifying statement in which he says, “¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, to be qualified as a good work it MUST be done in Jesus Christ! Done for His name, done to bring Him glory for He succeeded, He overcame the world to bring glory to God, your works should show that!

You and I are to **overcome by believing that Jesus was the only one to overcome the world**, and that we are saved by believing He did it not just for God but so He could share the credit with us. That's called imputation.

It is as Martin Luther discovered over 500 years ago:

Romans 1:17 ESV

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The **righteous** shall live by **faith**.”

We overcome the world through Faith, without it, it is impossible because only faith in Jesus is what overcomes. You see eventually by believing it you will eventually get tired of the world's offer to find consolation in anyone other than Christ. That brings us to #2 because when you have Faith it gives the ability for this next part:

2. We overcome by loving God and loving His children (5:1-2).

⁵ 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. ² By this



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

we know that we love the children of God, when we **love** God and obey his commandments.

1st - We overcome this world by practicing the type of love that we were called to from the beginning. In John’s explanation of assurance the verse shows that the **only people who will overcome are God’s children**. Let me just say no one, not no one, is going to do anything to God’s kids that He does not allow, even the bad stuff. Our Father is in charge of all things, and His ultimate goal is to bring you home, and sometimes to get us home it requires us to walk through hard times.

This morning Mike shared with us in preparation for the sermon from the Westminster Larger Catechism Question #80 I want now to show you how assurance works from Question 81 of that same confession:

Q81: Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?

~~A81: Assurance of grace and salvation not being of the essence of faith,[1] true believers may wait long before they obtain it;[2] and, after the enjoyment thereof, may have it weakened and intermitted, through manifold distempers, sins, temptations, and desertions;[3] yet are they never left without such a presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from sinking into utter despair.[4]~~

A supporting verse for that answer is in how do we keep from despairing:

1 John 3:9 ESV

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

Birth elected and started by God is also a life that will be maintained and nourished by Him by the implanting of His Spirit in you and this Truth is the way in which He will lead us back home to Him. **(The greatest invention ever made for my wife was the pinging function on her i-watch)** No one birthed to a new spiritual life by God has ever been lost, not one soul.



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

So, overcoming this world is a supernatural sustained process by God for it began with Him and will be completed by Him. As Paul so proudly boasts nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:38).

2nd – We know we are overcomers when we practice loving other children/people of God.

1 John 3:15-17 ESV

¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?

One of the things we have to walk away with from our time in John is that assurance of our Salvation is shown in how we love God’s people. Do we want to spend time with them? Am I quick to forgive them? Do I seek not to just condemn but do I seek reconciliation with people in this room? Am I willing to get out of comfort when someone needs something from me in here? Not even that, do I forgo my convenience and comfort to love people first before they ask me for something? Do I love others as I want to be loved?

If you are coming to church here and you can’t wait to get home today, if you leave here and never want to visit with the other people in this room, my friend I love you but you have not the assurance of God according to all of 1 John...

We overcome by Faith, we overcome by love for God and His children, and it brings us to our third component of assurance today the main thrust of these five verses:

3. We overcome by being obedient (5:2-3).

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and **obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

As I have been pointing out through the sermons in 1 John, John has a way of saying here is how it should be and then he emphasizes the point by stating what we should do as a command. John has been boiling down the Christian faith throughout his letter, using the theme of light and love to point out that Christians are known by their willingness to obey God in how they love Him and His children. Here in chapter 5, he adds a stipulation, of what an overcomer should be experiencing: **the commands of God are not burdensome.**

I just want to give you a couple of examples from the NT of what this looks like.

A. Not Under Compulsion

Romans 6:17 ESV

¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

Overcomers are people that are not under compulsion, no one is twisting your arm, to be obedient it comes from the heart (*καρδια*) the spiritual center. That means at your core you want to do what is righteous according to Romans 6. You are not under an exterior compulsion, but you are compelled by interior motives. The difference is that for the overcomer they do what is right for they love righteousness which benefits others not just yourself.

1 Peter 5:2 ESV

² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

In 1 Peter we are given a ‘how to’ for elders in their treatment of the flock. Elders are called to live as examples for the body. Their lives should represent how the rest of the church is to live. **If you see elders loving others eagerly, you too are to love people with an eagerness in your soul.** Are you waiting, are you coiled up in your soul to pounce on someone with *αγαπε* love? This is what it looks like to live as an overcomer.



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

B. With Cheerfulness

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful giver.**

Again, not with an external compulsion but with an internal eagerness. With cheerfulness we are called to give to the church and the need of those in here. Are we a church of people overcoming this world and can it be seen in how we give of ourselves time, money, and all resources?

Psalms 119:14-16 ESV

- ¹⁴ In the way of your testimonies **I delight**
as much as in all riches.**
- ¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.**
- ¹⁶ **I will delight** in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

Lastly, I just wanted to point out, and you read this chapter a couple of weeks ago, that king David models for us what a repentant and saved sinner should look like. **He delights in God's Word!** He understands it is what corrects, it is what preserves, it is how he understood that even in the midst of terrible sin, he was forgiven, and through faith he would overcome in the end. It taught David he was redeemed, and his salvation was based on God's faithfulness and not his works. Do you know that truth this morning, do you come to God's word with cheerfulness or somberness?

Closing and Challenge:

Overcoming leads to eternal blessings:

Rev. 21:6-7 ESV

⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who **conquers will have this **heritage**, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all**



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

HERITAGE - κληρονομέω (*klēronomeō*). vb. **to inherit**. *To receive rights or real property in perpetuity by means other than purchase or exchange.*¹

Overcomers are the ones that conquer the world, that word for conquer - **3771 νικάω** (*nikaō*): vb.; ≡ Str 3528; TDNT 4.942—LN 39.57 **conquer**, overcome, overpower, prevail, triumph, be victorious (Lk 11:22; Jn 16:33; Ro 3:4; 12:21; 1Jn 2:13; 5:4; Rev 2:7; 3:5; 5:5; 6:2; 17:14; 21:7)² is the same word for overcome. In order to gain your inheritance/heritage you and I must overcome this world and we overcome by believing Jesus did it and I am saved by His Work, I exhibit this salvation by loving God and others, and that leads me to a life of cheerful obedience.

Faith produces love and love produces obedience. Now let me help us with this as we close as to what you may come to experience in your future.

If you are lacking assurance today, it may simply be you have lost your joy in obedience. When life gets tough, we seem to drop that which we should be happy for, and we pick up that which always seems to drag us down. The way in which you fight this is go **back to the middle step, love God and others**. There is something special for the Christian in when you practice that it renews your joy, you will discover that you like loving others, which renews your faith because you will believe that only God can change your selfish heart, and you will find obedience to God’s commands, to have dominion again, will become something that produces joy, it doesn’t take it away.

Are you finding joy in living for God today? If the answer is no, stop focusing on achieving goals for God and start loving Him by loving His children.

Are you finding it hard to love people this morning? If the answer is yes, then I would say those things that draw you deeper into the world, media, worldly pursuits, the news, drop them now and pray to God for the gift of faith.

¹ Herbst, J. W. (2014). [Inheritance](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

² Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.



“Assurance through Obedience”
Wk.12 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:1-5
By Pastor Jody May

Friends I want to encourage you that today, you and I have the opportunity to be a part of the greatest comeback story ever told if we but practice faith, love and obedience. In this way we too can have the best seat in the house for Jesus return when Justice will prevail, and all things will be made right. Let's be overcomers together...

Prayer

Communion

Benediction

Go in the name of the Father, that has given us the Son so that we too may overcome this world.

Go in the name of the Son, that overcame the world that through faith in Him we will have the benefits of His victory.

Go in the name and power of the HS, that grows our faith, that helps us to love, and creates a heart in us to love obedience.