

Date: May 23, 2021

Title: Assurance: Launch Pad for Righteous Living

Title: "Faith that Overcomes!"

Text: 1 John 5:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. God's people are identified by many _____ in Scripture.
2. John reveals one in our text for today: _____.
Verb: **νικάω νικάō** fr. Noun: **νίκη νίκη** = victory. It is one of John's favorite words: 24 of its 28 occurrences are in his writings, in the Gospel of John (1x); the epistle of 1 John (6x); Revelation (17x)

John 16:33 . . . Jesus' victory

Romans 8:35, 37 . . . our victory (in Christ)

The verb in vs. 37 is **ὑπερνικάω hupernikáō** = absolutely, completely.

- A. Believers are overcomers of _____ (2:13-14; 4:4)
- B. Believers have overcome _____ (2 Cor. 5:1; 1 Cor. 15:54-57)
- C. Believers have overcome the _____ (3x in verses 4 & 5)

CONSEQUENCES OF THE NEW BIRTH (5:1-5)

This compressed paragraph begins (vs. 1) and ends (vs. 5) with belief, but between these two verses the paragraph is concerned with love & obedience. NOTE: the three tests again: belief, love, and obedience.

The real link between the three tests is seen to be the new birth (3:9; 4:7; 5:4, 18). Faith, love, and obedience are all the natural outgrowth which follows a birth from above. What are 3 marks of an overcomer?

1. _____ in the truth about Jesus:
"Jesus is the Christ" (vs. 1); and "Jesus is the Son of God" (vs. 5).
2. _____ for God and others.
3. _____ to the word.

Christians are those who believe the truth about Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. Because of their faith in Christ, they obey the Lord by keeping His commandments. Included in His commands are the obligation to love God and to love one another. In addition, faith in Christ provides spiritual victory over the world.

THE CONFIDENCE OF FAITH: The Testimony of God (5:6-12)

In verses 1-5 John claimed that faith in Christ can overcome the world. That claim raises a question. How can Christians be confident that their faith in Christ is well-founded? To answer this important question, John identified 3 witnesses that testify to the legitimacy of faith in Christ. **KEY WORD:** "testify" or "testimony" (8x in verses 6-12).

1. The **Nature** (the Particulars) of God's Testimony

- A. The "water" - a reference to the baptism of Jesus by which His public ministry was initiated. At His baptism, Jesus was declared the Son of God, and was commissioned & empowered for His work (Luke 3:21-23; 4:1-2a)
- B. The "blood" - a reference to the death of Jesus by which His earthly work was terminated: "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30). God the Father testified to the person & work of Jesus in 4 ways.
- C. The "Spirit" - The Holy Spirit testifies that Jesus is the Son of God in three ways: 1) Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism; 2) the Spirit's work in this world; 3) the Spirit continues to confirm in the hearts of believers the apostolic testimony that Jesus' baptism and death verify that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (vs. 10; 2:20-27).

What about the **Comma Johanneum** ("the short clause pertaining to John")? It is highly unlikely that the **Comma** was originally a part of 1 John 5:6-8.

2. The **Purpose** of God's Testimony

The purpose of God's testimony thru the water, the blood & the Spirit is to evoke faith in Christ so that sinners might receive eternal life. "Verses 11-12 are "the clearest presentation of the Gospel in all the Bible." Three important truths are taught about eternal life:

- A. Eternal life is a _____.
- B. Eternal life is _____ in a person.
- C. This double gift is a _____.

3. The **Response** to God's Testimony

- A. You can _____ the Son.
- B. You can _____ God's testimony & receive the Son.