

# 1 John

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1 John 5:5-8

Vss.4-5

- Looking back at 4:4 we are reminded that “greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” Just as Christ overcame death and sin, he now empowers us to likewise overcome the world. By faith, as the entire chapter of Hebrews 11 tells us, we are able to overcome the world. Not by our power, but by the power of God that comes to us by faith. It is this faith that causes us to KNOW that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.
- The one who overcomes the world is the one who by faith believes that Jesus is the Son of God. Why should that one, singular belief be so important? First, it affirms the incarnation. It says that you do believe that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. It says that you do believe that one person of the Trinity so cared about us that He left Heaven and entered into earth’s History, pitched His tent with us, walked with us, ate with us, celebrated and grieved with us, and experienced all of what humanity experiences. Second, it says you do believe that such belief will lead you into eternal life with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever. Third, it says that you do believe that the Son is with you, even to the end of the age, so that whatever the world may throw at you, no matter how dark the Valley of the Shadow may be on your journey, you don’t need to be afraid and you can be confident that you will not be beaten, broken, or defeated, because HE is with you. Fourth, even in John’s time, just some 60-70 years after the resurrection, John’s people had already seen, and we have seen over these 2000 years, that no matter how the world seeks to blot out The Way of Jesus, Christians survive and the church emerges stronger. In the Book of Acts, John’s own brother, James, is beheaded by Herod. Stephen is beaten to death with stones. Peter and John themselves are repeatedly arrested, beaten and threatened with death and STILL the church grew like wildfire. And it was all because people believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

Vss. 6-8

- Most New Testament scholars would agree that these verses are the most difficult in 1 John, if not some of the most difficult in Scripture. It’s hard to know exactly what or who John is defending against.

- But, but tying together the “water and the blood” it seems as though John is remembering back to that day when he stood by the side of the mother of Jesus and watched the soldier pierce His side with a spear. John writes in his gospel that the soldiers had checked to see if Jesus was really dead, “But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may also believe” (John 19:34-35).
- There is also the water of Jesus’ baptism. The baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist is something all four gospel writers point to as supremely important. Mark begins his whole gospel there. Perhaps there were those in John’s time who were saying that baptism was not important, that the cross was all that mattered. Perhaps others were saying the opposite, that the cross and the resurrection were unimportant and that baptism was all that mattered, which is what the Gnostics seemed to be saying. But John wants us to understand the indissoluble connection between love and obedience. Jesus was not baptized for the forgiveness of His sins, for He had no sins. He was baptized to demonstrate His loving obedience to the Father (and to set an example for us) just as He was crucified out of that same loving obedience to the Father.
- Then there is the testimony of the Spirit. The New Testament is clear that while John came to baptize with water, Jesus came to baptize with the Spirit. Indeed, at Jesus’ own baptism is the witness of the Holy Spirit descending on Him. So the Holy Spirit comes to Jesus, so that Jesus can give the Holy Spirit to us.
- Thus in communion we are reminded of the gift of the blood of Jesus. In baptism we follow the example and command of Jesus by our own loving obedience to Him. We live thereafter through the power of the Spirit. And the Spirit and the water and the blood all combine to testify to the perfect Messiahship, the perfect Sonship, and the perfect Saviorhood of Jesus, the Son of God. In those days, in either Jewish or Roman courts, the testimony of three witnesses that fall in full agreement can be taken as absolute truth and fact.