

Janine is back!!!!

Continuing in our study of 1 John. What a blessing it has been. Wonderful Truths. **Clear-cut purpose:** Demonstrating the testes by which someone can know they're a Christian. Its such an encouragement to the those who have been born again and a sobering warning for those who are pretending to be a Christian but are really not true believers.

Entering last chapter of 1 John.

1 John 5:1-5 Read **PRAY**.

Vs 1. "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him."

John is continuing here with the truth about Believing in Jesus from chapter 3.

Believing that Jesus is the Christ. Not just believing in the person of Jesus. But that He is the Christ. Messiah (Lamb of God, Sacrifice). Putting your trust in that messianic truth about Jesus. He is the savior of the world. The one who has set us free!

All thats true about Christ is implied here. Born of God-more about this in a bit. AND, Loving God the Father we will love those born of Him. **Last week!!!!** I love God but hate brother=Liar. John here is reiterating how love marks a true believer in Christ Jesus. Doesn't stop in Chapter 5. Continues on:

Vs 2. "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments."

-2a:Natural consequence or result form Vs.1 Just as it is impossible to love God without loving His children, so also is it impossible to truly love His children apart from loving Him. *Those twin priorities make up all who have been born again.* **2b** Goes on the say that the proof of genuine faith is sustained in **loving obedience**; **"love God and observe His commandments."** **Observe**, don't be mistaken, is more that just looking at. translates to **"accomplish, carry out, to practice. (Present tense). Continuous obedience.** Vs 3 says **"Keep."** watching over, guarding, preserving, the truths of commandments. That will be the direction of the christian. Not perfection. Refers to action. Purposeful Holy Spirit given drive to honor the commandments. **EX:** **Solomon**, wisest man to live, concluded **"fear God and keep His commandments because this applies to every person."** **heart attitude that prompts obedience.** The principle that those who truly love God will obey Him is found all over scripture. **Deut:** **"Follow the Lord your God, fear Him and keep commandments. Listen to His voice, serve Him, cling to Him."** **Samuel:** **"Obeying is better than sacrifice."** **Jesus:** **"He who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me."** **"if any one loves Me he will keep my word."** **"If you keep my commandments you will abide in My Love."** The obedience to God's word/commands that characterize a true child of God is not external, ritualistic, legalistic, partial, inconsistent, or grudging, **Loving obedience is from the Heart.** So, those who truly love and obey God do **NOT** find His commandments burdensome. **Vs. 3**

Vs 3. "For this is the Love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome."

Some people feel very burdened by the commandments of God. John insists they are the opposite. **Lets look at this for a minute.** Contrast of the religious requirements of the religious leaders of Jesus' day and the simplicity of loving God and following him. **Mat 24:** Scribes and Pharisees put heavy burdens on people. Jesus says, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest for you soul. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

James says: Its a law of liberty and when we abide by it not forgetting but an effectual doer of them that we will be blessed. People/Christians see them as burdensome **BUT** They are not. The **burden comes when we are in sin and disobeying God.** But when we do obey Gods word/commands we see how liberating they are because we are experiencing that freedom from the bondage of sin. **-*World says, This is what freedom is:** Do what you want whenever you want. Be free from rules and laws. Whatever you feel like doing, do it! Actually **not true freedom at all. Its actually slavery.** become a slave to that sin. Those temptations we have are those old slave masters calling us back to bondage. Praise be to God who through Christ Jesus has set us free from bondage to sin. Jesus fulfilled them!! We think it will free us: **GOLD FISH.** It seems hard and burdensome to keep the commandments at first. Not easy to stop gossiping if your doing it all the time. Or forgiving one another if you don't extend forgiveness. Get saved we are free!! **Ever feel that heaviness of sin and habitual sin?** Gosh, **how taxing it is.** Keeping the commandments brings freedom. Just like Through Christ we have freedom from the penalty of Sin. When we really love God we will want to obey him and it will be a joy! No fear now! Confidence! **Jacob:** "So Jacob served 7 Years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her." We do crazy things when we love someone. Not a burden but a joy! **Jeremiah:** God says, "Walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you." **Psalms 19:** "Law of Lord is Perfect. restores soul, wisdom, right, brings rejoicing, pure, enlightens the eyes, true and righteous. Sweeter than honey from the comb." Not burdensome. Psalm 119 states that the word/commands of God are a, "delight, counselors, they are loved and meditated on all the day!"

NT: Rom 16:25-26 Read Truly born again=obedience of faith. :) natural/result for new man/woman in Christ. **Those who truly obey God do not find keeping His commandments burdensome. Actually liberating.**

If you find yourself today thinking I can't ever be good enough, or I need to clean my self up first before God will love me. That burden is too much. Come to Christ. **Vs 1** states that "whoever believes in Jesus the Christ is born of God." in Vs.

Vs 4. "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

-John has such a simple yet so powerful principle here: If we are born of God, we overcome world. The idea that anything born of God could be defeated by world was strange to John. **What is it to be born of God?** Jesus Christ was Not spawned or created by God, **but begotten out of/ Came out of the very essence of God.** Invaded the world and took on human form. Already existing with God on the throne, humbled

himself to become a baby born of a virgin, lived a sinless life died on the cross to satisfy the wrath of God against sin then rose again from the dead thus overcoming the world and the enemy for all who would confess Jesus is Messiah **Born again?** Nicodemus and Jesus. Go back into the womb? **From Above. Who is above?** From whom are born again from? God the father & Jesus.

Are now in this world but not of it. John 17

We'll get to overcoming in a minute, First.

World: John is referring to the Darkness, deception, philosophies in the world. Bible Speaks about the, Worries of this world, deceitfulness of riches, and desires for other things can choke us out. For what does a man profit to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? **John 12; Darkness of this world:** "I have come as light into the world so that everyone **who believes in me will not remain in darkness.**" **John 14:27 Peace I leave MY peace I give to you.** Not as the world gives do I give to you Do not let heart be troubled or fearful. **Eph 6:12** Struggle is against world forces of this darkness. **1 Cor** says the world is condemned because of sin. **Col** warns us to not be taken captive through philosophies and elementary principles of the world. **James** exhorts us to not be stained by this world and to not have a friendship with it. IT is: *Invisible Spiritual system of evil. Not talking about politics, education as such, culture as such, civilization, society. Not talking about human structures of any kind formal or informal, what were are talking about is the spiritual system of evil that exists without God, opposed to God, dominated by Satan, ruled by him as the prince of the power of the air, ruler of this world. Also the system of man dominated by carnal ambition, pride, greed, self, pleasure, lust of the flesh-eyes, pride of life. System that is ignorant of God in open rebellion against God, run by satan set up on earth with death as the ultimate enemy.*

TO ME, that means this world is challenge, a struggle, a fight, battle, war. Sounds like its too much for me on my own to overcome, but Vs. 4 **"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world."** **As a born again Christian we overcome the world!** There are so many wonderful titles in the New Testament by which we describe ourselves as believers in Christ: **Children, Children of God, Children of light, Children of the day, and Children of obedience. Believers, the Faithful, Friends of Jesus Christ. Brothers and Sisters. Sheep. Saints, Holy ones, Soldiers, Witnesses, Stewards, Fellow-citizens. Lights in the world, Ambassadors of Christ, Ministers, Servants. Disciples. Heirs, Branches in the vine, Members of the body of Christ, Living stones by which the temple of God is built. We are called Epistles, living letters. We're called temples. We're called beloved.** And there are more.

We find in our text today that the born of God believer is an overcomer.

The word overcomes means to conquer, to win, defeat, gain victory. John likes this title of christian, *In fact, of the 28 times it is mentioned in NT 24 times it comes up in Johns writings.* The **HS** is wanting to make it clear to the christian! In John's day, this was a title only given to the greek gods because of the unconquerable level that that word meant. Must have been a shock to pagan culture to assign that title to the Christian during Johns day. Our Lord Jesus used the same word about Himself: **John 16:33** **"In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

Romans says we are more than conquerors. Super-conquerors. We have through

faith in Christ entered the condition of being unconquerable. The born again believer is the overcomer. John affirmed this idea earlier in this letter. Chap 2 Overcome the evil one. How? Word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one. As soon as we believe the truth, you defeat the enemies lies, as soon as we embrace the power of God, the evil ones power is neutralized. ****SOMETHING TO BE NOTED: "Overcomes the world"** Present tense. Is continually overcoming the world. Its habitual, permanent, ongoing. We may fail along the way, may fall victim to the enticements of the world here and there but the great war has been won, victory is ours! **Domain of darkness—kingdom of the God's beloved son.**

What is going to make us believers victorious in this dark world? Our Faith. Faith in Jesus Christ. **Key to victory in this world is an abiding faith in Jesus Christ.** Ongoing reliance and trust in Him. **An Understanding that the regenerated saint is born of God/from God/ of God. Understanding our citizenship is now in heaven!** That's where our hearts are. **Father is, Savior is, names are written, room is being prepared, We are headed Christian! Faith is the assurance of things hoped for the things unseen. This hope doesn't disappoint because Love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the HS given to us. Rom 5.**

We struggle in the world. Paul: fallen flesh, terrible persecution, finally execution. None of that took away his Victory because even in death for the believer, **Ushered in to their eternal triumph.** Nothing can ever cause a true believer to stop believing. **Paul:** Even if they kill us, all they've done is freed us up to enter into the glorious realities of spiritual perfection in the presence of Christ. We are over comers! The trials we face in life are temporary. We conquer in Him. **1 John 4:3 "You are from God little children, and have overcome them (antichrist) because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 1 Cor: "Death is swallowed up in victory, O, death, where is your sting. the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law but thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."** It's nothing for us to be proud about, it's something for us to be humbled by and rejoiced Greatly over. I didn't deserve it when Christ made me **an overcomer** and I don't deserve it now because I, with Paul, still look at myself and say, **"O wretched man that I am."** **Well then if you don't deserve it, and if there's still sin in your life, and if occasionally you still fall prey to the temptings of the world and the allurements of Satan and you still sin, how can it be said that you have conquered them?**

It can be said that I've conquered them because the Bible says that I've conquered them in Christ...in Christ. **"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing the word of God."** **Very important question,** cause if you look at your life like I look at mine, you don't see on a day-to-day basis some kind of spiritual invincibility, do you? You wouldn't rise up and say, "I will tell you this, as far as sin goes I am unconquerable?", **it is by grace, right?** It is because a righteousness not your own has been granted to you, put to your account, the righteousness of God in Christ. It is because God in mercy and grace has made you, Christian, a super-conqueror in spite of what you are, not because of it. **Now Vs 5.**

Vs 5. "Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." How do you know if you are an overcomer??

Overcomers are characterized by the same three things that John has been talking about since chapter 1. **The three tests by which anybody's salvation can be evidenced is: 1) Faith, 2) love, 3) obedience to the Word.**

1) Faith: Overcomers believe/have saving faith in Jesus. If you don't believe in Jesus, you are not an overcomer. Very basic. Not something we can earn. By Grace we have been saved through faith. Not of ourselves. It's a gift from God.

Very clearly then what **John is wrapping up here** is that the first test to give evidence or proof that you're an overcomer **is your faith**. If you **believe** that Jesus is the Christ you are born of God. If you're born of God, commandments are not burdensome and **you have overcome and are overcoming the world**. And what is it that makes you an overcomer? It's your faith. It's because you **believe that Jesus is the Son of God**. John by the HS just goes around and around that same great truth. Our faith in the true faith: Jesus is the Messiah begotten of God.

Our victory then starts at the moment of our salvation and we are given a permanent faith that never ever runs out. Moments of questioning, moments of doubt...sure. And the Lord is gracious to us in our time of doubt. Doubt is a temptation. Doubt is a sin. But if you are a true Christian, doubt will always be a wrong response, a sinful response because if you are God's children, **our salvation is forever and so is the faith that He gave you**. Well what about those who fall away??? John dealt with them already, never truly saved. **Do you believe in Jesus the Messiah?**

Our present continuing faith is a result and therefore the evidence of our past having been begotten by God. If you have been born again, if you have been regenerated, if you have been given new life by God, it will manifest itself in an ongoing faith in Jesus Christ. *Knowing who Jesus is not as a matter of facts for info but as food for life-"Fills the soul with so great things concerning Him...as to easily turn this world into a contemptible shadow, and deprive it of all its former power over us."*

We overcome because we are born of God because we believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Not intellectually, but we put our lives on the fact that Jesus is the Son of God for us. That confidence in and reliance upon. We live like this: Chapter 2: **"not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."** **"For all that is in the world, lust of flesh, lust of eyes, pride of life is not from the Father but is from the world and the world is passing away all its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever."** We Christians, have overcome the world. It no longer overwhelms us, It no longer is the object of our attraction. Love Him with all our heart mind and strength. He is the one who has overcome the world for us. **REVELATION: "He that overcomes shall inherit these things."** Speaking of all that is heaven. Overcomers not only triumph over Satan, but triumph that results in eternal heaven, and all that is heaven becomes ours. **Need to be born of God.** **John 16:33** **"In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

