

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course
An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
 5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

1 John Lesson 12

1 John 5:1-12

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Faith in Christ overcomes the world.

How do you feel when major challenges face you? As much as we may try to appear confident, in our hearts we often feel intimidated by factors such as illness, unemployment, and personal loss. Like John's readers, we may also have to contend with the doubts that the world tries to raise in our minds.

The Bible reassures us that God is sufficient to strengthen us for all kinds of challenges. When we have a crisis of confidence, God's Word reminds us to trust in the Lord. When we feel threatened by pressures and problems, we can draw upon the resources that God has provided. When the world's shouts seem to drown out our security, God's Spirit reminds us of all that God has done for us.

When we place our faith in Christ, we have a faith that can overcome the world. That faith in Christ is sufficient for both the good times and the hard times. It sustains us when our fears tell us to surrender. It keeps us going when we feel like giving up.

The world tries to undermine the faith of Christians in any way it can. To counteract its false charges, God has given us ample witness. God constantly points us to the unshakable truth that Jesus Christ the One in Whom we have trusted, is indeed His Son. If we trust in Him, we have a relationship with God the Father, eternal life, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. With those resources, our faith can triumph over all that the world raises against us.

Looking for True Believers

Today, just as in the first century, not all who call themselves Christians really belong to God. John wrote this letter to help his readers distinguish between true believers in Christ and false pretenders. He wanted Christians to be able to determine the reliability of the teachers who profess to speak the truth. In addition, he wanted Christians to be reassured about their own relationship with God.

Throughout the book of 1 John, the apostle pointed repeatedly to three distinguishing marks of true believers. As he began the final chapter, John brought these key traits together once again.



Scripture memorization

(1John 5:4)

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"

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Our relationship to God is the source of our power. The world is a formidable foe, but it cannot stand before faith. Faith is built on the foundation of facts.

Christians should be confident as they confront the world.

The false teachers in John's day, just like many false teachers today, cast doubts on Jesus Christ. Instead of believing that He is GOD who became a man so that He could die on the cross as the substitute for sinners, the false teachers questioned His true deity or His genuine humanity. In 1 John 5:1 the apostle clearly stated that a true believer holds that Jesus is the Christ. Only a person who believes that fact is born of God.

John quickly added the second distinguishing mark of true believers (v. 1). He said that everyone who loves God also loves God's children. Genuine Christians love one another. They have been born into God's family by believing Christ, and in that spiritual family they love their brothers and sisters.

In verse 2 John moved to the third mark, the trait of obedience. For sinful humans like us, love does not come naturally. We prefer to think first of ourselves but that is not the self-sacrificial love that God requires of us. As a loving Father, God teaches us how to love one another. His own love for us is a perfect pattern for us to follow. In addition, HE has given commandments in His Word that direct us in the way of love. By obeying God's commandments, we learn to love, even when our feelings may try to move us in a different direction.

To us, love and obedience may sound like opposites. We tend to think of love in terms of feelings, and obedience in terms of actions. We also view love as growing out of desire, but obedience as coming from duty. In God's arrangement, however, obedience is an expression of our love for Him (v. 3). The commandments He gives are not unreasonable demands that burden us down. Actually, they are designed to liberate us from our selfishness and to free us to love as God desires. God's laws lead to life and blessing. As we obey Him, we learn to become the people He wants us to be, and to relate to others in a way that brings true joy and delight.

Getting Victory over the World

Every day and in many ways, we are bombarded by the world. Temptations such as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16) seek to draw us away from God and His values. In addition to these internal desires, we also are confronted with peer pressure from other people. The world, masterminded and motivated by Satan, is a powerful and deceptive foe. In our own strength and wisdom we are unable to stand successfully against it.

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God, however, does not want His children to lead defeated lives. He wants us to have victory over the sinful temptations and threats of the world. He has provided for us power and protection so that whoever is born of God overcomes the world (1 John 5:4).

The world is too strong for us to handle on our own, but the all-powerful God can easily take care of it. The world is too deceptive for us to figure out, but an all wise God can see through all of its schemes.

If we try to fight the world in our own resources, we are doomed to defeat. As Christians, however, we have God on our side. Because of our faith in Christ, we are in Him. Instead of entering the battle by ourselves, we go with the Spirit of God within us. Through faith in Christ we can fight the foe and win the battle against the world. By God's enabling we can triumph over temptation.

It is important to remember that John was not talking about some kind of abstract faith or confidence. He was talking about faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (v. 5). It takes more than a confident attitude to overcome the world. It takes personal faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son, Who came to earth to die for us. Only belief in Him provides victory in the battle.

Confidence from the Spirit

John told us that we can overcome the world through our faith in Christ. Then he gave proof that our confidence in Him is well founded. Like a lawyer, John called several witnesses to support the reliability of our faith in Christ.

False teaching usually centers on the identity of Jesus Christ. In John's day, as in our own, false teachers questioned the genuine deity of Christ or His true humanity. If Jesus Christ had been anything less than fully God and fully human. (Acts 20:28) He would not have been qualified to die on the cross as the suitable substitute for sinners. And if that had been the case, our faith in HIM would be worthless. John countered this false view of Christ by pointing to the water and blood birth (v. 6). The water refers to JESUS CHRIST being born just like every other human is born and that by water (John 3:5) and (John 3:6a *"that which is born of flesh is flesh"*). The blood refers to His Holy blood coming from the Spirit power of the highest (Luke 1:35) and HIS precious blood *"In whom we have redemption"* (Colossians) 1:14.

In addition, the Holy Spirit is a continuing witness to Jesus Christ's identity (1 John 5:6). Jesus promised His disciples that He would send the Spirit of truth, Who would guide them into all truth (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit confirms in our hearts that our faith in Christ is valid. In that confidence in HIM, we are able to over-come the world.

The three witnesses that John called to testify about Christ demonstrate that faith in Him is secure.

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Verse 7&8 read differently in various Bible versions. Many so-called bibles omit the reference to the three witnesses in Heaven. The content of this verse is certainly in agreement with what the Bible teaches elsewhere.

More Than Enough Evidence

If you have ever served on a jury, you know the importance of evidence. To convince the jury members, the lawyers present witnesses as they seek to establish a persuasive case.

Even people who have never served on a trial jury depend on the testimony of others. When we make decisions about where to go out for dinner or where to take a family vacation, we ask people who have been to those places. If reliable witnesses agree, we act on the basis of their word.

1 John 5:9 states that if we receive human witnesses as the basis for our decisions, we certainly should accept the testimony that God has given about Jesus Christ. The three witnesses that John mentioned in verses 6 and 7 provide evidence that is far greater than the amount of evidence that we typically need for confident decisions.

God does not call us to exercise blind faith. Rather, He asks us to trust His Word without demanding additional evidence beyond His own character and credibility. He has given sufficient testimony to make the issue beyond all reasonable doubt. Faith in Jesus Christ is reasonable, and in this faith we can confidently confront the world.

Those who refuse to believe in Christ are, in reality, calling God a liar (v. 10). They are in effect saying that the grounds for trusting what God has said about Jesus Christ are insufficient. Instead of trusting God's Word and the testimony of His Spirit, they trust their own observation and thinking. They put greater confidence in what they see and how they think than in what God has said.

Eternal Life in Christ

One of the hallmarks of Christianity that people today find most offensive is this: "there is only one way" to God. Jesus Himself said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* (John 14:6). He is not one of many religious paths to God; He is the only One Who can lead humans to salvation.

Several times in his Gospel and in this epistle, John wrote that belief in Jesus Christ results in eternal life (1 John 5:11). That eternal life is not just a promise of life in the future. Rather, it is a new quality of life that we already enjoy today. It is God's life, and it is a continual witness to the fact that we are in Christ. Because we are in Christ, He is with us as we confront the world. Our faith in Him gives us ever-present power and wisdom to overcome the world.

Eternal life, with all of its accompanying confidence, belongs only to those who have a relationship with the Son of God (1 John 5:11). Being religious is not good enough; we must know JESUS CHRIST John 17:3. Being sincere is not sufficient, we must have the Son of God in order to have life.

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All of humanity can be divided into two groups. Those who have believed in Christ have eternal life and confidence before the world. Those who have not believed in Christ do not have eternal life, and they cannot stand before the world. It all comes down to the heart attitude of personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Read these related passages as you study 1 John 5:1-12 this week:

John 14**John 16****1 John 2****Notes**

1 John Lesson 12
Faith That Overcomes

KJV

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1 John 5:1-12

Name _____

1. What is the definition of Love and obedience in regards to a Christian?
2. As review, what are the three marks of true Christians?
3. Does the Bible promise all will go well after you are saved?
4. What do we have all the time as Christians?
5. What was the purpose of this Lesson?
6. How do we become the people GOD wants us to be ?
7. What are the three sins marked in 1 John ?
8. What are some characteristics of false teaching?
9. According to 1 John 5:8, what three evidences bear witness "in earth" to the fact that Jesus Christ is in-deed the Son of God?
10. What does unbelief really say about God?
11. What was the key verse in this Lesson?
12. Where do you find redemption?
13. What is the Living water?

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14. What is the difference between 1 John 5:7 & 1 John 5:8?
15. How can you be sure that JESUS CHRIST was fully man and fully GOD (prove by using scripture).
16. Define Acts 20:28

True/false

- In ourselves we are strong enough to fight the world?
- We can depend on our own resources, we only need to call upon the LORD after we have exhausted all of our will?
- When we put our faith in Him, we can overcome the world. He alone can give us the strength and wisdom we need to resist the world's temptations and threats.
- God requires that we put our faith in Christ, and be baptized.



Scripture memorization (write out these verses on the Back page)
1John 5:4; Colossians 1:14; 1 John 5:7,8; John 4:14