



Faith is the Victory

Lesson 9 (1 John 5:1-13)

Christianity in many ways boils down to faith and love. John zeroes in on three aspects of faith: the difference faith will make in our lives, the essence of what faith is, and the results of faith.

I. The Practice of Faith: A life of faith is demonstrated by love and obedience (5:1-4).

Real faith means that the facts in our minds show up in our lives (cf James 2:13-26).

A. Faith is shown by _____ others (5:1)

People who love God must also love other Christians.

B. Faith is shown by _____ God (5:2-3)

We love others when we love God, and we love God when we obey Him. God commands us to love Him and others. This connection between faith, love, and obeying appears frequently.

- John 15:15
- James 2:14-17
- Luke 6:46
- Matthew 22:36-40
- 2 Timothy 1:13

II. The Content of Faith: A life of faith means trusting God's witness (5:5-13).

If faith is trusting God, what do we trust him about?

A. Faith means believing Jesus' _____ (5:1, 5).

We must believe that Jesus is the Messiah (5:1) and the Son of God (5:5). These are essential for those who claim to be Christians.

B. Faith means believing the _____ of God (5:6-10).

At Christ's baptism (Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22), death (1 John 2:1; 4:10), and through the ongoing ministry of



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III. The Result of Faith: A life of faith will be blessed by God (5:4-5, 11-13).

A. The blessing of overcoming the _____ (5:4-5).

John has said that young men overcame Satan (1 John 2:13-14) and false teachers (4:4). Now by faith we can overcome the world.

B. The blessing of _____ life (5:11-13).

Those who live by faith receive eternal life and life in Christ. Colin Kruse's commentary, *The Letters of John*, gives the following descriptions from John's gospel:

- "to have one's spiritual hunger and thirst satisfied (John 4:14; 6:35);
- to be raised up on the last day and to live forever (John 6:40, 51, 54);
- to have the light of life so that one does not walk in darkness (John 8:12);
- to have abundant life (John 10:10);
- to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he sent (John 17:3);
- and that, though we die, we will live (John 11:25)."

Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah, not just for Israel but for the world. Groups in John's time denied this and still claimed Christianity, as groups today do. But God is not a liar, and His Word must be believed. Those who believe will see a transformed life and success against spiritual onslaught, both now and in the age to come. Trusting God and His promises is the key for believers, because faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

Next Week: Concluding Thoughts (1 John 5:13-21)

Why does John address these issues at the end of the letter?

What do you think the point is of verse 21?

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