

The Attributes of and Overcomer (I John 5:1-5)

Introduction:

1. John uses the word _____ twice in verse 4 and once in verse 5 and it seems to be one of his favorite words to describe a genuine believer. “Who is he that **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (I John 5:5)
2. Of the ____ times that the word _____ (Greek – *nikao*) is used in the New Testament, ____ of those occurrences are found in John’s writings.
 - John also recorded these words by Jesus; “These things I have spoken to you, so that **in Me you may have peace**. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have **overcome** the world” (John 16:33)
 - In the same way (through Jesus Christ), we too can _____ the evil one and all the influences of the world. (I John 2:13-14)
 - 1) An _____ can do this by _____ the devil (James 4:7), being aware of his _____ (II Corinthians 2:11), and refusing to allow him to have a _____ in our lives. (Ephesians 4:27)
 - 2) Our best defense against the influences of the world and the devil is to always wear (“_____”) the full armor of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17)
 - In the Book of Revelation; Jesus addresses each of the seven churches of Asia (to whom John ministered), and calls them to “_____” and reap the blessings that He has for them. I believe the same applies to us today.
3. **Overcome** means; “to _____”, “to gain the _____”, or “to _____”.

An Overcomer is one who Abides in Christ (I John 5:1)

1. Just as Abraham was “**the _____ of God**” (James 2:23) as evidenced through his life of obedience (being separated to God and separated from the world), we too by our new nature and in the same way, cultivate and maintain a **continual _____ with Jesus Christ** through obedience to His commands.
2. It is the _____ that Jesus is the Christ that sets us apart from the world and it is that distinction which is evidenced by _____ that empowers us to be _____.
 - “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.for whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world; and this is the victory that has **overcome** the world – our faith. Who is the one who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (I John 5:1-5)
 - “**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God**, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13)
 - This is proof that any teaching or belief that people can be saved apart from faith in Christ is completely _____ and in _____. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, I Cor. 3:11)
3. Fellowship/friendship with Christ is something that is a _____ for the believer:
 - The literal rendering of I John 5:1 is; “Whoever **is believing** that Jesus is the **Christ has been begotten of God**”. This simply means that continual faith is the _____ of the new birth (born of God) and not its _____.
 - Jesus said to the church at Ephesus; “I know your deeds, and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My names sake and have not grown weary” (Revelation 2:2-3)
 - “What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ” (I John 1:3)

An Overcomer loves God and loves Others (I John 5:2)

1. These are _____ attributes and go hand in hand
 - First and foremost; our **faith** and **trust** in Christ is what _____ us to be a “**child of God**” and as such brings us into _____.
 - 1) “Whoever **believes** that Jesus is the Christ is **born** of God, and whoever **loves** the Father **loves** the child born of Him” (I John 5:1)
 - 2) “**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God**, even to those who **believe** in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13)
 - Second and just as equal to the first; our love for other believers _____ that we _____.
 - 1) “By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor anyone who does not love his brother. For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should **love one another**.” (I John 3:10-11)
 - 2) “Beloved, let us **love one another**, for love is from God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God for **God is love**” (I John 4:7-8)
2. The love that an overcomer shows is evidenced through _____ and _____ toward God and His Word.
3. In addition; an overcomer loves as God loves, which is evidenced through our willingness to _____ meet the needs of others in a genuine and meaningful way. (I John 3:17, I Corinthians 13:4-7, John 13:34, I Thess. 4:9, I Peter 1:22-23)

An Overcomer is obedient to God (I John 5:2-3)

1. _____ is a natural byproduct of an overcomer
 - “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and **observe** His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we **keep** His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome” (I John 5:3)
 - 1) The verb (**observe** - *poieo*) in its present tense usage shows continuous action. Its intended meaning then is that a believer (an **overcomer**) should _____.
 - 2) The verb (**keep** - *tereo*) carries the idea of holding forth the commandments as a treasure and to _____, _____ and _____ them as sacred. (II Timothy 1:14)
 - It (**obedience**) along with **love** are proof of genuine faith
2. The entirety of Scripture (Old and New Testament) makes the connection between a genuine follower of God (a person of true faith) and obedience to Him. It is a principle that is true for all:
 - “You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him, and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him and cling to Him” (Deut. 13:4)
 - “The conclusion when it has all been heard is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person”. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
 - “But this is what I commanded them, saying, obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you” (Jeremiah 7:23)
 - “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me, and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and disclose Myself to him” (John 14:21)

3. True obedience, especially for the child of God is not intended to be hard, nor is it the result of some sort of legalistic external compliance to a set of rules and regulations. It is instead a natural result of an internal transformed life evidenced by belief and trust in Jesus Christ.
 - As believers, we are compelled to follow Christ, not so much out of duty, but from a willing and obedient _____. “But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became **obedient from the heart** to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin **you became slaves to righteousness**” (Romans 6:17)
 - Obedience to God is not a _____. “For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments; and **His commandments are not burdensome**” (I Jn. 5:3).
 - Jesus said; “**Come to Me**, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, **for I am gentle and humble in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My **burden** is light” (Matthew 11:28-30)
 - “Those who love God will obey His law, because they want to honor His holy nature. **They do so not out of dread, but out of loving adoration**” (John MacArthur; *Commentary on I, II, III John*, page 184)

Perhaps the Greatest Attribute of an Overcomer is Faith (I John 5:4-5)

1. “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world – our **faith**. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (I John 5:4-5)
2. Faith (belief and trust in Christ) is the foundation of a victorious and obedient life
3. People who are born of God believe the truth about Jesus Christ even though at times they may experience doubts (i.e. Peter, David etc).
4. True saving faith will never fail because the One in whom we trust (Jesus Christ) has overcome.... “but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord” (I Corinthians 15:57, Read all of I Corinthians 15)

Concluding Remarks

1. Since an **overcomer** is one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God (I John 5:5), we should pay attention to what Jesus said to the **Seven Churches of Asia** as recorded by the Apostle John in **Revelation 2-3**;
 - To the church at **Ephesus** Jesus said; “To him who **overcomes**, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7)
 - To the church at **Smyrna** Jesus said; “He who **overcomes** will not be hurt by the second death” (Revelation 2:11)
 - To the church at **Pergamum** Jesus said; “To him who **overcomes**, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it” (Revelation 2:17)
 - To the church at **Thyatira** Jesus said; “He who **overcomes**, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star” (Revelation 2:26-28)
 - To the church at **Sardis** Jesus said; “He who **overcomes** will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels” (Revelation 3:5)
 - To the church at **Philadelphia** Jesus said; “He who **overcomes** I will make a pillar in the temple of My God and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God and My new name” (Revelation 3:12)
 - To the church at **Laodicea** Jesus said; “He who **overcomes** I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” Revelation 3:21)

2. I remember the final verse and the chorus to a favorite hymn that sort of sums everything up;

Faith is the Victory

*"To him that overcomes the foe,
White raiment shall be giv'n.
Before the angels he shall know
His name confessed in Heav'n.
Then onward from the hill of light,
Our hearts with love aflame,
We'll vanquish all the hosts of night,
In Jesus' conquering Name."*

***"Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory!
O glorious victory that overcomes the world."***