

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

1Jno.5:1-5

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Our text is 1Jno.5;1-5
2. In V.4 of our text, John, the apostle of Jesus Christ, said: "...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."
3. In Jno.16:33, Jesus, speaking to his chosen apostles, said: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
 - a. See Jno.16:1-3.
 - b. 2Tim.3:12.
 - c. Mt.5:9-12.
4. Such encouraging words from both Jesus and John, the apostle, should serve as a positive source to help us face life and the world's trials and tribulations without growing weak in faith and fainting in service under the pressure.
5. When we stop to think about how and under what circumstances Jesus had "overcome the world," surely we can find the faith and the determination to "be of good cheer" as he exhorted his disciples to be.
6. Now consider with me some thoughts involved in the victory of faith over the world.

II. DISCUSSION

A. OVER WHAT WORLD DO WE NEED TO GAIN THE VIRTORY?

1. In Gal.1:4 Paul, the apostle of Christ, tells us it is: "this present evil world."
 - a. Not the world "to come," but this "present" world.
 - b. Here he says that Jesus "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world."
 - c. He also tells us here that this sacrificial act of Jesus was "according to the will of God and our Father"
 - d. God planned it that way.

2. In Jno.1:29 John, the Baptist (Immerser), as a part of his testimony identifying and manifesting Jesus to the Israelites as the Christ, is recorded as having said of him: "...Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
3. We learn from Jno.15:18,19 that "the world" hates those who are true and faithful followers of the Lord instead of being "of the world."
4. John tells us in 1Jno.5:19 that "the whole world lieth in wickedness (*in the evil one*)."
5. Obviously, the world over which we need to gain the victory is the world which has Satan as its god, the one who is said to be "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience," Eph.2:1,2.
 - a. 2Cor.4:4 says, "...the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
 - b. Those of this world have their minds blinded because they believe not.
 - c. Their unbelief and blinded minds make it impossible for the gospel to shine unto them or do what it is designed to do, and will continue to be unable to do as long as they remain in unbelief. Jno.8:24; Rom.1:16,17; 3:19-26; 10:1-3; 1Cor.15:1-3.
6. The world of sin and wickedness which has Satan as its god is the world over which we need to gain the victory.
7. In 1Jno.2:15-17 John commands, urges and exhorts us in strong but loving language with promise.

B. HOW CAN WE BE VICTORIOUS OVER THE WORLD?

1. John leaves no doubt that it takes faith in order to overcome the world, 1Jno.5:4,5.
 - a. The one who is born of God (stands born of God) gains the victory by his "faith."
 - b. He gains the victory by his faith in Jesus; by believing "that Jesus is the Son of God." – by maintaining that faith in Jesus.
2. According to Rom.10:9-17 faith comes, or is produced, in only one way: "by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

3. But not all who hear believe. See 2Cor.4:4; Ac.13:44-46; 13:6-8.
4. To overcome we must by faith “be transformed by the renewing of our mind”, rather than being “conformed to this world,” Rom.12:1,2.
5. To be victorious, we must **NOT** allow “the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and lusts of other things” to enter in and “choke the word” and cause it to be “unfruitful” in our lives. See Mk.4:19; Mt.13:22.
6. In the context of 1Jno.5:4,5 John leaves no doubt about the function of faith in God’s service, the same function that is taught throughout the N.T.
 - a. It is an obedient faith; a working faith, Vv.1-3.
 - b. Paul in Gal.5:6 teaches that the only thing that will “avail anything” is “faith which worketh by love.” Compare gain with 1Jno.5:3.
 - c. See Jno.14:23,24;
 - d. Jas.2:14-26.

C. SOME REASONS WHY ONE SHOULD WANT TO BE VICTORIOUS OVER THE WORLD.

1. To overcome the wicked one who is the god of this world, 1Jno.2:13b..
 - a. They had overcome the wicked one. How? V.14b.
 - b. If they had, so can we and by the same means. Cf. Mt.4:1-10.
 - c. Our faith is **NOT** victorious unless it works “by love” to cause us to overcome the wicked one.
2. To escape the second death.
 - a. John in Rev.2;11 says, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”
 - b. See Rev.21:8.
3. To be clothed in white raiment, Rev.3:15.
4. To sit with Christ in this throne, Rev.3:21.
5. To be a pillar in the temple of God, Rev.3:12.
6. To eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God, Rev.2:7.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Rest assured, our faith will be tested and tried time and time again.
2. We may have to face tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or even the sword.
3. However, by faith working by love we can be “more than conquerors through him that love us...”, Rom.8:35-39.
4. Yes, faith is the victory!
5. What an encouraging life it is to live “by faith;” that is, by faith that comes “by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” – a “book, chapter, and verse faith” leading us to believe in and obey the Lord in order to become and be a child of God.
6. All of this, the means by which we can read our “title” clear in the word of God, rather than in the speculations and “feel goods” of men.