**The Epistles of John: Session 7** (1 John 5)

 **(5:1)** **(1)** **Everyone who** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior…God’s provisions for Salvation… is a believer & has been** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **again of God.**

The only ‘condition’ that must be met for salvation is belief in the Son of God; that is trusting in what God has said concerning His Son in the Gospel!

 **(2) Everyone who professes to love God…also** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **those who have** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **been born of God.**

Applying the immediate context, we take it to mean that ***‘those who love God’*** are **‘*those who have been born of God’.***

John is ***not*** talking about two groups of people…

As if there were a group of people who are born of God and love Him & another who are born of Him who do not love Him.

**There is one group;** *Those who believe on the Son; they are born of God, they love God and they love others.*

That is; Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Savior has been born of God and all of those will display a measure of love for the others who have also been born of God. Or that is, a sign, an outworking, a result of having been born again of God, and having believed in the Son of God is that we love God & we love the other believers. **(See 1 John 3:14)**

**(5:2-3)** **(3) You can know that you are loving the** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **children of God properly…when you are loving God and** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **his commandments.**

It is interesting that John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the way that we love other people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is by obeying the commands of God.

**What does this mean?** Simply; True love is doing what is best for anyone and everyone.

The question then, is **What is the best possible thing that we could do for other people?**

In the name of true love, **What is the most loving thing that we could do for other people?**

The answer is; **Model the instruction & commands of God in the way that we live and guide them into the same way of life.**

Why; **Because the design, the instruction & the commands of God are what is supremely best for any and all people.**

 **(4) The way that we love God *(the way that God perceives that we love him)* is if we are keeping his commandments.**

**God’s love language is obedience.** A walking in holiness. *God does not perceive love from us as much when we are singing, praying etc. as when we are obeying his instruction regarding how we should live.*

**(5) It shouldn’t be overwhelming to love God *(or others)* in this way because God’s commands are not** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, but rather they are for our** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.**

That doesn’t mean obedience is always easy and never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It means our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_should be obey the instruction of God, because we believe that they in our best interest.

**(5:4-5)** **(6) Those who have been born of God will overcome the** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ***of, control of* the world** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **.**

Again, there are ***not*** two groups of people…those who are born again and overcome the world…and those who are born again and do not overcome the world.

Everyone who believes in the Son is born again, and all of them love others and all of them overcome the world.

**What does it mean to overcome the world?**

The word used for *overcome* means to ***conquer***, ***to prevail***, ***to subdue***.

The word used is a **present participle (ing)**, meaning ongoing action… they are overcoming, continually… it’s not as though they overcame once and done. The idea is that John is speaking about here is the ongoing-living-prevailing (sanctifying action) over the power of sin.

John says all believers are currently overcoming the world system/the world’s grasp on their life, through sanctification.

The word used for the ***world*** means ***worldly affairs, inhabitants and system of earth, the world order and it’s adornments…***

The world; that is the inhabitants of the earth lie under the control and sway of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and they march to the beat of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What is being overcome then is living in full sway, in full control of the devil and the evil system of the world.

The conclusion is that to some measure those born of God will ‘ongoingly’ be conquering or overcoming the battles and pulls of the world system and its way of operating.

 **(7) The way in which the believer overcomes the world is by living by faith in God/the Word of God.**

The same verb tense is used again; present participle, not past tense as translated here in English…meaning that the overcoming is still ongoing. ***(this is the victory that is overcoming the world—our faith)***

John explains how we are to overcome the world in our living (sanctification)…we live by faith…faith is the only tool that overcomes the power of the devil & the sway of the world. Faith is also the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_thing that enabled us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the power and consequence in the past (salvation) as well.

**How does faith overcome the world?**

Simply; by faith we believe that what God promises to be and do for us in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…far \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_what sin promises to be & do for us in disobedience.

**(8) It is only possible for the born again believer to overcome the world…those who do not believe in the Son are unable to overcome its power.**

**Who is able to overcome the snares, the trappings, the temptations of the world?**

It is none other than the child of God, the one who believes that Jesus is His Son… and not only can they overcome; with God’s abiding power they shall overcome/are overcoming.

**(5:10-11)** John restates and reiterates the truths that he stated in his opening verse.

**(9) The only way to have life. The only way to pass from death to life. The only way to have eternal life and be saved…The only way to be born again and to be counted as righteous and as a child of God…is to believe in the Son of God and believe the testimony from the Son about God.**

 **(5:13)** John’s desire is that the readers have confidence in their salvation.

**It is interesting to note that throughout the book John does not boost their** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **in their eternal standing by saying that there are no necessary proofs/evidences which** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **with true salvation.**

**On the** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, over and over again, John boost their confidence in the knowledge of their salvation by** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **them in the correlating evidences of their salvation.**

**(5:18)** **(10) Everyone who is born of God, that is, who is a child of God, having believed on the Son of God, does not make a practice of sinning.**

*We know that he does not mean sinless perfection. He said earlier in the book that when we sin, we have an advocate etc.*

There are not two groups of people… that is one group who is born again & doesn’t make a practice of sinning, and another group who is born again, yet does make a practice of sinning. Everyone born of God…does not make a practice of sinning.

 **(11) Everyone who is born of God protects his/herself in order to not make a habit of sinning.**

The word he uses for ‘protect’ is to ***properly maintains***, ***keeps guard***, ***watches over***… *(imperfect future tense of the verb)*

Believers are overcoming the world, and they are overcoming the world by faith through continually maintaining, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and keeping guard over their lives…not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the root of sin to take habit in their life.

Again, John says everyone born of God is involved to some degree in this ongoing activity of overcoming and protecting.

**(5:19, 21)** John says that we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to keep ourselves from idols of the heart, and in doing so we will project ourselves from being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by the world system, which lives under the sway of the enemy.