

# ***“Overcoming Truth, Love, & Faithful Obedience”***

1 John 5:1-5

December 8, 2013

**Intro:** VIDEO: ***“Please Come Down To Me”***

That song really speaks to and sets up our passage for today...

- Crying out to Christ...
- Acknowledging sin & one’s need for a Savior
- Sound salvific sequencing (God initiates!)
- Optimism thru obedience
- Eternal promises out of earthly passions

**v.1 = *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.***

“Whoever” is God’s holy, all-inclusive designation...

“Jesus is the Christ” = wholly human & wholly holy

Means FULL biblical Christology!

- Exclusive Messiah
- Eternal LORD

Believers are Born-again

Whoever loves Daddy, loves His disciples! **koinonia**

Thinking you initiate is like playing red rover = Arminianism

Being a 2012 Raven draft pick or lowest man on the roster...

The BRIDGE LIFE Cycle = this passage...

Genuine faith produced love that yields the fruit of obedience... NOT the other way around.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

Your Obedience no more begets love than.... If you were Michaelangelos studio assistant... and your proper care & maintenance of his paint, paint brushes, canvas, easels, etc. would create a masterpiece... Only the master can create the masterpiece... Then it is up to the servants to deal with it properly.

***v.2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments.***

Observe/obey = present tense which means on-going, perpetual

Obey = the Christian' ongoing DIRECTION vs Perfection...

A conditional proof statement is forthcoming...

NOTE: God is offering assurance thru knowing.

Proof of koinonia/agape of God's children:

1. When we love/agape God
2. When we obey God's Word/commands

## Takeaway:

1. Those who love... obey.
2. Those who obey (righteously)... love!
3. "Righteously obeying = abiding." - JDP

## Jesus on obedience:

Matt [12:50](#)

Lk [11:28](#)

John [8:31](#) (test of obey)

John [15:10](#) (Jesus obeyed!)

John [14:15](#), 21-24 (ultimate test)

## Apostles teaching on obey:

Acts [5:32](#)

Rom 1:5 & [15:18](#) & 16:25-26

HEB 5:9

Peter 1:1-2, 14, 22

## Biblical "faithful obedience" is NOT:

1. External
2. Ritualistic
3. Legalistic
4. Mere compliance
5. It is not unwilling...
6. Partial
7. Inconsistent
8. Grudging

## Biblically-loving, "faithful obedience" is:

1. From the heart (Deut [11:13](#), 30:2,10 & Rom [6:17](#))
2. Willing (want-to) see Ex 25:2; 1 Pt 5:2)
3. Total (all in) see Dt 27:26; Gal [3:10](#); James [2:10](#); Grt Comm)
4. Constant (Phil [2:12](#))
5. Joyful (Ps 119:54; 2 Cor 9:7)

To “obey” biblically is to BE obsessed...

**VIDEO:            “Obsessed”**

**3** *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*

Obey = poieo (action /head & hands)

Keep = tereo (attitude / heart)

\* see 2 Tim [1:14](#); Deut 13:4; 1 Sam [15:22](#)..... ECCL. [12:13](#); Jer [7:23](#))

Obey is not burdensome for those in love...

**Example:** fidelity of newlyweds

**Matt 11:28-30** = *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

## Faithful Obedience!

Love: Obeys

*"keeps His commandments"*

Love: Embraces obedience

*"His commandments are not burdensome"*

"Love likes to obey." - JDP

Love thanks God for the opportunity to obey (because it is an affirmation of one's adoption).

Love sees obedience as:

hand-holding with God...

vs.

hand-cuffing by God... - JDP

**VIDEO:** Chan: ***"Obedience in Suffering"***

**T/S:** Before we look at the last 2 verses (vv.4-5)...

QUESTION: What are some of the more memorable names you been called recently?

CONSIDER: The Bible calls the eternal people of God many names...

*Followers Believers Lovers of God Christians*

*Children of God... Light... Promise... of the kingdom*

*Friends of Jesus Bro/Sisters Sheep Saints Soldiers*

*Stewards the Elect the Chosen Witnesses*

*Ambassadors Christ's Body Christ's Bride*

*Strangers in this world Salt of this world*

*Servants/Slaves Royal Priests Heirs*

*Righteous members of God's household*

The *Called-Out, Set-Apart*, **DISCIPLES** of Jesus, the Christ!  
These names are like facets of a diamond... all revealing a unique peek into the overwhelming brilliance of a beautiful gem...

In today's passage, God is going to give His people another name that demonstrates both His grace and glory:

**OVERCOMERS!**

**4** *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

Whatever/whoever is born of God = true Christians

Light vs. Dark

Worshippers vs. Worldly

Lovers vs. Liars

Always-Christ's vs. Anti-Christ's

Children of God vs. Children of the Devil

True spirits vs. False spirits

"our faith" = BOTH/AND both Objective truth & Subjective trust

Not just your theology but your anthropology as well

Again... Not just your beliefs but your behavior! = 5:1b

The faithfully obedient faithfully overcome!

**VIDEO:**            **"Suffering Church"**  
(Roll Over My Body)

**Job [13:15](#)** = *Though he slay me, I will hope in him*

Don't miss this... the world NEEDS to be overcome...

The ways of the world are at war with worship. - JDP

Word study here is enlightening:

"Overcome(s)" = 3X in vv.4-5

"Victory" =

Blessing of obedience

Blessing of overcoming

**See the mini, inherent chiastic arch:**

"Whatever is born of God"

"Overcomes the world"

"and this is the victory"

"...overcome the world"

"our faith."

**Takeaway:**

Faith wins!

Faith begets victory & victory begets faith! - JDP

Real worshippers really win!

Believing, Abiding, Obeying = Overcoming!

**5 Who is the one who overcomes the world,  
but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of  
God?**

True Christians are “Overcomers”  
(a.k.a. **Conquerors... Winners... Victors**)

“Overcomes” = Gk. “**nikao**” (28X in N.T.... 24 by John)

Definition: “to conquer”  
“to gain the victory”  
“to defeat”

Origin: Greek goddess “Nike”  
(goddess of victory)

Contextualize: It was shocking for the gentile,  
Greek pagans to hear the Christ  
followers give themselves god  
like invincibility (per their  
relationship to Jesus).

TODAY: We too should have a counter  
cultural (if not scandalous)  
confidence in Christ AND His  
eternal gift... the gospel’s  
guarantee of invincibility!

## Overcomer's Epitomized:

JESUS!

Jesus used "nikao" in **John 16:33** to speak of His own victory over the satanic world system.

PAUL: **Romans 8:37-39** = "Huper-nikao"

*"But in all these things we  
**OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER**  
through Him who loved us."*

***38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

(cf. **1 Corinthians 15:57** = *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"*)

**1 John 2:13-14** = We overcome the Devil...  
thru the power of God's Word!

**1 John 4:1-4** = Believers overcome both Satan & his  
devilish & demonic servants.

**Revelation 12:11** Tribulation saints will overcome Satan by  
the "*blood of the Lamb*" and based on the  
"*word of their testimony,*" because they  
valued their Lord more than life itself!

## Reality of the Battle:

**Matthew 10:22**      *"You will be hated by everyone because of Me..."*

**2 Cor. 11:23-27**      Paul's laundry list of torturous trials

**Acts 20:24**      *"I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God."*

**Acts 21:13**      *"...I am ready not only to be bound, but to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."*

**Phil. 1:21**      *"For to me, to live is Christ, to die is gain."*

**1 Peter 5:8**      *"Your adversary, the devil prowls around like lion looking for souls to devour."*

**2 Cor. 2:11**

*"I have done this so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan. For we are not ignorant of his schemes."*

**Ephesians 4:27**

*"...don't give the Devil an opportunity."*

**Ephesians 6:11**

*"Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil"*

Belt of Truth

Breastplate of Righteousness

Shoes of Gospel Peace & Prep

Shield of Faith

Helmet of Salvation

Sword of the Spirit

Perseverance of continuous Prayer

Reality of Victory:

**Romans 16:20**

*"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."*

**James 4:7**

*"Resist the devil & he will flee from you"*

**Matthew 25:41** Satan is going down to hell... *“in the eternal fire which has been prepared for him and his demons”*

**Revelation 20:10** *“The Devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

## Victory Over the World:

**John 17:14-18** *“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”*

**Colossians 1:13** *“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son...”*

**Philippians 3:20** *“...but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**1 Pt. 2:11; Heb. 11:13** *“aliens/strangers”* in this world

**1 John 2:15**

*“Do not love the world or the things of this world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.”*

### Victory Over Death:

**1 Cor. 15:54-57**     *“...when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, **“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

### The Victory of Vision:

**2 Cor. 4:16-18**     *“...we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. **17** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”*

See God's promises to the Overcomers in the 7 letters to the 7 churches in Rev 2-3

\* you should no more fear death than a door - JDP

Takeaways:

Victory is found in Christ alone!

The world was overcome on the cross!

See 2 Corinthians 5:21 anew...

Read John 3:16 anew...

Read Matthew 20:28 & Mark 10:45 anew...

Read 2 Peter 1:3 anew...

Read Colossians 2:6-7 anew...

Read Philippians 4:13 anew...

Read Romans 1:1 & 1:16 anew...

Read Romans 12:1-3 anew...

Read Hebrews 11 & 12:1-3 anew...

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 anew...

Read Isaiah 53 anew...

Read Psalm 23 anew...

Read Jeremiah 17:7-8 & 33:3 anew...

Read Proverbs 3:4-6 anew...

Read Revelation 2-3 anew...

Read 2 Timothy 2 anew...

Read 1 Corinthians 13 anew...

Read Acts 4:13 anew...

Read Galatians 2:20 anew...

Read Matthew 7:21-27 anew...

# Let's Pray!