

## **I John: Lesson #91 – Faith is the Victory**

### **Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children**

### **For Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Read I John 5:1-15, 20-21 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes.)

**Memory Verse:** I John 5:4 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith.”

#### **Winning A Victory**

- Do you know what a victory is? It is winning, whether winning a baseball game or winning a war. John says that God will give us a victory – He will help us win.
- What will God help us win? The battle with the world.
  - We will win over the influence of the world. We will not be like the world. The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life are what the world is like. We will love God more than we love those things.
  - We will win over the Devil. “The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (I Jn. 5:19)
  - We will win over the sins of the world. Because Jesus died for us and because we have chosen to obey Him, our sins will be forgiven us.
- How will we win this victory? First, we have to be born of God. To be born of God we must believe in Jesus (I John 5:5) and be baptized (John 3:5). As we follow Jesus Christ, we must keep God’s commandments and love our fellow Christians. Day by day we have to keep our faith and trust in Jesus because our faith in Him is what will help us with the victory over the world (I Jn. 5:4).

#### **Three Witnesses**

- A witness is someone who saw something happen and can tell you for sure how it really happened. Let’s suppose that you left the classroom at school for a few minutes and when you got back your book was missing. You turn to the kids sitting next to you and ask, “Did you see what happened to my book?” Because they were sitting there, they most likely would be good witnesses to tell you what happened to your book. If three people sitting around your say, “We saw Kenny take your book”, then it is very likely that it’s true.
- John says that there were three witnesses about Jesus, three ways that God has borne witness to Jesus as His Son --
  - **When Jesus was baptized.** At Jesus’ baptism, the Spirit descended on Him as a dove and the voice from heaven declared, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” (Matt. 3:17)
  - **When Jesus shed His blood on the cross.** At Jesus’ crucifixion God bore witness of who He was by darkening the sky, causing earthquakes and ripping the veil of Temple (Matt. 27:51-53). Then God raised Jesus from the dead to declare that He was truly His Son (Rom. 1:4).

- **The Holy Spirit's witness.** God sent the Holy Spirit to teach all truth (John 16:13). When the Holy Spirit came and inspired the apostles to declare God's Word, the Spirit made it clear that Jesus was God's Son.
- If we are going to believe what people say, then we sure better believe it when God gives His witness. All three of these witnesses point to one great fact: Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- We must truly believe that Jesus was God's Son if we hope to have eternal life with God in heaven. We must live our lives in Him if we hope to be saved.

### **Jesus Showed Us Who God Is**

- The night before Jesus was crucified, the apostle Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; (John 14:8-9)
- Jesus has helped us understand who God truly is. John says, "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." (I Jn. 5:20).
- John closes His first letter by reminding Christians that since they could in Jesus truly understand God (because Jesus was God in the flesh), they should be careful about idolatry. Idolatry was believing in a false God. If they didn't believe in the true Jesus, they wouldn't believe in the true God.

### **Simplified Explanation of the Text**

#### **The Victory That Overcomes the World**

5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God and everyone who loves the Father also loves the children born to Him.

2 And this is the way we know that we really love the children of God – we love God and keep His commandments.

3 This is how God expects us to show love for His children, by keeping His commandments, and His commandments are not a heavy burden to us.

4 Because everyone born of God will have victory over the world. This victory that wins over the world is our faith.

5 Who will win the victory over the world? It is those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

#### **Three Witnesses**

6 Jesus Christ is the one who came by water and by blood. Not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Holy Spirit that testifies to this because the Spirit is truth.

7-8 There are three that give witness to this -- the Spirit, the water, and the blood – all these three agree as one.

9 If we are willing to accept what human beings testify to, then we should know that God's witness is far greater. So keep it mind that God has given His witness when Jesus was baptized in water, when Jesus shed His blood, and when He sent the Holy Spirit to testify to these things. These are what God has testified about His Son.

10 The person who believes in the Son of God has the witness within them. The person who doesn't believe what God has testified concerning His Son acts like God is a liar.

11 And this the testimony: That God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 If you have the Son, you have life. If you don't have the Son, you don't have life.

13 I am writing these things to you that believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you will know that you have eternal life, even as you believe in the name of the Son of God.

### **Guard Yourselves From Idols**

20 But we know that the Son of God has come and give us an understanding so that we can know the One who is real. And we are in Him who is true, by being in Jesus Christ His Son. This is the real God, and eternal life.

21 And so, little children, beware and guard yourselves from idols.