



11- Know: Faith Conquers the World *1 John 5:1-5*

1 John 5:1-5 *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Faith is spoken of about many things and concerning many facets of life. A lot of people when they are ill hope on to faith that they will be cured without any basis for the hope except faith itself. Others will hope on to their faith in God that He can and will heal their loved ones. Someone has said that we cannot live without hope but may I suggest that hope cannot live without faith. Yes, it is important what we believe. There are a few good quotes about faith. One says, "Faith in many ways is like a wheelbarrow. You have to put some real push behind it to make it work."

Then another says:

When faith in God goes, man, the thinker, loses his greatest thought. When faith in God goes, man, the worker, loses his strongest help.

When faith in God goes, man, the sinner, loses his strongest help. When faith in God goes, man, the sufferer, loses his securest refuge.

When faith in God goes, man, the lover, loses his fairest vision. When faith in God goes, man, the mortal, loses his only hope.

I- The Right Object of Faith:

When I was a little boy my mother did a lot of upholstery work. I recall one day I can bouncing in the house like a young boy is prone to do and flopped down into the chair.

The problem was mom was working on the chair and it was not there. The law of gravity took over and the floor jumped up to great me and the wall slapped me on the back of the head. Funny how you remember these things some 45 years later! I had faith in the chair but the chair was not there. Did the chair fail me? No, it never got the chance

1 John 5:1 *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.*

The object of faith for a right relationship with God is clearly articulated here as believing in Jesus Christ. The object of faith is a critical point that we cannot dismiss and say it is not important what you believe as long as you believe it strong enough and long enough. I could believe that I could be saved by an old yellow dog but that does not make it possible. Why is it possible for Christ to be the right object. Simply because He was the sacrifice send from God, by God and is the only one accepted by God. God is the one who's righteousness must be satisfied and therefore He is the only one who can say what is the right object of faith.



II- Assurance of Obedience:

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Does this mean that we will never suffer in the will of God? I think not. The great Christian writer Oswald Chambers said the following in *Run Today's Race*.

Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace.

Walking with God at times puts us dead center in the crosshairs of the enemy and his agents. Faith is realizing that God can sustain us even if it leads to death. Job said, ***Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.***

And you may recall what the three Hebrew children said to Nebuchadnezzar when he was going to throw them into the furnace. ***Daniel 3:17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.***

Now that is faith; faith to face life, but also faith to face even death, if obedience leads to that.

III- Faith in Christ Conquers the World:

Now everyone wants to be on the winning side whether it is a discussion, a ballgame, a race or whatever. The old saying is everybody loves a winner. May I suggest that the ultimate winners will be those on the side of God by faith in Christ.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:

Now this born of God here is not talking about a natural birth into the world but a supernatural birth into the family of God. Remember what ***John 3:16*** says. ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

It is this faith that overcomes the world. ***1 John 5:4*** continues with, ***"...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"***

We see a few more Scriptures that come to bear on this. One is ***1 John 4:4*** ***Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.***

Another is the fact that Christ has overcome the world. ***John 16:33*** ***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.***

We also in this context need to understand that the world is passing and all that is in it. ***1 John 2:15-16*** ***Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.***

Overcoming the world means we are no longer controlled by the world and have overcome the attraction it holds that separates us from God. We want to serve God and please God more than the world and its system.