

(1 JOHN 5:1-12): WEEK 10 –VICTORIOUS LIVING IN CHRIST

One of my favorite things about sports is watching an individual or team celebrate a great accomplishment such as breaking a record or winning a championship. The celebratory response is different for many individuals. Some celebrate by shouting, laughing, by jumping up in down, falling to their knees, or crying tears of joy. These accomplishments will live with them the rest of their lives here on earth. The great news for us is that we too can celebrate like this, but the biggest difference is our celebration will last forever if we are a child of God. The celebration however is not just reserved for heaven, we can celebrate now with worship and praise because life in the Son brings forth victory.

CENTRAL IDEA: FAITH IN CHRIST IS THE CATALYST FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING

What does victorious living look like?

A.) YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST PRESERVERES (v.1a)

(v.1a) - *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*, In reading this verse it is imperative to pay close attention the tense of these phrases. “Everyone who believes” this is in the present tense signifying that this actively going on. What is actively going on? A belief that Jesus is the Christ. What is the result? Is born of God. The words, “is born” is in the perfect tense describing a completed action with continual results. **IN SUMMARY, IF WE CONTINUE ON BELIEVING IN CHRIST WE ARE HIS CHILDREN.** Our continual belief is a result of our faith in Christ. **WHAT HAPPENS IF WE STOP BELIEVING?** If you stop believing in Jesus Christ then you were never really His child to begin with. **WHAT COULD THIS LOOK LIKE?** A.) People who initially joined the church, then quit attending all together. (*Matthew 13 5-8; 20-23*)- ⁵ *Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.* ⁶ *But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.* ⁷ *Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.* ⁸ *Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 20The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.* ²¹ *But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.*²² *The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.* ²³ *But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”* This shows an authentic relationship with God which is further affirmed by how we do relationships with others in the following verses

B.) YOUR LOVE IS MOTIVATED BY GOD’S LOVE & OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD (vs. 1b-3)

(vs. 1b-3) - *and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.*,. Being born of God, not only means we have a “New Father” but a “New Family”. Why do you love? Do you love expecting something in return? Many of us here love superficially, but we don’t love supernaturally. We should love sacrificially and selflessly. Loving God means Loving His Word. If we love His Word, then we will live it out. **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER?** We need to love our brother or sister not only when it’s easy, but when it’s hard. Loving a brother or sister when it’s hard shows a genuine love. Last week we were challenged by the fact the **REAL LOVE WILL SOMETIMES INTIALLY HURT IN ORDER TO HELP.** On our own, the command to love God and others would be hard, dare I say impossible, but if you are His child the command to love is easier because His spirit indwells us (Born of God). We love, because He loved us. The word “burdensome” means heavy or weighty. Jesus he reminds us in *Matthew 11:30, “that His yoke is easy and burden is light.”* Since the Spirit of God is within us we have the capacity and capability to love. *Deuteronomy 30:11-14* brings further insight to this with story of the Israelites on the verge on entering the promise land Moses said to them, ¹¹ *Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.* ¹² *It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?”* ¹³ *Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?”* ¹⁴ *No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.* Moses is telling you have what you need to love and obey. John is saying the same thing you have what you need to love and obey. **REAL LOVE IS MOTIVATED BY OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.** What a humbling reality that our love is dependent on that fact that God loved us. *1 John 4:10- This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* The fact that He loved us makes it possible for us love and we do so with a joyful heart.

How do we treat others (Family, Friends, Coworkers, Neighbors, Enemies, the people who we have nothing in common with, the people who tend to get under our skin)? How are we showing love? What does this mean if we are not showing love?

C.) YOUR LIFE EXHIBITS CONFIDENT LIVING BECAUSE OF CHRIST (vs. 4-5)

(vs. 4-5) - ⁴ *for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.* ⁵ *Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.* John is saying those born of God (have the Holy Spirit) which enables them to overcome (conquer, to come off victorious) the world. Remember the world seeks to compete with your love for God. *1 John 2:15-16 says, Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.”* The world comes at us with these deadly traps: The Lust of the Flesh (What is it that you desire? Lust is an overindulgence of a legitimate need.) The Lust of the Eyes (What is that you look upon?) The Pride of Life (How do you view yourself?) Some of here today have been overcome by these things, but this does not have to be the case. Why? Jesus Christ has overcome the world. In fact *Romans 8:37 says, “³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”* The phrase “more than conquerors” means, “to gain a surpassing victory” Jesus routed the competition, there was no doubt that Jesus was victorious. Jesus is the X Factor. Satan desires is for you to doubt this truth and become a prisoner of this worldly system. What are the warning signs of being bound to this world? We live in a constant state of fear (Fear of death, loss of worldly things), we live in a constant state of anxiousness (Worry, doubt, Not trusting), we live in constant state of depression (Lack of purpose, lack of passion, Life is out of focus). This is not an accurate portrayal of biblical Christianity! *John 16:33, “³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

D.) YOU TRUST IN THE TESTIMONY CONCERNING CHRIST (vs. 6-12)

John in this portion of the letter is defending his faith in Christ against those who seek to strip Jesus Christ of His true identity which is the God-man (God in flesh) *Philippians 2:6-8, “⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!* At this time a heretical teaching going around challenging the true identity of Christ. The false teachers were claiming that Jesus was only the Christ in between His baptism and His death. Meaning before His baptism Jesus was a man, but became divine at His baptism and prior to His death the spirit of Christ left Jesus. This teaching simply put denies that fact the Son of God gave His life for us. The following verses are a rebuttal to this false claim, using the testimony of God as His ace in the hole.

(vs.6-12) - ⁶ *This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.* ⁷ *For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.* ⁹ *We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.* The term “water” in this refers to His Baptism and the term “blood” refers to His death. John says let’s be clear about this, Jesus has always been God, at no time did He lose His divine nature. He was the Son of God at His baptism and He was the Son of God at His death. These two things along with God’s spirit confirm this undeniable truth. On top of that John says, God said it and that settles it!

¹⁰ *Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.* ¹¹ *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.* ¹² *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.* What great news! If you trust in God’s testimony (whoever) anyone can have eternal life. This is not reserved for the intellectual elite as Gnostics taught, but it is available for anyone who would believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

What do you trust in? Who do you trust in? Your life is either marked by victory or defeat. It comes down to what the object of your faith and trust is in. Trust in Christ today who offers victory which springs for to eternal life.