



“Believe and Know” (1 John 5:1-13)(9.10.23)

1 John 5:1-13 (AMP)
Overcoming the World

5 Everyone who believes [with a deep, abiding trust in the fact] that Jesus is the Christ (the

Messiah, the Anointed) is born of God [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose], and everyone who loves the Father also loves [a]the *child* born of Him. ² By this we know [without any doubt] that we love the children of God: [expressing that love] when we love God and obey His commandments. ³ For the [true] love of God is this: that we *habitually* keep His commandments *and* remain focused on His precepts. And His commandments *and* His precepts are not difficult [to obey]. ⁴ For [b]everyone born of God is victorious *and* overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered *and* overcome the world—our [continuing, persistent] faith [in Jesus the Son of God].

⁵ Who is the one who is victorious *and* overcomes the world? It is the one who believes *and* recognizes the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. ⁶ This is He who came through water and blood [His baptism and death], Jesus Christ—not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. It is the [Holy] Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. [He is the essence and origin of truth itself.] ⁷ For there are three witnesses: ⁸ the Spirit and

the water and the blood; and these three are in agreement [their testimony is perfectly consistent]. ⁹ If we accept [as we do] the testimony of men [that is, if we are willing to take the sworn statements of fallible humans as evidence], the testimony of God is greater [far more authoritative]; for this is the testimony of God, that He has testified regarding His Son. ¹⁰ The one who believes in the Son of God [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies confidently on Him as Savior] has the testimony within himself [because he can speak authoritatively about Christ from his own personal experience]. The one who does not believe God [in this way] has made Him [out to be] a liar, because he has not believed in the evidence that God has given regarding His Son. ¹¹ And the testimony is this: God has given us eternal life [we already possess it], and this life is in His Son [resulting in our spiritual completeness, and eternal companionship with Him]. ¹² He who has the Son [by accepting Him as Lord and Savior] has the life [that is eternal]; he who does not have the Son of God [by personal faith] does not have the life.

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God [which represents all that Jesus Christ is and does], so that you will know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that you [already] have eternal life.

The word of God for the people of God.



LET US PRAY.

Title: "**Believe and Know**"

INTRODUCTION:

What are you sure of? In whom do you place your confidence? What is true? Do you have doubts about Christianity? Who was/is Jesus? What is faith? Is it ok to doubt? What proof do we have? What are the standards by which we believe and live? Can we be sure of our faith? What is eternal life? How do we attain it?

These are just a sample of the questions that humanity has wrestled with over the centuries. If you have not asked any of these questions, maybe your faith is too shallow. Or, maybe you do not have a Saving Faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God. How can you know? Today, we will find out. And you will be blessed and/or convicted.

Charles Spurgeon preached, "Come, beloved, listen for a moment to this! You have **the milk of faith**, but God wills that you should have **the cream of assurance!** He would increase your faith. May you believe more extensively."

BODY:

The Apostle John is the author of this letter. It is a letter to Christians, to believers in Jesus the Christ. In this 5th chapter, the 13th verse, he explains his purpose in writing it: 1 John 5:13 (NIV84) I write these things to you who

believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know** that you have eternal life.



Nowadays, it is unfashionable to talk about being born again. The Apostle John would pull his hair out in frustration because it is a foundational necessity of the Christian faith. Explaining new birth is how he opens this chapter. I like the way the Amplified version explains it - that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose.

In the opening chapter of the Gospel of John, he declares John 1:12–13 (NIV84)

¹² Yet to all who received him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Two chapters later, Jesus explains the necessity of new birth to the inquiring Pharisee Nicodemus who came to him at night. John 3:3 (NIV84)

³ In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

John 3:5–6 (NIV84)

⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the

Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”

My brothers and sisters, this letter of 1 John explains without a doubt that we are all brothers and sister in Christ, if we have been born again. Because we are family, we are to love like family. This also teaches the criticality of the family unit. And, it helps explain why the Devil is so active in today’s culture in attacking the family. Loving each other is evidence of our new birth.

1 John 4:20 (NIV84)

²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

Faith

LOVE

- God
- God’s children
- God’s word

↓

Obedience



Here, John expands on that theme, loving God and loving other believers are two strands of the same cord. And we all know that Jesus said that loving God with our complete being is the Greatest Commandment and the Second is

like it: loving thy neighbor like thyself. Of course, a brother or sister is closer than a neighbor. The third strand is loving God’s word. Let us look at the 2nd & 3rd strands:



Jesus in John 14:15 (NIV84)

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

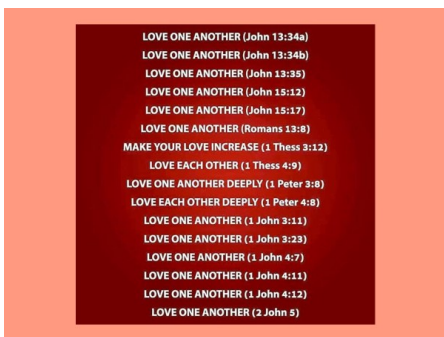
John 14:21–24 (NIV84)

²¹ Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

In John 15:10 Jesus says the same thing but adds that He has set the example for us through His obedience to the Father’s commands and remains in His love.



AND Jesus **commands** us to love one another.

Psalm 119

Psalm 119:103 (NIV84)
How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

See a connection in Psalm 34:8 (NIV84) Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

There are 176 verses in Psalm 119 and all but two of them refer to God's commands in one form or another. We would have to be willfully ignorant to miss the value that God Himself puts on His holy inspired word. As you know, psalms are songs. And, Psalm 119 is a love song about God's commands.

Psalm 119:20 (NIV84) My soul is **consumed** with **longing** for your laws at all times.

For homework this week, read this psalm each day and meditate on a particular verse that resonates with your soul longing.

Take My Yoke Upon You



John says, that God's commands are not burdensome. And the Son agrees with the Father. I preached this text to you last week. Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV84)

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



Victory over the world is not referring to the planet earth. The "world" is a reference to the world system headed and manipulated by the Devil and his demons that oppose the kingdom of God. 1 John 5:19 (NIV84) "We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one." The evidence of this worldly system is sin, suffering, evil, and death.

In the first four chapters of this letter John uses the word overcome three times and then in this fifth chapter he uses the phrase overcoming the world three times. He declares Faith GIVES the Victory. In the book of Revelation, there is a constant call to overcome.

I have shared with you before that the Atlantic City Rescue Mission had an advanced discipleship group called The Overcomers. They were held to a higher standard and given special privileges. In return, they attended daily classes and helped run the Rescue Mission.

The Apostle Paul echoes this promise of victory in the book of Romans 8:37 (NIV84) No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us.

Pastor Tony Evans teaches on 1 John 5 in a video on RightNow Media.com. He makes a wonderful illustration about being in overcomer, which I will tweak. A high jumper only has their own power to lift them over the bar. The world record is eight feet and one half inch. A pole-vaulter has the extra power and leveraging of the

pole. The world record for the pole-vault is 20 feet and five inches. Our faith is our source of power.



Deuteronomy 19:15 (NIV84) One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

John says in the 7th verse that there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood.

The WATER: Father God spoke from the torn open heavens when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River and testified that this is my beloved Son.

The BLOOD: Father God spoke as Jesus' blood stained the Calvary Cross and died to take away the sin of the world. He spoke when the ground trembled; when the sky turned black; when the graves were opened; and when the veil to the holy of holies was torn from top to bottom.

God the Holy Spirit continues to testify. The Spirit came on Pentecost and birthed the Church of Jesus Christ. It is the Spirit that convicts and converts and gives New Birth.

Jesus promised in John 15:26 (NIV84) **"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me."**

Assurance

Witness
• Spirit
• Water
• Blood



Testimony
within us



Hopefully, you can see how our assurance is permeating into our whole consciousness.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV84)

¹⁴ The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

BUT: Romans 8:16 (NIV84) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Is God a Liar?

Numbers 23:19 (NIV84) God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Hebrews 6:18 (NIV84) God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

Titus 1:2 (NIV84) a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

These are not the only three verses to support John's contention God is truthful. In fact, evidence has been provided validating God's testimony. Not only to we have witnesses, God himself testifies. We have a written

record, our Bibles.

The Apostle John is actually giving his own testimony in this letter. 1 John 1:1–3 (NIV84)

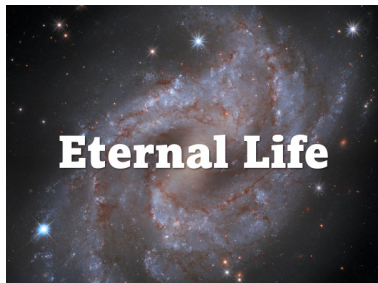
1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And

our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

In a similar fashion, the Apostle Peter testifies to Jesus' transfiguration in 2 Peter 1:16–18 (NIV84)

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses** of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

Let's have three volunteers to read one verse each, out loud.



God's truth is that we have eternal life in His Son. resulting in our spiritual completeness, and eternal companionship with Him. Your believing God's testimony is the criteria for having eternal life. If you believe, you have it. If you do not believe, you have **NO** possibility of it.

Jesus in John 17:3 (NIV84)

³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 14:19 (NIV84)

19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

One noted scholar stated that “eternal life is not quantitative but qualitative.” Though it refers to our dwelling with our heavenly Father forever, that understanding is too limited. This eternal life begins with the New Birth. As we have heard from the scripture over the last several weeks, it is being complete in Jesus. It is having the fullness of Jesus and being filled by Jesus.



For me, I am reminded of The Prayer of St. Patrick

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,

Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks to me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

Salvation is of the Lord.

Salvation is of the Christ.

May your salvation, Lord, be ever with us.



CONCLUSION:

A. W. Tozer wrote *The Dangers of a Shallow Faith – Awakening from Spiritual Lethargy*

Pg. 209: "FAITH – Faith is not some magical formula or ritual, but rather it is a result of a consistent and sacrificial commitment to Bible reading and prayer. Too many are satisfied with just a verse a day to keep the devil away. This is superstitious nonsense and needs to be put away at all cost. Nothing will ever take the place of the simple reading of God's Word, preferably on your knees. Of course, Bible reading calendars are important and certainly have their use. There are times in my bible reading when a verse or a word monopolizes my time and it raptures me, forbidding me to go another verse. It is at times like this that I need to put away all schedules and quietly and patiently wait upon the Spirit of God as He broods over the Scripture and draws me into His sweet fellowship.

Much is being said of faith these days that is not the focus of the Scriptures. We must shun all ways contrary to Scripture. Faith is not the key to get you what you want. Faith is not some magical formula that no matter who uses it, saved or unsaved, God has to act upon it. Such is religious lunacy and borders on witchcraft. I firmly believe that true faith rises in the soul of the man or woman who will fall on his face before an open Bible and allow God to be God in his life.

OBEDIENCE and SURRENDER

Another aspect of the intentional Christian life is obedience. I am sure this is where many fail. In order to obey fully, you must hear the voice of God clearly. Again, this is rooted in my relationship to the Word of God.

Abraham of old heard God clearly and was able to obey God fully. If we are to live a life of obedience, we must have “ears to hear.”

Along with this matter of obedience is surrender. Surrender is a clear act of obedience to the Word of God. When I talk about surrender, I am talking about the idea of absolutely and completely giving over my life to God, whatever it entails, without any strings attached. Some would give God as much as 99 percent of their life, but they want to hold on to that last 1 percent. Either God is Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all. Either we have completely surrendered 100 percent of ourselves to God or we have not done anything acceptable to God. Our Father will not accept a partial surrender. He is jealous toward us – all of us.”

Tozer closes his book with this paragraph:

“God desires to bring our lives into the full sunlight of His favor. That requires not serving ourselves or pleasing others or ourselves, but giving ourselves completely, in absolute surrender, to God through the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. The end result is living the intentional Christian life.”

My brothers and sisters, I call on you to release anything that hinders your faith walk. Believe on the Lord Jesus with your whole heart. May your spirit testify with God the Holy Spirit that you are a child of God. Then you may know within yourself and have complete assurance that you can experience eternal life in the present and on into eternity. **Amen and amen. Let us pray.**