

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION**Faith in the Son of God****1 John 5:1–12**

“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” 1 John 5:5

Day 1: Read 1 John 5:1–5.

1. In these verses see how John seamlessly weaves love of God with obedience to God and love of the children of God. Why do you suppose John wants to make it impossible to disentangle these ideas?
2. In verse 1, how does John describe our fellow Christians in a way that makes it inescapable for us to love them if we claim to love our heavenly Father?
3. How can we know our love for God and for our Christian brothers and sisters is genuine and not self-deceived? (vs. 2)
4. According to verse 3, what does the love of God consist of?
5. What makes God's commandments a delight and “not burdensome” (vs. 3) for Christians? (vs. 4; consider Ps. 119:32; 1 Cor. 2:16b)

Day 2: Read 1 John 5:1–5.

6. The exhortations toward love and obedience in verses 1 through 5 are bracketed before and behind by the idea of faith. How do you think faith enables us to “overcome the world”?
7. What does John mean by “the world” in verses 4 and 5? (See 2:15–17.)
8. John will later write the book of Revelation, where he will pick up the idea of “overcoming” and employ the concept to cover the whole of Christian life. Find the seven times he uses the word in Revelation 2 and 3.
9. Who has preceded us in overcoming the world and its temptations, and thereby given us the model—and the power—to do the same? (Jn. 16:33)

Day 3: Read 1 John 5:6–12.

10. John makes the curious statement that Jesus came by the “water and the blood”. How do Old Testament references to water and blood testify to who Christ is?
11. How did Jesus come “by water”? (Lk. 3:21; Matt. 3:13–15) Why did Jesus need to come “by water” and wash us? (Jn. 13:8b)
12. How and why did Jesus come “by blood”? (1:7b; Matt. 26:28; Jn. 6:56)
13. By the “blood” God’s law is satisfied; by the “water” we are washed clean. How does John find poignant significance of this in the details of Christ’s death? (Jn. 19:34)

Day 4: Read 1 John 5:6–12.

14. How did the Spirit testify to Jesus at the start of his ministry? (Jn. 1:32–34)
15. How does the Spirit still testify? (Jn. 16:13–15) Where does the Spirit of Christ live today? (5:10; Jn. 14:15–17)
16. Since he has taken up dwelling in you, what things has the Spirit of truth shown you about yourself? About God’s excellencies and wisdom and power? About what he has done for you?

Day 5: Read 1 John 5:9–12.

17. John’s human testimony of having lived with Jesus on earth (1:1) is compelling. But what testimony is even weightier? (vs. 9)
18. What is it that all people desire and that God has given us freely? (vs. 11)
19. Verse 12 puts it as starkly as it can be put: What is the only way to lay hold of this eternal life?

