

— 1 John —
Lesson #17 Chapter 5:1-12

John's final words to his beloved friends are ones of continued encouragement and assurance in the faith. Ask the Lord to help you take to heart the confidence and joy He wants you to have in your relationship with Him!

1. What do you learn about those John refers to as *whoever* or *everyone* from 1 John 5:1?

2. Why is verse 1 so encouraging considering John's admonition in 1 John 4:21?

3. What other assurance does John remind his beloved children in 1 John 5:2?

4. John teaches us that *whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ* "is born again." He also reminds us that *whoever loves the Father* will, of course, "love the child born of Him." John also reminds us that *when we love God and observe His commandments* we can be comforted and confident that we will also "love the children of God." Why are these truths important for *you* to know and believe today? How are these truths a litmus test of salvation?
 - a. John seems to belabor the point (in verses 1-2) that if we are the Lord's children then we will most assuredly love the brethren. How does that tie in with his previous teaching from 1 John 3:9-16?

5. *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments* (NASB). If you stop and consider the beginning of verse 3, you might wonder if John means *our* love *for* God or *His* love *for* us. Kenneth Wuest sheds some light on the phrase by deciphering the Greek for us. He writes, “In the expression “the love of God,” we have the objective genitive, in which the noun in the genitive case (God), receives the action of the noun of action (love). Thus, we are to understand that John means “the love for God.”¹ The NIV translated it, “This is love for God: to obey his commands.” Similarly, the HCSB translated the phrase, “For this is what love for God is: to keep His commands.” Based on this helpful information, how does the beginning of verse 3 simplify life for us?
- a. How is the beginning of verse 3 tied to what John had just said in verse 2?
6. What do you learn about God’s commands according to the end of verse 3?
- a. Why is it important for us to remember this crucial aspect of obedience?
- b. Now compare Matthew 11:28-30 with Matthew 23:4; and Acts 15:10 with Galatians 2:4 to see further why and how this statement in 1 John 5:3 is true.

¹Wuest, Kenneth S. 1997. *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*. Vol. 13. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

7. Look up the verses that follow to discover God’s provision and purpose toward us, so our obedience is not a burden to our souls: Galatians 5:1; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 8:10; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 1 John 4:13, 18; 5:14-15, 20.

“His commandments are not a burden but a privilege and an opportunity to show our love. The commandments of Christ are indeed difficult; but burdensome they are not, for Christ never laid a commandment on anyone without giving strength to carry it; and every commandment laid upon us provides another chance to show our love. ~William Barclay²

“Anything that makes us think that God’s will is burdensome is of the spirit of the world against which we have to fight. If, for instance, we are tempted to think that the restrictions of God’s law—His commandments and precepts—are too stringent, it is the spirit of the world that tempts us to think so, for “His commandments are not burdensome” to those who truly love Him. It is only to the rebellious world that the restrictions of God appear to be too stringent, or that the commands of Christ become burdensome.” ~Charles Spurgeon³

8. What does it tell you about your own heart, if you do find yourself complaining and chafing against God’s commands? See 1 John 1:6; 2:4-5, 15-17; 3:10; 4:18; 5:3a; Revelation 2:4. What is the solution? See 1 John 1:9; Revelation 2:5.

“Love-prompted obedience finds that God’s commandments are not a crushing burden which exhausts one’s strength and destroys the sense of freedom in Christ. The believer finds that the new life in Christ implants in him a desire to do the will of God and finds that love makes obedience to His commands rewarding, for he realizes that God has given His laws for his own protection and true well-being. He finds in them guidance concerning “what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:2 NASB). For him ‘the statutes again become songs, and the commandments prove to be the stepping-stones to freedom.’” ~D. Edmond Hiebert⁴

²Barclay, William. 2002. *The Letters of John and Jude*. 3rd ed. The New Daily Study Bible. Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

³Spurgeon, Charles. 2014. *Spurgeon Commentary: 1 John*. Edited by Elliot Ritzema. Spurgeon Commentary Series. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

⁴Hiebert, D. Edmond. 1991. *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press.

9. What amazing truth is proclaimed in 1 John 5:4? How can that be true? See John 16:33; Romans 8:37; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 1 John 4:4.

10. What is the *ultimate* way in which our faith is victorious over the world? See John 17:24; Romans 2:7.

11. As if 1 John 5:1-4 wasn't enough to encourage us, John reiterates what he's just said in verse 5. What further encouragement do you learn from verse 5?

12. Most assuredly, 1 John 5:6-8 has caused confusion as to what John is getting at in this section. Let's take it slow to discover just what John means. What do you learn about Jesus according to 1 John 5:6?

13. Now, let's identify what John means by *water* and *blood*. As you look at the following verses to understand what John is saying about the *water* and *blood*, consider *when* these events took place in Jesus' ministry and why they were important. See Matthew 3:13-15; John 1:31-34; Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 1:5; 5:9.

14. Who testifies about Jesus according to 1 John 5:6? See also Matthew 3:16; John 15:26; 16:13-15; 1 Timothy 3:16.

- a. What is the purpose of someone testifying to something or about someone? See Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Matthew 18:16; Hebrews 10:28.
15. What point is being made about the Spirit, water, and blood according to verse 8? See John 8:17.

16. What does John want to impress upon us by making the argument he does in verse 9? How does this make the evidence all the greater that Jesus being God and Savior, came in the flesh to suffer and die in the place of sinful men?

17. There is a lot of testifying going on in these verses! Who else testifies that these things are true according to the beginning of verse 10?

18. What do you learn about anyone who rejects the truths they have been told about Jesus? See 1 John 5:10.

19. How does John summarize his testimony in 1 John 5:11-12?
 - a. Summarize what you learn about this incredible gift from John 3:14-16; 5:39-40; 10:27-28; Romans 6:22-23; 1 John 2:25; 5:13, 20.

20. Why does John spend so much time building the argument about those who testify about Jesus? See 1 John 5:5, 11-12.

21. How does John 8:12-18 add insight into John's point in 1 John 5:6-12?
22. What truths from our lesson stand out to you? Why are they significant to you?

"The instrument with which this new nature fights against the world is faith. Faith conquers, first, *by regarding the unseen reward that awaits us*. The world comes and offers pleasure as the reward of sin, but faith says, "There are greater pleasures to be had by abstaining from sin." The world says, "Take this gain today," but faith says, "No, I will put what I have out at interest. There is something infinitely better to be had after this." In its beginning, faith generally works in that way; it despises all the treasures of Egypt and values far more the eternal rewards that Christ has laid up for it in heaven.

But as faith grows, it attains to something better than that, for *it recognizes the unseen Presence that is with us*. The world says, "Come with us, and go our way. We will pat you on the back and say that you are a good fellow, and you will have a fine time if you come with us." But faith says, "I do not care how I appear to your eye, for there is another eye that I can see, but you cannot see. God is looking at me, and I am most of all concerned to be right in His sight." Faith realizes that the newborn nature is in the divine presence, and thus makes God's presence to be just as real and just as vivid as the presence of men. That presence of God altogether outweighs the presence of men. That is a higher position than the one I first mentioned, for faith not only regards the unseen reward that awaits the believer, but faith recognizes the unseen presence of God and is moved by an all-constraining desire to please Him." ~Charles Spurgeon⁵

⁵Spurgeon, Charles. 2014. *Spurgeon Commentary: 1 John*. Edited by Elliot Ritzema. Spurgeon Commentary Series. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.