

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
February 16, 2022
Showing Up

1 John 5:1-5 KJVS

[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. [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?

New Living Translation

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Every so often we find a verse or a passage that is a hologram, a condensation of the whole Word of God into a simple, concise statement that illustrates the entirety of God's message to us. The world and its preoccupation with sin and evil has continuously attempted to derail the path of righteousness. God has given birth to a spirit in us in union with His Holy Spirit that has given us victory in overcoming the world. Literally, *nikē nikesasa*; subduing conquest, to forcefully bring into subjection. (V4) The power of the world to oppress and suppress us as Christians and as lovers of truth and righteousness is overrated. God is telling us here through John that this weak temporary army has been forcefully brought into subjection under our Commander Jesus Christ. How? Through faith; *pistis*; moral conviction brought about by credible persuasion. We absolutely know we are on the right side of all the failing arguments the world brings against us and our Saviour because He alone has established it and proven it in us. How? Because our faith is not in anything in the world, it's religions, it's philosophies or its materials. Our credible persuasion is rooted in the One and only Creator of the universe and the fact that He sent His Son to die for us, forgive our sin and give us eternal life. Our believing in the finished work of Jesus gives us new birth into true life in eternity. This all creates in us a love for the family of God, proving our membership. (V1) The commands of God were at one time grievous or weighty because they were impossible to keep. Jesus kept them and imparted His righteousness to us giving us new and lighter commands. John 14:15-17, John 15:10-12, Matthew 22:36-40. So much is made about the strictness of religion. It seems so restrictive and repulsive to the world but it is all so very simple. Believe Jesus, love God, love your neighbor. We are constantly maligned and attacked because of this basic premise. The church has often misrepresented Christ which has turned the world against Him and us. John has made the message understandable and anyone daring enough to read this letter will see it. Are we

"showing up" as Pastor has stated? Are we loving others? We often make our faith out to be so intricate and difficult. It's not. Believe and love. With practice we will get better at it. With the Holy Spirit we will see fruit from it. Galatians 5:22-23. These are not personal pleasures to make us feel better about ourselves. These are characteristics of good people. Godly people. The unsaved world should see these things in us and rejoice to do so. Thus far there is no law prohibiting this behavior but who knows what the future holds? Let's love the Lord and one another till He returns so He will be pleased when He comes. Hebrews 11:6. Have faith in Him.