

## STUDIES IN 1 JOHN

### STUDY NUMBER ELEVEN: Fellowship is Activated by a New Birth

1 John 5:1-12

Key Verses 5:11-12: "And this is the witness, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. The one who is having the Son is having the life; the one who is not having the Son of God is not having the life."

#### TEXT:

v. 1 Everyone who is believing that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God; and everyone who is loving the one who begat is loving the one who has been begotten of Him.

v. 2 In this we are knowing that we are loving the children of God, when we are loving God and we are doing His commandments.

v. 3 For this is the love of God, that we are keeping His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome (difficult to fulfill).

v. 4 Because everyone that has been born of God is conquering the world; and this is the victory which conquered the world--our faith.

v. 5 And who is the one who is conquering the world, except the one who is believing that Jesus is the Son of God?

v. 6 This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is the one who is bearing witness, because the Spirit is the truth.

v. 7 Because there are three who are bearing witness,

v. 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in one thing.

v. 9 If we are receiving the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; because this is the witness of God, that He has borne witness concerning His Son.

v.10 The one who is believing in the Son of God is having the witness in himself; the one who is not believing God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness which God has witnessed concerning His Son.

v.11 And this is the witness, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

v.12 The one who is having the Son is having the life; the one who is not having the Son of God is not having the life.

## INTRODUCTION:

(At Wit's End by Erma Bombeck)

One of the most overzealous groups of club-women I know are the Garden Clubbers. They cannot comprehend that some of us are born into this world to plant glad bulbs upside down. Some of us are resigned to a life without manure and mulch. And that when some of us have a green thumb, it's a skin condition.

Don't misunderstand me. I have nothing but respect for Garden Club women. Especially after the episode my mother and I endured with the dried weeds project. We just couldn't imagine there being much skill to throwing clumps of fall foliage into a pot!

"Why, they must think we're a couple of rubes who just blew into town with the egg money," Mother said. "Imagine! Paying \$7.95 for a pot of dried milk pods, a few pine cones, and a couple of sticks with berries on them. We could fill a bathtub with this stuff for forty-nine cents of spray paint."

Maybe it was the vision of a floral-filled bathtub that prompted us to do it. Looking back, we like to think one of the kids left the cap off the glue and we inhaled enough to make us fly. At any rate, the next weekend found Mother and me hacking our way through the woods like Jon Hall and Sabu.

Cattails, we discovered, flourished only in swamps where the bog was knee-high. The prettiest leafy specimens were always at the top of the trees. The most unique pods were always situated in the middle of a livestock relief station. And the most graceful Queen Anne's lace was always over the next hill.

I have no intention of humiliating my mother by relating that grim scene of her up to her knees in jungle rot, clutching a bundle of poison sumac to her chest and shouting hysterically at a snake slithering over her gym shoes. (Only to report that she shouted to the heavens, "Oh please! I'm Evangelical and I tithe!")

I think our little excursion can best be told by a tabulation we compiled of the expenses incurred in the pursuit of dried stock for floral arrangements.

Expenses

|  |        |          |
|--|--------|----------|
| 1 can gold spray paint   | \$ .69 |          |
| 1 can silver spray paint   | .69    |          |
| 1 gallon paint thinner   | 1.25   |          |
| (Used to remove spray paint<br>from patio floor)                               |        |          |
| 1 ironing board cover  | 2.00   |          |
| (Note to amateurs: put the leaves<br><u>between</u> wax paper before pressing) |        |          |
| 1 pair gym shoes   |        | 4.00     |
| 1 sweater (Abandoned at snake pit)   | 5.95   |          |
| 1 car wash and vacuuming   |        | 2.00     |
| 1 doctor (for sumac)   |        | 5.00     |
| 1 prescription (for sumac)   | 3.57   |          |
| 1 overdue book on <u>Dried Flowers for<br/>Fun and Profit</u>                  |        | .62      |
| Personal Aggravation   | 500.00 |          |
|  |        | -----    |
| TOTAL  |        | \$525.77 |

p. 178-79

("Just Wait Till You Have Children Of Your Own!")  
by Erma Bombeck and Bil Keane)

Could I have ever comprehended that something so simple, so beautiful and so uncomplicated as a child could drive you to shout, "We are a family and you're a part of this family and by God, you're going to spend a Friday night with us having a good time if we have to chain you to the bed!"

p. 169

The first time I leaned over to kiss my son good night and he turned his back to the wall and said, "See ya." The first time I sat in the pouring rain for four quarters (and a thirty-minute half-time Salute to Railroads) and got chewed out for being the only mother there with an umbrella.

The first time they hit me with, "I'm not going to Grandma's. It's boring." The first time they ignored me on Mother's Day and explained coldly, "It's your fault. You didn't give us our allowance this week."

The first time they left the house and forgot to say, "Good-bye."

And the anger and the resentment came, Mr. Matterling. You forgot that part. The nights when I Freudianly set the table for two. The days when I felt like a live-in domestic. Days when I felt like sending Betty Friedan a cigar and the kids to my favorite charity. (Or my unfavorite charity.) Days when I beat myself to death with my own inadequacies. What kind of kids am I raising who would let a hamster die from starvation? What kind of kids would snicker during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner?" What kind of kids would tell you with a straight face they inherited a world less than perfect? What kind of kids would have a water fight in church . . . WITH HOLY WATER YET!?

pp. 170-71

### FINALS

Danny: "Why does your grandmother read the Bible so much?"

David: "I think she's cramming for her finals."

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

### BLESSED INSURANCE

Life insurance--The thing that keeps you poor all your life so you can die rich.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

### EITHER ONE OR THE OTHER

They have only two types of pedestrians in most cities--the quick and the dead.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

### BUT WHAT'S THE AREA CODE UP THERE?

A telephone directory in a large city accidentally got this ad mixed in with the listing of funeral homes and mortuaries:

"When away, keep in touch by long distance. Phone ahead for reservations. Let them know you're on the way."

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

(Laugh Again by Charles R. Swindoll)

As dear old Samuel Johnson once stated, "When a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully."  
p. 56

John, when he is writing in his gospel, records the account of NICODEMUS and the LORD JESUS in John chapter 3.

He is the only gospel writer to record this very significant account.

In the interview between the Lord Jesus and Nicodemus, this prominent pharisee who served on the Sanhedrin, Jesus made the following statements:

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:7

Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again."

John 3:19-21

And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.

The Lord is saying, "Nicodemus, although you are a very religious and moral, upstanding individual, everyone must experience the new birth without exception."

We are examining in these studies:

FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

In this particular study we are examining the fact that:

"FELLOWSHIP IS ACTIVATED BY A NEW BIRTH."

Back in study #1 we pursued the subject:

FELLOWSHIP IS RESTORED BY JESUS CHRIST.

Romans 5:1, 2

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

John 1:12, 13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

I trust as we pursue this particular study together you will be recognizing:

the vital step that must be taken in each of our lives before we can have an assurance of salvation,

our eternal destiny is secure because we have experienced the new birth,

and, as a result of that experience we have been born again by the Spirit into God's family.

John 10:27-29

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

The Lord Jesus, in His conversation with Nicodemus, said in:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

2 Corinthians 6:2

for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you"; behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation"--

Harry Emmerson Fosdick once wrote:

A man can put off making up his mind, but he can't put off making up his life.

Westcott outlines the passage as follows. He calls it:

. . . the power of the Christian life, the victory, and witness of faith. The whole of the section is closely connected by two main thoughts. Faith and witness, respectively, prevail in the opening and closing verses. Thus, it may be divided into two parts:

- 1.the victory of faith (vv. 1-5),
- 2.the divine witness (vv. 6-12).

J. Vernon McGee says:

In this chapter we have come to the last major division of this very wonderful little book. In the first part of this epistle, we saw that God is light. In the very extensive center section, we saw that God is love. The subject of this final chapter is God is life.

v. 1 Everyone who is believing that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God; and everyone who is loving the one who begat is loving the one who has been begotten of Him.

### 1 John 3:23

And this is His commandment, that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and loving one another, as He gave us commandment.

LOVE and BELIEF are wedded together again here as the things which reveal the fact that a person has a right relationship with God.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

If one asks who his Christian brother or sister is, the answer is that everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

Whether or not a believer exhibits an admirable life, he should be an object of his fellow Christians' love. This love does not spring from something loveable in the person himself but from his paternity, since everyone who loves the Father loves His child as well.

It is these 2 VERY THINGS:

LOVE

and BELIEF

that John has given us WARNINGS about:

1. we have been warned not to love the world,
2. to not be believing every spirit.

The thing that is really uppermost in John's mind is ETERNAL LIFE. And that life comes by a proper relationship to Jesus Christ. The fruitage of the indwelling Spirit will be a love that issues from that relationship to others. These are the things that he wants us to be sure about above all else.



"EVERYONE WHO IS BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD."

This phrase "BORN OF GOD" occurs in:

chapter 3:9,

chapter 4:7,

chapter 5:4,

chapter 5:18,

as well as here in this passage.

The last study we had together began by saying:

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us be loving one another, because love is from God; and everyone who is loving has been born of God and is knowing God.

This new birth comes when we receive Jesus Christ by faith.

You will note that John is saying:

"EVERYONE WHO IS BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST."

It is not believing Jesus was a good human being or believing that Jesus was a good teacher, but that He is the Christ--God come in human flesh--and that He came to die on a cross for our sins.

"EVERYONE WHO IS BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD; AND EVERYONE WHO IS LOVING THE ONE WHO BEGAT IS LOVING THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN BEGOTTEN OF HIM."

Barclay says:

So John is thinking of the love which naturally binds a man to the Father who begat him and to the other children whom the Father has begotten.

Guy King says:

We have heard the old saying, "Love me, love my dog." The idea here is similar, "Love God, love His child."

v. 2 In this we are knowing that we are loving the children of God, when we are loving God and we are doing His commandments.

The question we ask ourselves at this point is:

How can I know that God's love is flowing through me?

Back in chapter 4:2 we had the statement:

"In this you are knowing the Spirit of God,"

and now here in this verse:

"IN THIS WE ARE KNOWING THAT WE ARE LOVING THE CHILDREN OF GOD."

There are 2 WAYS that we can know that we are loving the children of God:

1. "WHEN WE ARE LOVING GOD,"
2. "WE ARE DOING HIS COMMANDMENTS."

When I am concentrating on my love in the VERTICAL relationship, my love in the HORIZONTAL relationship will be a normal outgrowth.

I manifest my love for God by believing in His Son.

"WE ARE KNOWING THAT WE ARE LOVING THE CHILDREN OF GOD WHEN WE ARE DOING HIS COMMANDMENTS."

1 John 2:3

And in this we are knowing that we know Him, if we are keeping His commandments.

1 John 3:24

And the one who is keeping His commandments is abiding in Him, . . .

By my love for God and my obedience to His word, I also am aware of my love for "THE CHILDREN OF GOD."

John can make this assumption on the basis of the command which Jesus gave us in:

John 13:34, 35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

There are 3 THINGS that issue from keeping His commandments:

1.WE ARE KNOWING THAT WE KNOW HIM - 2:3

2.WE ARE ABIDING IN HIM - 3:24

3.WE ARE KNOWING THAT WE ARE LOVING THE CHILDREN OF GOD - 5:2

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

. . . moreover, love for God's children is not mere sentiment or verbal expression.

1 John 3:18

Little children, let us not be loving by word nor by the tongue, but in deed and truth.

This love for God's children is inseparable from loving God and obeying His commands.

A person who obeys God's commands is doing what is right, both toward God and toward His fellow believers, and is thus loving both God and them. It must be remembered that this includes the willingness to sacrifice for one's brother.

1 John 2:16, 17

In this we have come to know love, because that one on our behalf laid down his soul; and we are having a moral obligation on behalf of our brethren to lay down our souls. But whoever is having the livelihood of the world, and is seeing his brother having need and shuts up his heart from him, how is the love of God abiding in him?

Stott says:

It is as impossible to love the children of God, as such, without loving God as it is to love God without loving His children. A family relationship unites the two loves. Love for God has a second, inescapable consequence, namely, obedience. If we truly love God, we not only love His children but also keep His commandments.

(Pack Up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box, then Sit on the Lid and Laugh! by Barbara Johnson)

And God Said, "No"

I asked God to take away my pride and God said, "No." He said it was not for Him to take away but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole and God said, "No." He said the body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience and God said, "No." He said patience is a by-product of tribulation. It isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness and God said, "No." He said He gives His blessings. Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me from pain and God said, "No." He said sufferings draw you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Him.

I asked God to make my spirit grow and God said, "No." He said I must grow on my own, but He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me and God said, "Yes." He gave His only Son who died for me and I will be in heaven someday because I believe.

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me and God said,  
"Ah, finally you have the idea!"

--Source unknown

pp. 142-43

v. 3 For this is the love of God, that we are keeping His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome (difficult to fulfill).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

In this section, John pointed to faith as the secret of a victorious, obedient life.

As a matter of fact, God's commands are not burdensome.

What is "THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE ARE KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS; AND HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT BURDENSOME"?

We demonstrate our love for God by doing what He says.

John 15:10, 14

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

You are My friends, if you do what I command you.

Joshua 1:7

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel replied:

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?

To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

Matthew 23:4

And they tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.

Obedience to His word is the proof of our love.

John 14:21

He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself

to him.

Barclay says:

There is an old and often-retold story which is a kind of parable of this. Someone once met a lad going to school long before the days when transport was provided. The lad was carrying a smaller boy on his back, and the smaller boy was clearly lame and unable to walk and so had to be carried. The stranger said to the lad, "Do you carry him to school every day?" "Yes," said the boy. "That's a heavy burden for you to carry," said the stranger. "He's no' a burden," said the boy. "He's my brother." Love turned the burden into no burden at all. It must be so with us and Christ. His commandments are not a burden, they are a privilege; for to have to carry them is an opportunity to show our love.  
p. 124

(Transforming Leadership by Leighton Ford)

He fully believed that his minority strategy would work, on four conditions:

First, that his followers showed his love and holiness in their personal lives.

Second, that they showed his love in relationships with one another.

Third, that this love would flow out of their remaining in a vital relation with him.

"My command is this," he told them at their last meal. "Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (Jn 15:12-13).

Fourth, that they would have the same relationship to the world as he did--not withdrawn from it nor compromised by it, but sent into it.  
p. 67

(Rediscovering Holiness by J. I. Packer)

What makes good works good? Two things: they are works of obedience to God's law; and they are works of love, aimed at exalting the God whom one loves out of affinity and gratitude, and enriching human beings whom one loves out of compassion and fellow-feeling.

p. 177



(Simple Faith by Charles R. Swindoll)

All this reminds me of a funny story I heard recently about a man at Los Angeles International Airport who was worried about missing his plane. He had no wrist watch and could not locate a clock, so he hurried up to a total stranger and said, "Scuse me . . . could you give me the time, please?"

The stranger smiled and said, "Sure." He set down the two large suitcases he was carrying and looked at the watch on his wrist. "It is exactly 5:09. The temperature outside is 73 degrees, and it is supposed to rain tonight. In London the sky is clear and the temperature is 38 degrees Celsius. The barometer reading there is 29.14 and falling. And, let's see, in Singapore the sun is shining brightly. Oh, by the way, the moon should be full tonight here in Los Angeles, and--"

"Your watch tells you all that?" the man interrupted.

Oh, yes . . . and much more. You see, I invented this watch, and I can assure you there is no other timepiece like it in the world."

"I want to buy that watch! I'll pay you two thousand dollars for it right now."

"No, it's not for sale," said the stranger as he reached down to pick up his suitcases.

"Wait! Four thousand. I'll pay you four thousand dollars, cash," offered the man, reaching for his wallet.

"No, I can't sell it. You see, I plan to give it to my son for his twenty-first birthday. I invented it for him to enjoy."

"Okay, listen . . . I'll give you ten thousand dollars. I've got the money right here."

The stranger paused. "Ten thousand? Well, okay. It's yours for ten thousand even."

The man was absolutely elated. He paid the stranger, took the watch, snapped it on his wrist with glee, and said "Thanks" as he turned to leave.

"Wait," said the stranger. With a big smile he handed the two heavy suitcases to the man and added, "Don't forget the batteries."

That's exactly what it is like when we tell folks about all the things Christ offers. We speak of one pleasure after another: this blessing and that benefit . . . sins forgiven . . . peace within, joy without . . . strength amidst trials, hope beyond the grave. I mean, who wouldn't want all that? But the killer is what we don't tell them. The package includes unexpected extra baggage, and it is only a matter of time before the added weight will turn a life of simple faith into a life oppressed by the tyranny of the urgent.

pp. xviii-xix

Because of our deep love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and the overwhelming gratitude for His sacrifice upon the cross of Calvary for our sins, it is NOT a burden to do what He asks us to do.

v. 4 Because everyone that has been born of God is conquering the world; and this is the victory which conquered the world--our faith.

In chapter 2:13 we found that the young men had conquered the evil one.

In chapter 4:4 the teachings of the evil one had been conquered by the little children.

Here the system of the evil one, that is, "THE WORLD," is conquered by those who are "BORN OF GOD."

2 Corinthians 4:3, 4

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

John concludes verse 4 by saying:

"AND THIS IS THE VICTORY WHICH CONQUERED THE WORLD--OUR FAITH."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

This is because the principle of victory resides in everyone born of God. Every such person has already overcome the world (4:4), his faith in Christ by which he was regenerated constitutes a victory over the world's system, which is satanically blinded to the gospel.

Guy King says:

"This is the victory that overcometh the world"--even our fighting? No; prepare for a surprise--"even our faith." p. 101

Dr. Mitchell says:

Faith not only appropriates Christ for salvation but it appropriates Christ for victory.  
p. 138

J. Vernon McGee uses the experience of JOSHUA fighting the battle of JERICHO when it comes to illustrating the victory that comes through faith. He says:

Although he had the army, Joshua's business was not to fight. His business was to believe God. He believed God, and the walls fell down. My friend, today we are saved by faith, and if we are going to overcome this world, we'll not overcome it by fighting it. We are going to overcome it by faith. That is the only way you and I can deal with this world in which we live, and that is the great message which is here for us.  
p. 815

It was faith that released us from the bondage of sin and gave us new life.

It is daily faith in the promises of God and in His ability to order and handle the circumstances in our lives that gives us victory over the world.

It is faith at the point of human futility: I cannot but You can.

It is faith involving the will, not just the head or heart, the intellect or the emotions.

Romans 4:20, 21

yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.

Faith is complete trust in God's ability to do what He has promised.

In the children of Israel we can see the kind of faith that we are talking about. It took faith for them to get out of Egypt, and it took faith for them to get into the land which the Lord had promised for them.

### 2 Corinthians 2:14

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

### Colossians 2:6

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

It is my faith in God that keeps me from submitting to the desires of the world that are described back in:

### chapter 2:16

THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH,  
THE DESIRES OF THE EYES,  
AND THE VAINGLORY OF LIFE.

### (If I Really Believe, Why Do I Have These Doubts? by Lynn Anderson)

There is nothing wrong with trying to understand our faith. But many of us try too hard. We attempt to explain the unexplainable, find out the undefinable, ponder over the imponderable, and unscrew the inscrutable. A life of real meaningful faith can't be treated that way. Trying to do so only leaves people with swollen heads and shrunken hearts.

p. 174

(Pack Up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box, then Sit on the Lid and Laugh! by Barbara Johnson)

FAITH NEVER KNOWS WHERE IT IS BEING LED,  
BUT IT LOVES THE ONE WHO IS LEADING.

p. 246

v. 5 And who is the one who is conquering the world, except the one who is believing that Jesus is the Son of God?

Here John raises the question to amplify his thoughts.

Back in verse 1 we had noted together that:

the one "who is believing that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God."

Now here in this 5th verse it is:

"THE ONE WHO IS BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD" that is  
"CONQUERING THE WORLD."

The prerequisite to victory over the world is believing that:

"JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD."

Christ comes in and it is He that does the "CONQUERING" through us.

1 John 4:4

You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Van Gorder asks:

Tell me, Christian friend, are you any match for the world? Indeed not! But you may sing with the poet,

My faith has found a resting place,  
Not in device nor creed;  
I trust the Everliving One,  
His wounds for me shall plead.

Christ is not fighting the battle now that makes me a victor over the world. No indeed! He fought it and won it at the cross. He has died and is risen again. He is the victorious Christ!

The television coverage of a football bowl game in our city was blacked out, so I listened to portions of the game on the radio. But 3 hours after starting time, a telecast of the game was released for our viewing. The game had been videotaped, of course, and we were seeing a replay. I watched with some interest, but I had no doubt of the outcome. I had heard the final score on the radio. I had no need to guess who would win. I already knew. The contest had been completed! The same is true of the battle with Satan. It's already been won!  
p. 149

Blaiklock says:

It is the profundity of the thought that faith is victory. Once faith is born in the Christian's heart, he becomes forthwith invincible. If a man grasps with full confidence the truth of verse five, that the living God burst into human history in Christ and in Christ wrought his salvation, neither angry despot leviathan, nor Satan himself can destroy him.  
p. 95

Mitchell says:

We overcome the world through the Saviour. Jesus Christ gets the victory and we enjoy the deliverance.  
p. 142

He says further:

Faith makes victory possible. Love makes it easy. It delights the heart of God.  
p. 141

He says still further:

Who is the one who overcomes? It is the one who is willing to confess that Jesus is risen and exalted on the throne, that He is none other than the Son of God. "Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37). The overcomer is in relationship and union with the Son of God and realizes that He has already obtained the victory for us. The overcomer knows that the Son of God defeated Satan at the cross and robbed death of its fear and has become the life of His people.

p. 140

### John 16:33

. . . In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

Dr. Mitchell says:

It also reminds us of a little song.

Cheer up, ye saints of God, there's nothing to worry about,  
Nothing to make you feel afraid, nothing to make you doubt.  
Remember, Jesus never fails, so why not trust Him and shout?  
You'll be sorry you worried at all tomorrow morning!

p. 139

v. 6 This is the one who came through water and blood,  
Jesus Christ; not in water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is the one  
who is bearing witness, because the Spirit is the truth.

"THIS IS THE ONE WHO CAME THROUGH WATER AND BLOOD, JESUS CHRIST."

The "WATER" refers to His BAPTISM and the "BLOOD" to the CROSS.

Mark 1:9-11

And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased."

Make no mistake about it, it was Jesus Christ who was baptized by John. The BAPTISM of the Lord Jesus signified the entrance of Christ into the work which He came to perform, and His BLOOD signified the conclusion of that work.

When John speaks of the "BLOOD," he is referring to the cross of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:20

... having made peace through the blood of His cross; ...

Hebrews 9:22

... and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

It was as Jesus Christ died upon that cross bearing the load of our sins that the possibility of forgiveness and cleansing was made available to man.

"NOT IN WATER ONLY, BUT IN THE WATER AND IN THE BLOOD."

It is not just His baptism at the hands of John the Baptist, but also His death on the cross of Calvary.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

But the object of this faith must always be the one who came. Water is a reference to the baptism of Jesus by which His public ministry was initiated. Blood would then refer to His death by which His earthly work was terminated.



John concludes the verse by saying:

"AND THE SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO IS BEARING WITNESS, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT IS THE TRUTH."

There are 2 THINGS that are said about the Holy Spirit here:

1. HE "IS THE ONE WHO IS BEARING WITNESS,"
2. "THE SPIRIT IS THE TRUTH."

#### Romans 8:16, 17

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

One of the initial manifestations of the new birth is the witness of the Holy Spirit who now comes to dwell within us permanently.

This is not John's witness, this is the witness of the Holy Spirit.

#### John 3:8

The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

#### John 16:13

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; . . .

v. 7 Because there are three who are bearing witness,

THE SPIRIT,

THE WATER,

and THE BLOOD.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Both the baptism and the crucifixion of Jesus are strongly attested historical facts.

John has just mentioned these 3 in verse 6:

THE SPIRIT,

THE WATER,

AND THE BLOOD.

Dr. Mitchell says:

It is remarkable to note that our Saviour's ministry started at the River Jordan when He was baptized in water and ended at the cross where He shed His blood.

p. 144

### PEACE-MAKING BLOOD

When a large religious service was being conducted at the Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco, many people quickly became aware that the minister delivering the main address was not thoroughly orthodox. Although a gifted speaker, he began to direct most of his eloquence against the power of the blood of Christ. Ruth E. Marsden relates that when his fluent oratory ended, a timid, elderly lady stood up in the midst of the crowd and softly began to sing a great hymn by William Cowper as a touching rebuttal to the modernist's remarks. A hush fell over the assembly as they heard those faint but familiar words: "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."

Before she could begin the second stanza, approximately a hundred people rose to join her. By the time she reached the third verse, nearly a thousand Christians all over the audience were singing that blessed song of faith. The triumphant, thrilling strains rang out loud and clear: "Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power, till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more." Many were deeply moved as that humble believer stood up for her Lord and with the light of Heaven upon her face gave testimony that she had found peace through the blood of His cross!

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

v. 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in one thing.

Or, it could be translated:

"and the three are in agreement."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary translates it that way:

All three witnesses are in agreement that a single divine person, Jesus Christ, was involved in these events.

All 3 of these witnesses converge in one Person: Jesus Christ.

Guy King, in his book The Fellowship, says:

"... these words are evidently chosen to describe something characteristic of Christ's office [and work]". Various interpretations of the phrase have been suggested; but we cannot, for ourselves, avoid coming back to the view that "water and blood" must point to some purely historical facts in the life of our Lord on earth. We recall, then, those three years of His ministry--at its opening, the Baptism ("by water"); at its close, the Crucifixion ("by Blood"). "Not by water only but by water and Blood"--water only, as if you could dispense with the Blood of His Cross.

There are some who preach "a bloodless Gospel". That omission was the reason why Cain's offering was not acceptable to God--there was no blood in it: all which was a figure of things that were to come. Like Cain, some of the extreme modernists imagine that they know better than God, and think that salvation can be obtained without the atoning sacrifice. They forget, if they do not despise, the Divine declaration that "without shedding of blood is no remission", . . . . How interesting it is that at the completion of [His] ministry we are, in symbol, reminded of its opening and finish--"one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water". "Water"--the sign of the attestation of the well-pleasing Son, commissioned for His task. "Blood"--the sign of the "finished" accomplishment of the crucified Saviour, afterwards to be sealed in His resurrection. By the way, have you noticed that in His risen body there is no blood--"a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see Me have". His precious Blood had been fully shed for us. There, then, is the historical witness [and the basis for a new birth experience].  
pp. 106-7

v. 9 If we are receiving the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; because this is the witness of God, that He has borne witness concerning His Son.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

One therefore has no reason for not accepting God's testimony to the Person of Christ. If man's testimony can be accepted when adequately attested . . .

Deuteronomy 19:15

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.

. . . God's testimony, being greater, ought also to be accepted. Here, then, is God's testimony about His Son, which we ought to accept because of its greatness.

Dr. Mitchell says:

This verse forms a transition between the certainty of God's witness and the certainty of eternal life. The Word of God is greater than the word of men. How easy it is for us to accept the word of men. We go to school and read textbooks written by men and if the scholars agree on some point, we accept their witness. Then why do we approach the Word of God with such a big question mark? Why is it so much easier for people to accept the witness of men than to accept the witness of God?  
p. 146

We read back in:

chapter 3:20

"God is greater than our hearts."

chapter 4:4

God is greater than the one who is in the world.

Now here in:

chapter 5:9

God's witness is greater than that of man.

If we are receiving the "WITNESS OF MEN"--and we do every day in the experiences of life--John is saying:

"THE WITNESS OF GOD IS GREATER."

If you can trust the "WITNESS OF MEN," you can surely trust the "WITNESS OF GOD" when he says:

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

"THE WITNESS OF GOD IS GREATER; BECAUSE THIS IS THE WITNESS OF GOD, THAT HE HAS BORNE WITNESS CONCERNING HIS SON."

The Father's witness is recorded at the time of His baptism when the heavens opened and a voice was heard that said:

"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Here in this passage we have a triple witness from God:

THE SPIRIT,  
THE WATER,  
and THE BLOOD.

v.10 The one who is believing in the Son of God is having the witness in himself; the one who is not believing God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness which God has witnessed concerning His Son.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Accepting this testimony internalizes it for the one who believes. Each believer has God's truth in his heart. There is no middle ground, one either believes, or impugns God's veracity.

"THE ONE WHO IS BELIEVING IN THE SON OF GOD IS HAVING THE WITNESS IN HIMSELF."

The witness that the Christian has within himself is the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1 John 3:24

. . . we are knowing that He is abiding in us, from the Spirit whom He gave to us.

"THE ONE WHO IS BELIEVING IN THE SON OF GOD IS HAVING THE WITNESS IN HIMSELF; THE ONE WHO IS NOT BELIEVING GOD HAS MADE HIM A LIAR, BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BELIEVED IN THE WITNESS WHICH GOD HAS WITNESSED CONCERNING HIS SON."

If we deny the witness of God, we make God a "LIAR."

### 1 John 1:10

If we say that we have not sinned, we are making Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.

"THE ONE WHO IS NOT BELIEVING GOD HAS MADE HIM A LIAR,"

and the reason that John makes this statement that we call God a "LIAR" by not believing in His Son is:

"BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BELIEVED IN THE WITNESS WHICH GOD HAS WITNESSED CONCERNING HIS SON."

v.11 And this is the witness, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

Now John is going to define this "WITNESS." It is that God has given to us "ETERNAL LIFE."

### John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

### John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

The location of this eternal life that John is talking about is in "HIS SON." We note this in the last phrase of verse 11:



"AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON."

(Victory through Surrender by E. Stanley Jones)

Those who talk about the strenuous life are usually talking about the strained life. But the surrendered are quietly creative and actually produce twice as much as the unsundered with all their fussy activity. Dr. Merton Rice puts it thus: "The hurrieder I go, the behinder I get." The unsundered have to increase their pace to cover the fact that they have lost the way.

pp. 35-36

A troubled modern man said: "I have too many twos in my life. I have two houses, two cars, two women--I am two persons." "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Inward division is the basis of the modern misery. One man said: "I am a committee"--debating with himself, a self that wanted contradictory things.

p. 99

(The Grace Awakening by Charles R. Swindoll)

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
so God sent us a Saviour!

p. 275

This "ETERNAL LIFE" can be found nowhere else except in  
"HIS SON." John says:

"THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON."

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

v.12 The one who is having the Son is having the life; the one who is not having the Son of God is not having the life.

In this verse, John uses the contrast to summarize the teaching of the section.

HUMANITY is divided into 2 PARTS:

- 1.THE ONE HAVING THE SON AND HAVING THE LIFE,
- 2.AND THE ONE NOT HAVING THE SON OF GOD AND NOT HAVING THE LIFE.

I have chosen these 2 verses for my KEY VERSES in Study #11:

"FELLOWSHIP IS ACTIVATED BY A NEW BIRTH."

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

I can remember about 20 years ago when one of the Dallas Cowboys came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; I will always remember his testimony:

"If the elevator is going to work, you've got to get ON the elevator."

You must come to that moment of abandonment to Jesus Christ, and by faith commit yourself to Him and to Him alone.

Before fellowship can be a reality I must experience relationship in the new birth and be born into His family.

It is only then as a result of this relationship that I can be counting on fellowship with the Father.

This life only resides in His Son and nowhere else; to have Him is to have life, and to not have Him is to not have life.

When I come to Jesus Christ, I am saved from:

the guilt,

the doom,

the stain,

and the dominion of sin.

I am saved by the sovereign grace of God and the precious blood of Christ.

I am saved for service that I might be an instrument in His hand to reach others, and that I might be to the praise of His glory.

I am saved unto all the blessings of eternal life that come when I turn by faith to Him.

Stott says:

Three important truths are taught in these verses about eternal life. First, it is not a prize which we have earned, but an undeserved gift. Secondly, it is found in Christ, so that, in order to give us life, God both gave and gives us His Son. Thirdly, this gift of life in Christ is a present possession.

p. 183

Our Commander Jesus Christ, who might have directed the battle against sin from the base headquarters, came down to the front lines and died in the trenches for His troops.

He did this to prove His love for me. He actually became a man and died for me that I might live.

He has come to us with His love so that we, in turn, could volitionally respond to Him by an act of our will.

Some people are not sure about their home in heaven. They have doubts about their future salvation. This is sad because they have no assurance. They miss the whole point that Jesus Christ is our salvation.

Our safety does not depend upon what we keep on doing but upon what He is.

This 12th verse says:

"THE ONE WHO IS HAVING THE SON IS HAVING THE LIFE."

Guy King, in his book The Fellowship, says:

What a possession, then, is this Life in the Life-giver--a life that Grows, II Peter iii. 18; that Knows, I John ii. 20; that Shows, Luke viii. 39; that Flows, John vii. 38; that Glows, Psalm xxxiv. 5. . . .

May [we be those who] "possess [our] possessions". . . .  
p. 112

### FEELING FORGIVEN?

Even Martin Luther in one of his moods of depression felt as if Satan himself was closing in upon him. It seemed as if he was whispering in his ear, "Martin, do you feel your sins are forgiven?" Suddenly Luther rose to his feet and shouted aloud, "No, I don't, but I know they are because God says so in His Word!"

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

(The Existence and Attributes of God by Stephen Charnock)

And God, as the master of a vessel, lies patiently at anchor till the last passenger he expects be taken in.  
p. 786

(Success, Motivation, and the Scriptures by William H. Cook)

Someone asked George Beverly Shea how much he knew about God. He said, "Not much, but what I do know has changed my life."

--Billy Graham

Are we to believe that the same God who engineered a successful creation, gave man a successful human body, assigned man tasks which demanded success, stamped man's brain with a failure image?

p. 18

(You Can Make a Difference by Gary R. Collins)

Henri Nouwen wrote, "trusting that new things will happen to us, new things that are far beyond our own imagination, fantasy, or prediction. That, indeed, is a very radical stance toward life in a world preoccupied with control."

p. 246

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Everyone who is believing that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God.

LESSON #2: Flowing out of my love for the Father will be love for my brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

LESSON #3: Assurance of our relationship with the Lord is seen when we are loving God and doing His commandments.

LESSON #4: When you are doing something out of a heart filled with love, it is not a burden.

LESSON #5: Victory over the world and its system comes through faith.

LESSON #6: Salvation is centered in a Person--the Lord Jesus Christ--who came by water, and blood, and was vindicated by the Spirit of truth.

LESSON #7: If we are receiving the witness of men, the witness of God is greater.

LESSON #8: The witness within that we have been born of God is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON #9: Eternal life resides in God's Son and nowhere else.

LESSON #10: Where do you find yourself in verse 12? Are you the one who is having the Son and having life? Or are you the one who is not having the Son and not having life?

In our study of this little epistle of 1 John, we have been talking about FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

We have come to a very crucial part of that study. This FELLOWSHIP that we have been talking about can only be ACTIVATED BY A NEW BIRTH.

Can you say with certainty, on the basis of God's word and your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that He is your personal possession? And because He lives in your heart, you know that you have eternal life?

If you have any doubts or questions about your relationship with the Lord, it is my prayer that you will seek help and come to that moment of saving faith.

An elderly Scotch lady was right when she said:

"I often tremble on the rock, but the rock never trembles under me."

The word of God is the guarantee of our salvation and the ground of our assurance. There is nothing evasive about the message. It is direct and sure. This is one reason why so many people find comfort in the word of God.



Matthew 22:1-14

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who gave a wedding feast for his son. And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast."' But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. But the king was enraged and sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and set their city on fire. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.' And those slaves went out into the streets, and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Romans 1:16, 17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

## TIRED OF LIVIN'--SKEERED OF DYIN'

The song "Ol' Man River" plaintively depicts the misery of slaves who worked long hours lugging bales of cotton. With bodies aching and racked with pain, they were "weary an' sick of tryin', . . . tired of livin' an' skeered of dyin'." They looked at the muddy Mississippi and wished their lives were as peaceful and serene as that mighty stream seemed to be, for "Ol' Man River, he just keeps rollin' along." The same dreadful loneliness and uncertainty--tired of life but afraid of death--is experienced today by many people despite their luxury and affluence.

(From InfoSearch 3.0)

(Pack Up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box, then Sit on the Lid and Laugh! by Barbara Johnson)

If You Can't Go Around It, Over It,  
or Through It, You Had Better  
Negotiate with It

Death is God's way of saying, "Your table is ready."  
p. 29

(To the End of the Race by George McDaniel Cole)

In those days it was legal to hunt deer with dogs. The hunters knew the country, the habits of the game, and the best ways of hunting. With shotguns loaded with buckshot, the hunters would find an opening in the brush near the place where the deer would most likely pass. The dogs would chase the deer, and by the sound of the voice from the hounds, the hunters knew how to alter their position for a shot at the game. Frequently, this kind of hunting was done from horseback.

Buck was my father's best deer dog. He was a splendid animal in every respect, but at his best when hunting deer. He was exceptionally strong in body and very fast. He could stay close to the game he pursued and leave the other dogs behind. He stayed with the game, gave good voice, and never quit a race.

On one occasion as my father followed on horseback, he drew close to Buck and could tell that a deer was just ahead. As the strong notes came from ole Buck, Daddy rode hard that he might get a shot at the deer. In just a moment, the strong notes of the race turned into a whimpering whine. As he rode upon the scene, it unfolded to my daddy in a glance.

There had been a lot of rain down in East Texas and the river was swollen. The deer knew the only means of escape was through the river, so he went into the water. The water was swift and the logs and debris moved rapidly downstream with the current. Seeing all of this, Buck knew that he had to go into that river and Buck was afraid.

When Buck saw his master he braced to go into the river, but before he could do this, Daddy blew his horn. Buck knew the sound of his master's horn. He knew that this was a call to come to him . . . that the race was over. Buck came to his master.

My father swung from the saddle, placed a strong hand of assurance on his dog and spoke to him. He told him all about the race he had run. He said, "Buck, you've run a good race. I've been watching you all along. I saw you at the beginning, when you made a strike. You took the trail, knowing what you were doing. I saw you, fellow, when you went through the briars in the thickets. It hurt me to see those thorns cutting your sides, but you didn't even seem to notice. You just stayed with the race. I saw you, briefly, when after a long run, you went into the forest and "trash game" ran everywhere . . . and you were not distracted for a moment. I heard you give clear note, from start to finish. You did well, Buck, and I'm mighty proud to have you as one of my own."

"Now Buck, you can't go into that river. You know that no dog can survive in water with a deer. That deer would cut you to pieces with his sharp hooves. You would be no match. Besides, Buck, you would never make it across the river. The water is too swift, the debris is too heavy, and the distance is too great. Your race is over."

"There is a bridge down the way, Buck. Let's just go on down there and cross over the river together, you and I, and we will just go on home before darkness comes on."

In a little while, you and I shall come to the end of the race. Stretching out before us will be the great river of death. It will seem, in that moment that we are alone, on the shore, and that we must put our feet into the turbulent stream. We have learned to love much of this life. Objects and persons of our affection are here. We have to leave them. Time has come, now, and they can go with us no further. Amid the heartaches and tears of a last farewell, we pause to reflect . . . and something of that fear seizes our physical heart.

I fancy that in the very moment that we feel alone, we shall hear our MASTER blow the trumpet to call us in from the race. He shall pause for a moment, to talk with us on the bank of the river.

"My child, do not be afraid. I've been here all the time. I'm with you now. I'm with you ever. You've run a good race, but now, you've finished the course. It's time to come in from the field."

"I saw you, when you did not see me. I saw you when you entered this race. Your joy was my joy. I was there in the midst of the briars and the thickets, you fell, and your injuries hurt me. I saw you arise, to run again. I knew every injury you sustained. I saw the wounds inflicted by the enemy from without and by the traitor from within. Not one thing escaped my vision. Oh, yes, I saw you when you were almost pulled out of the race by the "trash in the forest," but how good it was to see you come back so strong after a brief pause. I saw you grow weary and keep plodding. You've done well. I'm glad that you are one of my own."

"Now, my child, you can't go into the river. The water is too dangerous, the current is too swift, the river is too wide. You could never make it across. But, you don't have to do so. Back yonder, years ago, I crossed that river for you, at Calvary. When I came forth from the tomb, I left a bridge for you to cross. Evening time is here. We best go now. Let me take you by the hand, and we shall cross over the bridge, and you and I shall go on home, together."

Yonder on the other side of the river is that City of God. Within are the redeemed of all ages, the angel band and the "Many dwelling places" for God's own children. Yonder are the walls of jasper, the streets of gold, and the gates of pearl all standing wide open. Loved ones, long since gone home, await our coming. That which we had thought to be the twilight of evening was but the first glitter of an eternal Morning. What a Day! What an Hour! What a VICTORY! So, then,

When the last feeble steps have been taken,  
And the gates of that city appear,  
When the beautiful songs of The Angels,  
Float out on my listening ear;

When all that now seems so mysterious,  
Shall be as bright and as clear as the day,  
Then the trials of the RACE will seem nothing,  
When I come to the end of life's day.

pp. 83-89

### STUDY #11 - 1 John 5:1-12

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Everyone who is believing that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God.

LESSON #2: Flowing out of my love for the Father will be love for my brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

LESSON #3: Assurance of our relationship with the Lord is seen when we are loving God and doing His commandments.

LESSON #4: When you are doing something out of a heart filled with love, it is not a burden.

LESSON #5: Victory over the world and its system comes through faith.

LESSON #6: Salvation is centered in a Person--the Lord Jesus Christ--who came by water, and blood, and was vindicated by the Spirit of truth.

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