

A Practical Study of 1 JOHN
“Fellowship With The Father”
Study Number Eleven

1 John 5:1-12

Fellowship is Activated by a New Birth

You know in trying to put this chapter together the KEY THOUGHT in chapter 5 is ETERNAL LIFE. Whereas it is LIGHT in the early chapters, it is LOVE in the middle chapters, now it is LIFE.

And it is like John as he writes these final words has a burning passion that people understand what the stakes are and understand how a person has a relationship to God.

It is like John is going back to the very basic foundational truth and that is eternal life.

John is the only one of the authors of the New Testament who records the account of JESUS with NICODEMUS in John chapter 3. And in that marvelous account here is a very religious man, a member of the Sanhedrin, probably 70 years old, a man who has had all of the honors of life, he is a Pharisee, one of 6,000 in the brotherhood, and yet he comes and he hears a message from Jesus you must be born again.

John 3:3

“Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

In John 3:7

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

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

I felt like I was reliving John 3 when I got into this first section of the 5th chapter.

We are examining in our study:

FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

Here we are talking about:

“FELLOWSHIP IS ACTIVATED BY A NEW BIRTH.”

Back in study #1 we talked about:

FELLOWSHIP IS RESTORED BY JESUS CHRIST.

Fellowship is Restored by Jesus Christ in study #1 but it is Activated by a New Birth.

John 10:27-29 would be a good verse.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life

You see there is no sense in even talking about fellowship without relationship. And as John is wrapping this up, he comes back to that basic premise. Maybe the reason you do not feel close to God is that you never have made that personal decision to respond to

John 3:16

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

Do you know that? Are you sure and secure in your relationship to Him?

Harry Emmerson Fosdick said:

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

You make choices and you are making choices everyday.

Now John is focusing on the fact that Jesus Christ is life and life eternal.

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.

You see what has happened in this first verse is LOVE and BELIEF are put back together again.

Back in chapter 3 and verse 23 we read:

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

It is LOVE and BELIEF that come together. Everyone who loves the Father loves His child as well is John's argument.

And would you notice and I had not noticed this that the very two things we are talking about this morning are the two things that he has warned us about in the two major red lights on the dashboard.

1. First of all with regard to LOVE we are not to love the world.
2. With regard to BELIEF we have learned previously that we are not to be believing every spirit, but to test the spirits.

To John, this is the battleground. First of all that I have ETERNAL LIFE through faith and faith alone and

that will manifest itself in love for other brothers and sisters who are born again of the Spirit into that same family. So that will issue from this relationship with the Father will indeed bind us together as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

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

Now we have had that phrase “BORN OF GOD” several times:

chapter 3:9,

chapter 4:7,

chapter 5:4,

and it will be in chapter 5:18 next time as we wrap it up.

Do you remember how our last study started.

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.

Guy King says:

We have heard the old saying, “Love me, love my dog.”

The idea here is similar, “Love God, love His child.”

We manifest it in our love.

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.

You see now John is getting more specific on:

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

Well I know it in 2 WAYS here:

- 1. He says “WHEN WE ARE LOVING GOD” and**
- 2. When “WE ARE DOING HIS COMMANDMENTS” or we are obedient.**

When I am concentrating on my love in the VERTICAL relationship, my love in the HORIZONTAL relationship will be a normal outgrowth and I will express it in an obedient heart.

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

Now there are 3 THINGS that issue from the obedient heart or keeping His commandments:

- 1. WE ARE KNOWING THAT WE KNOW HIM
chapter 2:3**
- 2. WE ARE ABIDING IN HIM chapter 3:24**
- 3. WE ARE KNOWING THAT WE ARE LOVING
THE CHILDREN OF GOD chapter 5:2**

Did you ever stop to think that maybe the lack of the fruitage of the Spirit or the AGAPE love that we talked about last time is the result of a disobedient heart?

That I am not being obedient specifically of what He asks of me in the Word and therefore I am a person that is not realizing the joy that God intended for my personal relationship with Him and with other brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

Barbara Johnson put it this way in “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

Yes, that is what He longs for from us.

v. 3 For this is the love of God, that we are keeping His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome [or I put in parenthesis to help you understand that word] (difficult to fulfill).

His commandments are not difficult because we love him and we want to do what He wants us to do. We manifest our love to God by our obedient heart.

Let me just give you a few verses on that.

John 15:10

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.

John 15:14

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

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.

Obedience to His Word is proof of our love. And if we become lukewarm and complacent in our attitude toward the Lord then it is not going to manifest itself in the keeping of His commands.

John 14:21

He that has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.

His commandments are not burdensome, and they are not heavy.

Do you remember Moses' farewell address in the book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 30:11, 14

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.

No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

It is like Moses is saying hey look this is not beyond you man. This is simple. If you will just express the obedient heart, it is going to solve all the problems. You are going to respond to a loving God who has done everything for you.

v. 4 Because everyone that has been born of God is conquering the world; and this is the victory which conquered the world-- *["our fighting for it" Is that what it says? You see too many times we think that victory over the world is done by our fighting here and fighting there and once again John makes it quite clear that faith is the victory. We appropriate all that God has provided and victory over the world comes as a result of]* **our faith.**

You know I got to thinking about that too. How many biblical characters teach us that the victory comes by faith?

Romans 4:20, 21

Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief but was strong in faith, giving glory to God that what He had promised He was able also to perform.

What about David slipping there into the valley facing Goliath, and splits him with the rock but the battle is the Lords and he is trusting God to take him forward.

What about Joshua. Boy, Lord you must have a big battle plan for the first major battle in the land. Now let me tell you what the battle plan is Joshua. You march around that city one day and you go back to the house. Then you do that for several straight days and then on the final day you are going to march around it seven times and then you are going to blow the horns and the walls are going to fall down and the city is yours. Now what is the challenge of the people? Believe God. Trust Him. Do it His way. Faith is the victory.

Jehoshaphat surrounded by all the forces from the north, the east and the west. Jehoshaphat calls everybody to prayer and he says Lord we do not know

what to do but our eyes are upon you. The Lord's response to the prophet is you are not going to need to fight in this battle. You are going to watch and see. Just start singing. It is going to come, the victory will be ours.

Moses, the same way, standing at the Red Sea, tells the people set yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. Even though the armies of Pharaoh are coming behind us and the Red Sea is in front of us. Between a rock and a hard place, God is going to open up a way. Faith, they believed God.

Is it any wonder that it was faith that released the believer from the bondage from sin that it would also be the same faith that would lead us on from victory unto victory? God recognizes that it is by faith that we appropriate Christ for salvation but it is by faith that we appropriate Christ for victory in our individual lives! You do not change programs once you come into God's family. You get on a performance kick. It is still appropriating all that your glorious Savior has given you to make you strong in your weaknesses to provide the victory. It is faith at the point of human futility. I cannot but You can. It is faith involving the will not just the head and the heart.

Faith is complete trust in God's ability to do what He has promised and these who are born of God have gained victory by faith over the world, the flesh and the devil, the enemies of believers who want to grow.

I found this little statement the other day, I just love this.

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

God is faithful!

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?

There again, single condition of faith. Who is the one who is gaining the victory? Yes:

“THE ONE WHO IS CONQUERING THE WORLD”

“THE ONE WHO IS BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD”

Victory in Jesus Christ.

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.

Now you are getting ready with me for the next few minutes to travel through some very, very difficult territory simply because there are many denominational inclinations that affect the expositor and there have been volumes and volumes and volumes

written on these next verses as to what John is trying to tell us.

Now I do not have any ulterior motive in my exposition but I also am not a fool to tell you that I understand the passage. I am only going to give you the limited exposition of my own research on this work. But let me just give you what I think is the simplest and the best understanding.

Now we are talking about the One who provides all the victory. We are talking about our Savior Jesus Christ. If you will just put Jesus into these verses it will solve the whole thing.

“THIS IS THE ONE [*Jesus Christ*] WHO CAME THROUGH WATER AND BLOOD.”

You see the beginning and the ending of Jesus Christ's life on earth and ministry began with water at the BAPTISM by John the Baptist and it ended in BLOOD as He hung on Calvary's cross.

And so “THIS IS THE ONE WHO CAME THROUGH WATER.” He was inducted into His public ministry through the baptism in the Jordan and then His ministry *Tetelestai* was finished when He shed His blood on Calvary's cross. “JESUS CHRIST;” oh, but he goes on to say something else, “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.”

You see there are a lot of people today that believe that water is all that is needed. You baptize the little child, you experience the ordinance of baptism and you just live a good life and do the best you can and you are on your way to heaven. Many people today are repulsed by the thought that they are saved by the blood of the Lamb.

Colossians 1:20

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

Hebrews 9:22

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

And then dear John concludes the verse by saying “THE SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO IS BEARING WITNESS, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT IS THE [*spirit of*] TRUTH,” the Holy Spirit witnesses. Now take verse 7 right with the same argument.

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

And who are they?

THE SPIRIT,

THE WATER,

and THE BLOOD.

They all go together to point to the person of Jesus Christ. Both His baptism and His crucifixion are strongly attested historic facts but the Spirit of Truth above all else affirms what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

I read a little story the other day. It says:

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!

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

Now this is difficult Greek to translate.

It is “THE SPIRIT AND THE WATER AND THE BLOOD.” And these three are in agreement. In other words they are in one thing. They are all agreed that this is the way it is.

All three of these witnesses converge in only one person and that person is Jesus Christ, God’s Son come in human flesh.

Now having said that, John says this.

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.

You see these three are in agreement and if we are accepting the witness of men, why can't we accept the witness of God because the witness of God is greater and this is the witness that He has borne concerning His Son. There as He was baptized in the river Jordan by water, as He shed His blood on Calvary's cross and as the Spirit of God sealed that act of redemption. They all agree. Can't we accept that witness?

We read back in chapter 3:20 that

“God is greater than our hearts.”

Chapter 4:4

“God is greater than the one in the world.”

Now here in chapter 5:9

“God's witness is greater than” the witness of men.

Yes, it is founded on the truth of God's eternal purpose and promise to mankind.

These next three verses form the foundation for assurance of salvation. Especially verses 11 and 12

which are our **KEY VERSES** for this study on eternal life but we also have included verse 10 many times.

v. 10 The one who is believing in the Son of God is having the witness in himself; *[and you know that is the Spirit of God]* the one who is not believing God *[well as a result of that he]* 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, *[we did not earn it – it is a gift]* and this life is *[centered]* in His Son.

Everything you need or ever going to need for all eternity is in Jesus Christ.

Someone said:

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!

**His Son and He came to bring eternal life.
Now listen, there is no eternal life anywhere else.**

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but by Me.

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.

“THE ONE WHO IS HAVING THE SON IS HAVING THE LIFE.”

Do you have the Son?

And do you have life?

“THE ONE WHO IS NOT HAVING THE SON OF GOD IS NOT HAVING THE LIFE.”

Where are you in that verse? You see, are you in the first part of it or in the last part of it?

Salvation and FELLOWSHIP IS ACTIVATED BY A NEW BIRTH. Do you know that?

Can you think back in your mind, and inviting Jesus Christ into my life.

Do you have something like that? You say, “oh well I have grown up in a Christian home.”

Do you know deep inside that an eternal transaction has taken place?

Salvation comes at the moment of abandonment to self and when we make that commitment to Jesus Christ by faith.

Do you know Jesus Christ as Savior?

You see when you come to Christ you are saved from your:

guilt,

the doom,

the stain,

the dominion of sin,

and Jesus Christ takes over.

You have the Son and you have life, you have experienced the forgiveness. And then that sets the stage for fellowship.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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?

STUDY NUMBER ELEVEN

FELLOWSHIP IS ACTIVATED BY A NEW BIRTH

1 JOHN 5:1-12

KEY VERSES 5:11-12

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.

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 John 5:1-12 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What must one do to experience “being born of God,” according to verse 1?

3. How do we know that we are “loving the children of God,” according to verse 2?

4. What is the “victory that conquered the world,” according to verse 4?

5. What is the “witness of God,” according to verse 9?

6. Where is “eternal life” located, according to verse 11?

7. How is mankind divided, according to verse 12?

8. Are you able to share a time when you came to know Jesus Christ as your own Savior?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?
