



6/16/26

VBS is only 5 weeks away! Are you ready? It's a crazy week every year, and it's an awesome week every year. I am always so blown away by all the volunteers who jump in and help make it a wonderful week where we get to share the gospel with hundreds of kids and see lives changed. We're doing some prep work for it this week, and I'm getting excited!!! If you've not volunteered to help before, I encourage you to make this your year. You won't regret it!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 John 5:6-12

This passage can be a little confusing. I had to look at a commentary to understand it. I have to say... it's really cool... and really important for me to see in context.

I want to get a running start with vs. 5, "Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" I NEED to overcome the world. The world is run by the devil, the father of lies, who tries to trap me and lure me into believing that what looks good, feels good, and shows ME off is what will satisfy my soul. It's a lie. There is no satisfaction in loving what the world loves, only regret. I cannot overcome the world in my own strength because my own strength is the flesh and the flesh embraces the world and hates God. I am stuck with the flesh until heaven, BUT as a believer in Jesus Christ I can overcome the flesh!!!

Now... what does the passage say about this Jesus in whom I believe?

Vs. 6-8 ~ "This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood."

Okay... Jesus came by water... baptism. The first thing He did when He began His ministry was to be baptized in water. Unlike me, He did not need baptism. He chose it as a model for me. Baptism signifies that I went down into death WITH Christ and came up into new life IN Christ.

Jesus also came by blood... He shed His blood on the cross for my salvation. My blood could not cover my sin. His perfect, holy, unblemished blood was enough for the sins of the whole world! He willingly laid down His life and poured out His blood to death for me.

"And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth."

The Holy Spirit bears witness that this is all true. Jesus promised that when He ascended to heaven, He would send His Spirit who would teach us and lead us in all that is true. The Spirit teaches us that Jesus was fully God and fully man, and He gave Himself for me.

"For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree."

I have to be careful. This is something I take for granted, and in all honesty, easily miss its importance. The water, the blood, and the Spirit all agree. There is not one place where their testimony is inconsistent. This makes the Lord trustworthy and true. If I were to be placed on the jury of a court case and none of the witnesses had testimony that aligned with each other, I would not know who to believe. I would not trust. BUT GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY AND TRUE. No one matches His faithfulness or His truth. I overcome the lies of the world by believing Him. And He GIVES me plenty of reason to believe.

Here's the thing that blows my mind!!! Who am I that the creator of the universe, the King of all kings, the Most High would want to prove to me that He's trustworthy??? I have done absolutely nothing to deserve this kind of honor!!! Praise His name!!!

Vs. 9 ~ "If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that He has borne concerning His Son."

God does not expect me to have blind faith. He gives me tons of witnesses who testify to God's faithfulness and love in their lives. But that's a pittance of the testimony of God the Father Himself who opened up the sky at Jesus' baptism and said, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." How often do we hear the voice of God on this earth??? Never! But He testified for His Son. Wow. His testimony is even greater than any man's testimony. So I have Jesus' baptism, His crucifixion, the Holy Spirit, and the Father all testifying to the one who makes me an overcomer by faith. Not only do I have all those to see outwardly... but as I will see in vs. 10, I have His testimony planted in my HEART!!!

Vs. 10 ~ "Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself."

God has placed the Spirit in my heart to testify to my spirit that I am a child of the Father... I can cry out, "Abba, Father (Romans 8:16).

"Whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the

testimony that God has borne concerning His Son."

This is where I have to remember that faith is way more than saying, "Yeah, I believe." Faith in Jesus is exemplified in my love for Him and displayed in my obedience to Him. John said in 1 John 1 that faith means I recognize my need for Jesus to save me and cleanse me from my sin. He says in vs. 10 that if I say I "have not sinned, I make Him a liar and His word is not in me." If I don't have His word, I don't have Him! This is not just any word I'm trusting. This is the word of the Father, by the work of the Holy Spirit who must dwell in me in order for my faith to save me, through the blood of Jesus poured out for me. The truth is, if my faith does not lead to the action of love and obedience, then my faith is not real... and I wouldn't really want God anyway. O Lord, praise You! I DO believe! Please grow my faith so much that I'm perfected in Your love!

Vs. 11-12 ~ What is the whole testimony of the Father? "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

God so loved me that He gave His Son for me, that if I would put my faith in Him, my confidence in Him, my hope in Him... He would give me eternal life in Him. With Jesus, I have ALL the treasures of being a child of God for all eternity. Without Jesus, I have nothing.

O Lord, what happens when I overcome the world by faith? I overcome the lies. I overcome the lure of thinking that making myself look good, feel good, or be shown off will ever satisfy me. I overcome self sabotage. I stop justifying hatred and resentment and anything that doesn't align with You.

The curse of sin is so strong that it took the whole Godhead to make me an overcomer. It took the Father sending His Son. It took the Son fulfilling the righteous requirement of the law through His baptism, death, and resurrection. It takes the Spirit dwelling in me and transforming me to be like Jesus one degree of glory to the next. The spiritual forces of evil are too strong for me, but they are not too strong for the Lord. My only role in overcoming is to put all my faith in the Lord. O Lord, please remove all the deception from my mind and my heart and help me to be wholly surrendered to You! Praise You for making me an overcomer!!! Not because of my glory... but because of YOURS.