

THAT YOU MAY

KNOW

A STUDY OF FIRST JOHN

“Assurance and
the Triumph
of Faith”

1 John 5:1–5

“Assurance and the Triumph of Faith” – 1 John 5:1–5

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and

His commandments are not burdensome.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

I. **Divine in Origin (v. 1)**

II. **Transformative in Nature (vv. 2–3)**

III. **Victorious by Design (vv. 4–5)**

I. True faith triumphs because it is divine in origin.

1 John 5:1

*"Whoever believes that
Jesus is the Christ is
born of God."*



“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him” (5:1).

- **“Whoever believes”** – introduces a universal truth at the individual level; the verb “believes” is one of John’s favorites (98x in his Gospel); this *believing* describes an ongoing practice of life.
 - It is not mere *assent* to historical facts, but an *embrace* of those facts as true for me (see 4:16; John 20:30–31).
 - John Murray: “Faith is knowledge passing into conviction, and it is conviction passing into confidence.”
- **“That Jesus is the Christ”** – the content of this belief; the name “Jesus” points to His humanity; the title “Christ” points to His identity as the promised “anointed One”; the false teachers denied this association.

“Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?
This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son”

—1 John 2:22

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”

—1 John 4:2–3

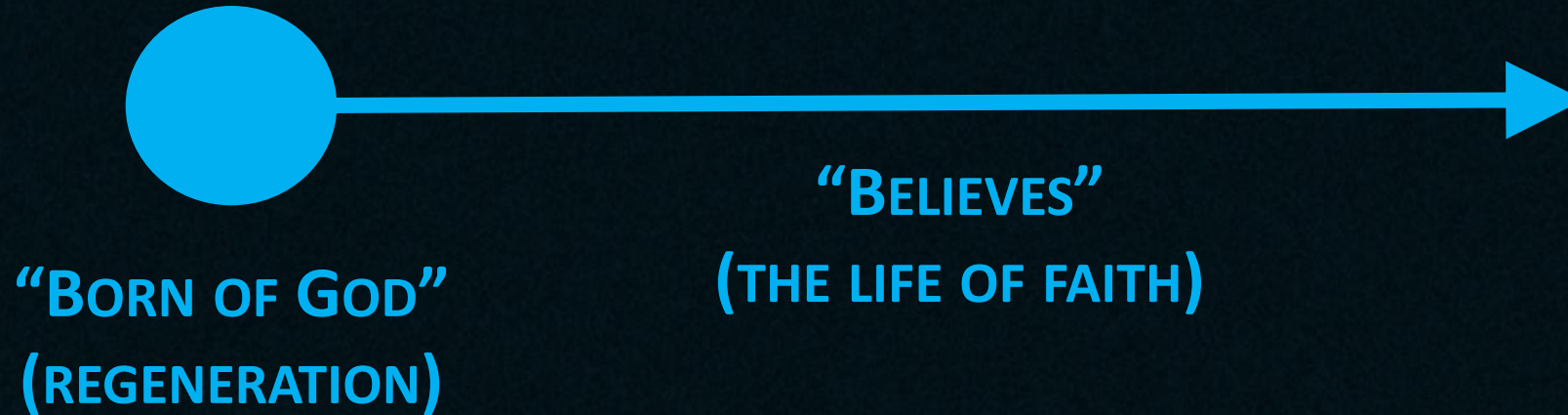
“For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

—2 John 7

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him” (5:1).

- **“Is born of God”** – a declared fact—literally, “from God has been born”; the verb emphasizes a decisive act that results in a new state of existence; it is done *to us* and not *by us*.
- It is this act—*spiritual birth or regeneration*—that results in the life of *belief*.
- **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.”

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him” (5:1).



- “At the most fundamental level, regeneration is the divine impartation of eternal spiritual life into the spiritually dead sinner. . . . Regeneration is the sovereign act of God, by the Holy Spirit and through the preached gospel, whereby he instantaneously imparts spiritual life to a sinner, bringing him out of spiritual death and into spiritual life” (MacArthur & Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 580).

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and **whoever loves the Father **loves the *child* born of Him**” (5:1).**

- Literally, “whoever loves the One who begat also loves the one begotten from Him.”
- **“Whoever loves the Father”** – introduces another universal truth at the individual level; John assumes that the one who is *born of God* (“the Father”) will automatically love his heavenly Father.
- **“Loves the child born of Him”** – a declared fact; describes an ongoing habit of life of love toward individual believers (see 4:19–21).
- Thus, Christian love is generated not because of the inherent worthiness of the one loved, but because of the recognition of *shared paternity*.

“The born-again believer, conscious that he has received new life from God, loves the one who gave him birth and also feels inspired to love the one in whom he sees that new life in operation.”

—D. Edmond Hiebert, *Epistles of John*, 225

“It is the nature of *God* that one loves in His children; and if one does not love that nature here, one does not love it there.”

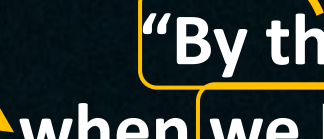
—George Findlay, *Fellowship in Life Eternal*, 368

II. True faith triumphs because it is transformative in nature.

1 John 5:2–3

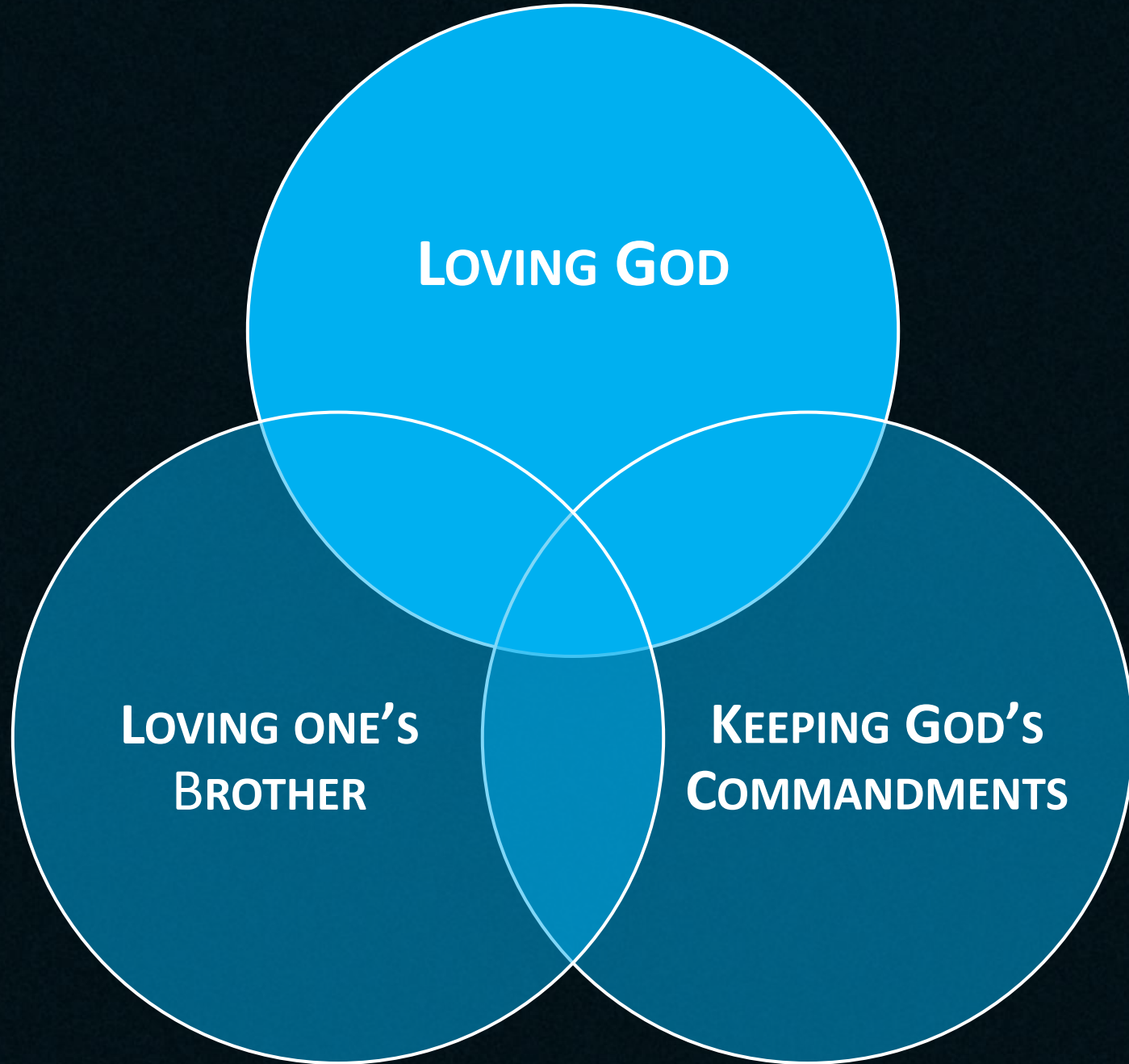
“By this we know . . . when we love God and observe His commandments.”





**“By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God and observe His commandments” (5:2).**

- **“By this we know”** – John gives another basis for assurance; “this” points to the second half of the sentence.
- **“That we love the children of God”** – i.e., that we are “born of God,” since the one born of God loves others born of God (5:1; 4:19–21; etc.).
- **“When we love God”** – the *first* of two proofs; love of the children of God and love of God have been so equated by this point in the letter, John is able to reverse the order; if one doesn’t exist, the other doesn’t.
- **“And observe His commandments”** – the *second* of two proofs; the lifestyle committed to conformity to God’s revealed standards.



“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome” (5:3).

- **“For this is the love of God”** – John sheds further light on the previous verse by explaining what a life of love for God looks like.
- **“That we keep His commandments”** – the concrete expression of love for God is a life pursuing obedience to God’s revealed will; a categorical rejection of *antinomianism*.
- **“His commandments are not burdensome”** – literally, “burdensome they are not”; they are not “a source of difficult or trouble because of demands made” (see Matthew 11:29–30).

~~ANTINOMIANISM
(freedom from laws)~~

“Love-prompted obedience finds that God’s commandments are not a crushing burden which exhausts one’s strength and destroys the sense of freedom in Christ. The believer finds that the new life in Christ implants in him a desire to do the will of God and finds that love makes obedience to His commands rewarding, for he realizes that God has given His laws for his own protection and true well-being.”

—Hiebert, *Epistles of John*, 228

DELIGHT IN DUTY

DELIGHT IN DUTY

Men of the Word

III. True faith triumphs because it is victorious by design.

1 John 5:4–5

*“For whatever is born of
God overcomes the world.”*



“For **whatever is born of God** **overcomes the world**; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (5:4).

- “**Whatever is born of God**” – another universal truth; the context connects this truth to the one who genuinely believes in the identity of Jesus as *the Christ* (v. 1), *the Son of God* (v. 5).
- “**Overcomes the world**” – another declared fact; “to be victorious, to vanquish”; already used in 2:13 and 4:4; “the world” refers to all that which stands opposed to God (2:15–17).
- John depicts the life of the believer in this present world as a life of unavoidable struggle; but the outcome is nonetheless guaranteed.

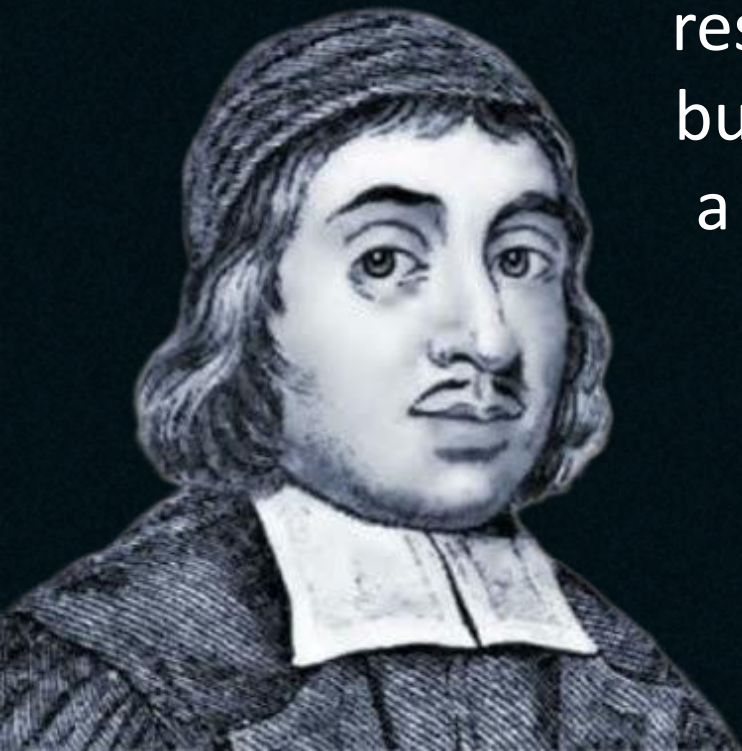


“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is **the victory that has overcome the world—**our faith**” (5:4).**

- **“The victory that has overcome”** – literally, “the victory which is victorious” or “the triumph that is triumphant”; the verb implies a completed action—the outcome is guaranteed!
- **“Our faith”** – emphatic; it is not “the” faith as a reference to the gospel, but “our” faith as a reference to the new life imparted to us through regeneration; the personal pronoun “our” is astounding!
- Jesus Christ, our Captain, has overcome the world (John 16:33); through new life in Him, we automatically become partakers in that victory.

“Christ is to be answerable for all those that are given to Him, at the last day, and therefore we need not doubt but that He will certainly employ all the power of His Godhead to secure and save all those that He must be accountable for. Christ’s charge and care of these that are given to Him, extends even to the very day of their resurrection, that He may not so much as lose their dust, but gather it together again, and raise it up in glory to be a proof of His fidelity; for, saith He, ‘I shall lose nothing, but raise it up again at the last day.’”

—Thomas Brooks



Men of the Word

“Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (5:5).

- **“Who is the one?”** – John ends this paragraph by calling his readers to consider a question.
- **“He who believes that Jesus is the Son of God”** – the answer to the question; John connects back to v. 1 and again emphasizes the fundamental necessity of *belief in the apostolic witness concerning the identity of Jesus*.
- **John 20:31** – “these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Men of the Word

2025-2026

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