

YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE: 1 JOHN 5

1 John 5:1-3 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

- We have a family that cannot be separated. To believe in Jesus is to be a child of God. To love God is to love His children. His children understand that loving God results in obeying Him and loving one another.
- And this is burdensome? It seems that way to so many. Is following His way a task for you? Is loving His children a burden you don't want to carry? What would that say about us?

4-5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- There's a spiritual battle taking place. It began in the garden and continues today.
 - **1 John 2:13-14** I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one . . . I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.
 - **1 John 4:4** Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
 - **Romans 8:37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
 - **Revelation 3:21** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.
 - **John 16:33** In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

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. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- Some see water and blood as a reference to the water and blood that flowed from His side when it was pierced on the cross (**John 19:34**). That could very well be true.
- However, I think a better understanding would be water (Jesus' baptism when the Spirit fell on Him and the voice of God confirmed who He was) and blood (the manner in which Jesus gave up His own life and His side was pierced). It covers the beginning and end up His ministry. It also ties Jesus to the Christ, not only when the Spirit fell on Him, but also Christ on the cross (which some Gnostics denied).

9-12 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. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. 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. 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.

- **John 5:30-47**

13-15 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything

according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

- This tells you why John ultimately wrote the letter. He needed to address fellowship and righteous living. He needed to address false prophets. He needed to encourage them on to brotherly love. Yes, but this is all tied to eternal life. He didn't want anyone doubting the *message* that brought their salvation or their *salvation* itself. He didn't want them to be in fear or confusion. He wanted them to know they have eternal life.
- Not "will have" eternal life. They have eternal life. We need to talk about such a relationship with God in very certain terms. This IS the relationship you have.
- In this relationship He DOES listen. He DOES answer. It's not only a future blessing, but one we're enjoying now. It's an invitation to pray. God has a will and I assume there are many ways to skin the cat. He's waiting to hear from you. This is a blessing for the child of God who has eternal life. There are very meaty things we could pray for and I believe what follows is an example.
 - [Mark 11:24](#) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

16-17 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life - to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

- We know we have sinned and do sin ([1 John 1:8,10](#)).
- Sandwiched between those verses is the guidance to confess ([1 John 1:9](#)).
- However, there are those who walk in darkness. The only fix for that is to walk in light.
- I believe the sin that leads to death is sin that is practiced without repentance. One who walks in darkness. We should not be praying that God forgive such actions. It's rebellious.
 - Remember, we are to pray according to God's will.

18-19 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

- There are two main interpretations:
 - Jesus protects the child of God from Satan.
 - That the child of God protects himself (by following God) and Satan flees. Several translations seem to favor this. Also, it's understood that the one born of God is the Christian in the beginning of the passage, so it's very reasonable that he's still considering the Christian.
 - This is powerful, because God has given us the tools to fight against Satan. It's all from Him.

20-21 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

- So, we'll finish where we started. Do you know the Lord? I mean . . . *know* Him?
- If we're not interested in knowing Him, then who or what do we know? This world? The one who has power over it?
- "Keep yourselves from idols" makes sense when you're thinking along these lines. He's probably not talking about literal idols (he's not mentioned them at all). He's talking about the principle of loving the world and everything in it over God. But, that's doesn't make sense for the one who has overcome the world, does it? Remember - this world and the things in it will pass away, but not us.