

20210711 THE CHARACTER AND POWER OF OUR FAITH

Deeper into Fellowship and Love Part 11

1 John 5:1-5

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Irenaeus wrote,

“These men falsify the oracles of God, and prove themselves evil interpreters of the good word of revelation. They also overthrow the faith of many, by drawing them away, under a pretense of [superior] knowledge, from Him who founded and adorned the universe; as if, forsooth, they had something more excellent and sublime to reveal, than that God who created the heaven and the earth, and all things that are therein. By means of specious and plausible words, they cunningly allure the simple-minded to inquire into their system... and these simple ones are unable, even in such a matter, to distinguish falsehood from truth. Error, indeed, is never set forth in its naked deformity, lest, being thus exposed, it should at once be detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress, so as, by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced (ridiculous as the expression may seem) more true than the truth itself.”

The three characteristics of the children of God are:

One. God’s children believe that Jesus is the Christ.

Two. God’s children love other genuine Christians.

Three. God’s children obey God’s commands.

And the power of the faith that Genuine Christians have is that we who believe Jesus as the Son of God and trust Him as the Savior and Lord overcome the world.

NUMBER ONE. GOD’S CHILDREN BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST.

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

Isaiah 35, verses 3-5,

³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Isaiah 61, verses 1-2,

¹ The Year of the Lord’s Favor

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,

because the Lord has anointed me

to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim freedom for the captives

and release from darkness for the prisoners,

² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

Luke 4, verses 18 and 21,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant
and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were
fastened on him,

²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is
fulfilled in your hearing."

John 1, verse 12,

¹² Yet to all who received Jesus, to those who believed in Jesus'
name, Jesus gave the right to become children of God—

Isaiah 17. Verse 7,

⁷ In that day men will look to their Maker
and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel.

**NUMBER TWO. GOD'S CHILDREN LOVE OTHER GENUINE
CHRISTIANS.**

¹ ...and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by
loving God and carrying out his commands.

John tells us how we know we love other Christians. Two
barometers of our love for our brothers and sisters.

One. Our love for God – that is, our life of worship.

Two. Carrying out His commands.

Hebrews 10, verse 25 says,

²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit
of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as
you see the Day approaching.

**NUMBER THREE. GOD'S CHILDREN OBEY GOD'S
COMMANDS.**

³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his
commands are not burdensome.

2 Peter 2, verse 7.

⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by
the filthy lives of lawless men

1 Timothy 6, verse 20,

²⁰ Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid
godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with
their so-called knowledge.

1 Peter 3, verses 15 and 16.

¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

THE POWER OF OUR FAITH IN THIS WORLD.

⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.