

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard
Elliott Baptist Church
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Faith That Brings Victory
I John 5:1-5

INTRO: In verse four, John says: “And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” The first five verses of I John 5 are victory verses. It is because of the new birth that the child of God can experience daily victory. Note the words of verse five: “Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Each believer can experience:

- Victory through the new birth (vs 1)
- Victory through obedience (vss 2-3)
- Victory through faith (vss 4-5).

I. VS 1, VICTORY THROUGH THE NEW BIRTH

- A. The verse joins together two key ingredients of New Testament Christianity, namely faith and love. Here is what John declares:
 - 1. The nature of saving faith: “whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...” There is not spiritual victory without the victor!
 - 2. The result of saving faith: “every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.” We can love each other; we can have personal victory because we know the Savior.
- B. Saving faith– it’s nature (1a).
 - 1. Many folks do not have victory because they are trusting in something else other than saving faith to get them to heaven. To trust in what man can do will only bring frustration and defeat.
 - 2. “Whosoever believeth.....”
 - a) This is individual, personal faith, but includes all who believe “everyone believing.”
 - (1) The present tense denotes the individuals continuing personal faith. We call this the perseverance of the saints.
 - (2) This belief is not just mouthing a prayer or repeating a creed. It is a personal commitment to the truth believed. This truth is that Christ is the Son of God who died, was buried, and rose again.

- b) True belief and acknowledgment or confession run hand in hand (4:2, 15).
 - 3. "That Jesus is the Christ...." Saving faith accepts and commits itself to the fact that:
 - a) "Jesus"– acknowledgment of the true humanity of God's Son.
 - b) "The Christ"– confession that He is the anointed one, the Messiah.
 - c) "Is" says that He is the God man seated at the Father's right hand.
 - 4. "Is born of God...."
 - a) Here the source of salvation is stressed "born of God" or "out of God has been born." This is the source of the believer's birth.
 - b) The lost man has not victory because he is dead in sin. Life must be imparted for him to live (Eph 2:1).
 - c) "Faith in the living God and His Son Jesus Christ is always the result of the new birth, and can never exist except in the regenerate" (Spurgeon 579).
 - d) In John 3:3-7, Jesus told Nicodemus that to see the kingdom of God he must be born again. He did not tell Nicodemus to join the church, be baptized, take the Lord's Supper, or live a good life. He told him that he must be born again to get to heaven.
 - e) If you are trusting in you and what you can and have done, you will not have victory.
 - f) When we by faith trust the Son of God as Savior, victory is ours. Power to live victoriously is ours (2:29; 3:9; 5:18).
- C. Saving Faith– It's Result (1b)
- 1. "And every one that loveth him that begat..." "And" connects "saving faith with a loving relationship to the Father and His children" (Hiebert 225).
 - a) "Every one that" again points to a personal relationship with God.
 - b) "Him that begat" is a clear reference to God the Father.
 - (1) God is the one who by a definite action gave spiritual birth to the believer.
 - (2) God gave life to the spiritually dead.
 - c) "Loveth him that begat." We love God out of gratitude for what He has done for us.
 - 2. "Loveth him also that is begotten of him."
 - a) We love the one who gave us new life and love others who have received this new life.
 - b) "This love does not spring from something loveable in the person himself, but from his paternity" (Hodges 42). A child's love for his parent carries with it a love for the parent's other children.
 - c) We need to see the last part of this verse as a cycle of loving God and loving others, loving others and loving God. Unloving people are never victorious people. Those who constantly find faults with others have no time for victory.

II. VSS 2-3, VICTORY THROUGH OBEDIENCE

- A. Vs 2, One of the great keys to victory is obedience. Disobedient children are not victorious. Rebellious children are defeated children.
 - 1. True godly, victorious love flows in two directions: love to God and love to the brethren.
 - a) When we love God, we love the brethren (4:20-21).
 - b) Our love for God and our love for the brethren prove each other.
 - c) "When" points to repeated occasions– "whenever."
 - 2. "Keep his commandments."
 - a) Jesus said: "If ye love me keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15).
 - b) A disobedient child is an unhappy child, a defeated child, a child who lacks victory.
 - c) "Keep"– Greek *poiomen* – "a voluntary, love prompted obedience," also

“diligent care to maintain.”

- B. Vs 3, Saved folks want to do right. They desire the things of God. They desire the Word of God just as newborn babes desire the mother’s milk (I Pet 2:2).
 - 1. “His commandments are not grievous.”
 - a) They are not a burden, not a load. They are not heavy.
 - b) Doing right is a delight, not a grievous thing.
 - c) The believer does not find the commandments of God an intolerable load, a thing he seeks to avoid. He finds them a delight (Mt 11:30).
 - d) “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 228).
 - (1) Love for God makes church going a pleasure.
 - (2) Love for God make giving a joy.

III. VSS 4-5, VICTORY THROUGH FAITH

- A. Vs 4, “Whatsoever is born of God...” stresses not the victorious person but rather victorious power.
 - 1. You'll never have victory without th new birth, without victorious power.
 - 2. “Overcometh...” The God implanted new life is the dynamic by which the believer overcomes the world. “Overcometh” speaks of victory as a continuous experience in our struggle with the world.
 - a) The believer will never get away from the battle as long as he is in the world. The allurements and temptations are all around us. They are persistent and ceaseless.
 - b) Through the new birth, we have power to reject the world’s temptation and have victory.
 - 3. “Even our faith.”
 - a) “Our faith”– that which we believe, have accepted, know as true.
 - b) If there is a failure it is not on God's side, but on ours.
 - c) “Faith is the switch that turns on the power of Christ into our lives” (Vines 183).
- B. Vs 5, The person to who victory belongs is the person who believes “that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
 - 1. The man Jesus is the incarnate Son of God.
 - 2. Victory is in Jesus (Jn 16:33).
 - a) Rom 8:37,
 - b) I Cor 15:57.
 - c) II Cor 2:14.

CONCLUSION: It is our God given faith in Jesus Christ that brings the victory.