

## Overcoming – 05.17.09

**Introduction** - When you think of “overcoming the world,” what is it that comes to mind? Isn't it the idea of

- being overwhelmed with negative circumstances?
- being taken advantage of?
- having some kind of disadvantage or disability?

- **Transition: Today I want to give you a WHOLE NEW SLANT on what it means to be an overcomer in the world.**

Continue Series Pt. 4 -“What does love got to do with it?” “Overcoming.”

### READ – 1 John 5:1-6 in the NKJV

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

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

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

I've done two things in your program that will help us in our understanding of this passage. First I've used the NKJV, what I consider to be the most / best literal English translation of this particular passage. Second, I've color coded key words. You'll see why in a moment.

### I. The beginning and the end: **FAITH / BELIEVING**

The importance of faith. Faith - 299 x NT / Believe 249 x NT

One of Jesus' favorite themes.

- praised people who had faith
- complained about people who had so little faith
- Pray in faith, ask in faith,
- In faith, we'll do more than Jesus die
- Faith healed people, faith saved people
- faithful in a very little will be faithful in much
- Even the faith of the smallest seed move mountains and plant bushes in the sea.

Like the father of the possessed boy we need to cry out,  
**“I believe, help my unbelief!” Mark 9:24**

But this faith, this belief is a core, down to the marrow of our very being kind of faith. The alpha & omega here... This is the belief that

#1 - Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One v. 1

#2 - Jesus is the Son of God, v. 5

This faith comes only from God Himself - It is a gift!

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 ESV

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.  
1 John 5:1 NKJV

## II. The Connection between THE ONE WHO BEGOT and THE ONE WHO IS BEGOTTEN

Discuss blue highlighted words in 4 places. Talking about the Creator and the created. We, as children of God, are begotten by God. We could not even have the faith to believe in Jesus, if we would not be begotten of God! What is the connection?

## III. What is This Connection? AGAPE LOVE

We see this word five different times in verses 2 and 3. Discuss what agape love is and difference between this and storge, eros, and philea. (See last week's sermon or B.S. on Wednesday.)

Our problem is that we want to say, "YES! I love God! But I don't care much for so and so. But we are not give this choice.

**Everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 1 John 1:2**

**Suppose I were to say to you, "I love you, but I really despise your kids. You.... I love. But your children... I despise. You, you're wonderful, adorable, lovable, my very best friend... but your kids, they're terrible, repulsive, loathsome, and I hate them." Somehow, I don't think you would care very much for that. But we do the same thing to God when we say we hate someone.**

**So, you may ask, how do I know if I am really loving or not?**

## IV. The Heart Check of Love:

### KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS

Discuss the yellow highlighted word, commandments, in 3 places. He repeats himself so we will know the point of what he means. The proof of whether or not we are loving His children, (and thus really love God) is **keeping his commandments**.

We often misunderstand exactly what is meant here. This is not a matter of keeping a bunch of rules, a bunch of do's and don'ts. This is a matter of how we are relating to God and to people. This is a heart issue. This is the stuff of the Sermon on the Mount!

- Am I loving or am I calling people "Fool" and angry all the time?
- Am I loving or am I lusting?
- Am I remaining faithful to my spouse?
- Am I known as a truth teller, so I don't need to take an oath?
- Am I someone who will turn the other cheek? ...

- ... who would give up my best coat to someone I've wronged?
- ... who would go the extra mile?
- ... who gives generously to the needy
- Am I someone who gives, prays and fasts in such a secret way that no one knows but God Himself?

These are the kind of commandments that John is talking about. I know I really love God the Creator and that I really love other people, His creation, when I love the way that Jesus taught me to love.

Whenever we start talking about loving like Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, we get overwhelmed. We say, "It's impossible... Can't be done!" We want to... wouldn't it be nice... but this is reality. We have to look out for #1! Like Tina Turner #1 Song, "What's Love Got To Do With It":

*I've been thinking of a new direction  
But I have to say  
I've been thinking about my own protection  
It scares me to feel this way*

John anticipates this argument. And he says something truly surprising and remarkable!

**"And His commandments are not burdensome."  
1 John 5:3 (NKJV, NIV, ESV)**

**"His commandments do not weigh us down." (NET)**

You may ask, "How can this be?" John, again, thought you might ask that question. **John tells us that...**

## V. The God begotten **OVERCOME THE WORLD**

Review the four different places that we see this word (Don't tell them what the word is yet) in verses 4 and 5.

When we are God begotten, born of God, we are fundamentally changed. The DNA of who we are is different. We are no longer the same person after our begotten experience than we were before. This is why Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that we must be "born again" or "born from above." It is a spiritual birth that creates a whole new person. You may look the same and, at first, seem to think the same. But when God the Father gets hold of your heart, your very life, you begin the change. You think differently about other people. You find yourself doing things for other people that you wouldn't have done before. And sometimes, your friends and family may not even understand WHY you would be so gracious, so loving, so willing to let bygones be bygones. The reason is because you are no longer a citizen of this world. Instead you are...

**"as foreigners and strangers in this world." 1 Peter 2:11 NCV**

**"but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household." Ephesians 2:19 NIV**

**"Not conformed to this present world, but transformed."  
Romans 12:2 NET**

Still, it would be understandable for you to be frustrated that you haven't changed completely. There is a metamorphosis that takes time. It doesn't happen instantaneously. You are not the person you are becoming. But, on the other hand, hopefully you are not the person you were. God is changing you. You are cooperating with God.

Perhaps one reason why we are frustrated is that we have more of a focus on doing Christianity than being a Christian. We think we must do more loving things, when God simply wants to make us more loving. **A fundamental truth of the Christian faith...**

**TODAY'S BIG THOUGHT:**

GOD TRANSFORMS **WHO** I AM **FIRST**,  
THEN **WHAT** I DO **FOLLOWS**.

**GOD'S \$1.7 BILLION DOLLAR REMINDER PLAN!**

Go back to the verses on the front. Circle each of the green highlighted words: "overcome" and "victory." They all are the same word in the original language.

νικάω *nikaō* verb means conquer, gain victory\*

νίκη, ης, ἡ *nikē* noun means victory\*

Named after Greek goddess. Roman goddess named "Victoria"  
Today there is a \$18.6 Billion sportswear company named, Nike, that spends \$1.7 per year to promote the famous "swoosh" logo and the motto "Just do it."



From now on, every time you encounter a Nike commercial, see the "swoosh" logo, or hear the motto, "Just do it," you'll remember that you cannot, by yourself, just do it. That's the world's system, and it just won't work for you. You don't belong here, you're just passing through. You're a citizen of another place.

But John says that because God has begotten me, I have faith in Christ. And because of that God given faith, I can NIKE the world; I "overcome" the world by the transformation that God is making in my being. Because God transforms who I am first, what I do follows. So when you see the "swoosh" or hear the "Just do it"...

**Repeat it with me:** God transforms who I am first, then what I do follows! (2x)

**Pray.**