# 1 John Lesson 24

**1 John 5:4-5**

“The Victory That Overcomes”

**Introduction**: John likes the word “overcome.” He talks about believers overcoming 20 times in the books of 1 John, the Gospel of John and Revelation by using some form of the word “overcome.” It comes from the Greek work “nikao” meaning “to conquer, to prevail, to get the victory.”

In a magazine article a few years ago, titled, “The Changing Face of Christianity in the World,” it was stated that Christianity is growing by leaps and bounds. They are discovering that in different countries that the more that Christians, preachers and theologians let Christianity blend in with the prevalent religions of those cultures then the more popular Christianity becomes and the more readily it is accepted. The bishop of Ghana West Africa said it is not a matter of Christianizing Africa, but it is a matter of having the ability of Africanizing Christianity. This is a concept that is being practiced in our country. This culture is trying to Americanize Christianity rather than let the Gospel Christianize America as it once did some years ago.

 > Do we really believe that the Gospel is overcoming the world?

 > Is the world becoming more Christian?

 > Do we see the world becoming more Christ-like?

 (Not the adapting of thoughts that one applies intellectually…)

 > Do we see men and women living a life that is characterized by the word

 “overcomer?”

Men are to conform to the truths of the Word of God, not the Gospel be conforming ideas of various culture.

 > Could others look at our lives and say that we are a group of people whose thoughts are not governed by the ways of this world? Would they say that we have overcome the world?

**I. John says that is the way that Christians live.**

 A. Not the way that they ought to live.

 1. There is a difference.

 2. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh

 a. He did not say that one ought to overcome.

 b. He says that one who is genuinely born of God overcometh the world.

 3. Eve was deceived, Adam was not…

 a. He knew what he was doing when He took the fruit.

 b. She believed the lie of Satan over God.

 c. She believed it would free her from the restraints of God.

 4. God begins to work through His love and grace.

 a. God sends judgment on Adam Eve and the Serpent.

 b. He promises to send a Messiah to pay for the sin.

c. The serpent will be brought under the authority of the seed of the woman, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

d. And even today while the devil roaming and seeking whom he may devour, he is a defeated enemy.

 e. It will happen in time.

5. So between the promise of salvation until Jesus Christ was born, the devil attempted to stop the coming of the Messiah.

 a. Through the Pharaohs of Egypt throwing the baby boys in the Nile River.

 b. Through Haman to try and bring the execution of all Jews.

 c. Through Herod ordering the execution of baby under 2 yrs.

 d. All trying to stop the salvation that would we ours through the lineage of our Savior.

 6. Since the messiah came, the devil has not stopped.

 a. He roams to and fro through the earth, calling God a liar.

 b. He throws doubt at every angle.

 1) attacking the virgin birth of Jesus

 2) attacking His sinless life

 3) attacking the supernatural miracles

 4) upon His death, burial and resurrection

 c. He seeks to point it to myth and fairytale.

 B. The world is a powerful Foe.

 1. It is a system that rejects God.

 2. It is lorded over by Satan.

 a. He is the god of this world.

 b. He has not replaced God.

 C. The world is very appealing to this flesh.

 1. That is why John says “Love not the world.”

 2. It knows how to be appealing to a carnal nature.

\* If we look clearly, it does not appear that the faithful are overcoming the world.

**II. There are some (even gathered here) whose thoughts are governed by the world.**

A. There is very little difference in the way they make their decisions and the way an unbeliever does.

 1. Not much difference in the way they deal with the appetite of the flesh.

 2. Not much difference in the way they deal with circumstances of life.

 a. Do not seek the Lord in prayer for leading.

 b. Relate to how unsaved spend their money.

 c. Guided by what feeds their sense of self worth.

3. It is possible for people to be members of a Local New Testament Baptist Church and be worldly.

 B. But whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.

1. A person that comes to the persuasion that Jesus is the Son of God and is the Savior of the world and embraces that truth.

 2. Is the Victory really our faith?

a. There are many who have faith but are lost and not overcomers.

 b. Catholics have faith that the pope will not lead them wrong

 c. Some have faith in Buddha, Mohammed, or science.

 d. Others have faith in Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses.

 e. Many have faith in their inner-self.

 f. There are many who have faith in human government.

g. Some give more outward evidence of faith in their wrong beliefs than some Baptists do in their fundamental beliefs.

**III. The emphasis is on the power that overcomes not the persons that overcomes.**

 A. John said “whatsoever” in the neuter sense

 1. Not used in the masculine gender

 2. Not referring to a particular person

3. It is possible for a person to have faith in self, religion or variety of things and instead of being delivered from the world or overcoming actually become part of this system

 B. The person who believes in Jesus Christ to be the Son of God overcometh.

 1. This the past tense – it is done!

 2. Jesus overcame the world.

 a. Our position once we believe that Jesus is the Son of God is in Christ.

 b. So all that He has accomplished is presently mine.

 1) Not ours to receive some day.

 2) We possess it right now.

 3. Christ has already been glorified.

 4. I am in Christ so I have been glorified, too.

 1) It has not yet been manifested.

 2) This does not mean it is not real.

 5. “Whom He justified, them He also glorified.” – Romans 8

 1) He did not say them will he also glorify

 2) It is not evident yet and our glory is not now revealed.

3) It will not be revealed until the resurrection when we are made like unto the glory of Christ.

 4) But it is already ours!!!

 C. The key is the object of our Faith.

 1. You will not overcome on your own power.

 2. If the object of your faith is religion, human government, self, you will not overcome.

3. If the object of our faith is the Person of Jesus Christ, then the chains of the world and the devil are forever broken.

 4. The only control that this world has over us is what we invite into our lives.

**Conclusion**: John 16:33 – “In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.”

Your position is in Christ…then your position in relation to the world is an overcomer!!!

In Christ you DO overcome the world!

Why do I not on an everyday basis overcoming sin and the temptation of the flesh? Why am I not living day-to-day as an “overcomer?”

You are either 1) not saved or 2) have not acted upon truth

The Bible is a powerful book, but it will do nothing to change your life until you apply its truth to your life. When Christ says something does not belong in your life, do you exclude it from your life? You must repent of it, and turn from it.

Don’t argue against the Holy Spirit in obeying His promptings and wonder why you don’t overcome the world. There is NO need for you to live under the chains of this world…Jesus has overcome the world and you are in Christ. You begin to experience overcoming when you act upon what He said.