

Faith is the Victory In Overcoming Sin

1 John 5:4-5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The theme of this series is “Faith is the Victory!”, with our basic text found in **1 John 5:4-5** - “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”
- B. In our previous study, we saw that the faith which overcomes the world is . . .
1. A strong conviction and trust in Jesus:
 - a. As the Christ, the Son of God. Acts 8:37
 - b. As the way, the truth, and the life. John 14:6-7
 - c. Who alone provides the way to God and eternal life. John 6:68-69
 2. A strong conviction and thrust in Jesus that comes by:
 - a. The Word of God. Romans 10:17
 - b. The evidence provided by the Word of God. John 20:30-31
- C. The “world” we can overcome by faith in Jesus includes anything that can hinder our relationship with God, including such things as:
- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Anxiety | 5. Discouragement |
| 2. Boredom | 6. Fear |
| 3. Depression | 7. Grief |
| 4. Despair | 8. Loneliness |
- D. Our purpose in this series is to illustrate how faith in Jesus helps us to overcome such things. In doing so, it is important that we first talk about overcoming **SIN** . . .
1. While sin is not taken too seriously these days, it should be.
 2. The problem of sin must be overcome if we are to overcome anything else..
 - a. In some cases, sin may be the underlying cause of problems we face.
 - b. **In any case, unless we overcome sin, we will not have God’s help to overcome the problems before us.**
 1. **Isaiah 59:1-2** - “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

2. **1 Peter 3:12** - “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

E. In this lesson I wish to do two things:

1. Carefully define the problem of sin.
2. Explain how true faith in Jesus can overcome the problem of sin.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

A. There is the “guilt” of sin.

1. First, everyone is guilty of sin. **Romans 3:23** - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - a. Even if one has committed just one sin, it is as though they have committed them all. **James 2:10** - “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”
 - b. That is because sin is so terrible, and God is so holy.
2. There is both “legal” guilt and “emotional” guilt.
 - a. **Legal guilt** means you have violated God’s law.
 1. God has a Law, and if we break it, He holds us accountable. **1 John 3:4** - “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”
 2. The price of such guilt is “death,” eternal separation from God.
 - a. **Romans 6:23** - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - b. **Revelation 21:8** - “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”
 - b. **Emotional guilt** pertains to one’s conscience of sin.
 1. When we know we have done wrong, we feel “guilty.”
 2. Our conscience becomes burdened but such “guilt” for our sins.
3. Even if we have so hardened our conscience that we feel no “emotional” guilt, the “legal” guilt remains.
 - a. God still holds us accountable, and will judge us on the last day.
 1. **John 12:48** - He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”
 2. **Acts 17:30-31** - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by

the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

- b. Until then, unforgiven sin also prevents God from coming to our aid.
 1. **Isaiah 59:1-2** - “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”
 2. **1 Peter 3:12** - “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
 3. Which means we must bear our burdens alone.
 4. Whatever comfort, peace, and strength God might provide, is not for one who remains in their sin. **Isaiah 57:19-21** - “I create the fruit of the lips: peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near, says the LORD, And I will heal him. But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.”

B. There is the “power” of sin.

1. The problem is not limited to the guilt of sin.
 - a. As if the guilt of sin weren't bad enough!
 - b. Sin also has the power to enslave a person so that they can't do what they really want to do.
2. In **John 8:31-34** Jesus described the power of sin. “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered Him, We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'? Jesus answered them, Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”
 - a. The freedom under consideration is freedom from the slavery of sin.
 - b. When one commits sin, they become a slave of sin.
3. Paul vividly depicted what his life was like under the bondage of sin, from which the Law of Moses could not deliver. Romans 7:14-4
 - a. He was “**sold under sin.**” Romans 7:14
 - b. He could not do what he wanted to do, and what he did not want to do, he did. Romans 7:15
 - c. He said, “**Sin dwells in me.**” Romans 7:17-20
 - d. Though he declared to do good, “**How to perform what is good I do not find.**” Romans 7:18

- e. He found himself brought “**into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**” Romans 7:23
 - f. It made him “**wretched,**” crying out for deliverance from “**this body of death.**” Romans 7:24
4. Sin is like a powerful drug, to which man becomes enslaved (addicted).
- a. Until we somehow are set free from the power of sin, the guilt of sin separates us from God.
 - b. Any problem we have, therefore, we face alone, without the assistance of God.
 - c. But through Jesus Christ , there can be victory in overcoming sin. Let see how.

HOW FAITH IN JESUS OVERCOMES SIN.

A. By providing the forgiveness of sin.

1. Remission of sins is promised to those who obey the Lord’s will. **Acts 2:38** - “Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - a. The forgiveness has been made possible by the shedding of His blood. **Ephesians 1:7** - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
 - b. Jesus became our propitiation for our sins. “Propitiation” means a sacrifice designed to appease.
 1. **1 John 2:2** - “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”
 2. **1 John 4:9-10** - “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
 - c. Through His blood we are “justified” (declared not guilty), and therefore spared from the wrath of God to come. **Romans 5:9** - “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”
2. Such forgiveness is promised to those whose faith in Jesus moves them to repent and be baptized.
 - a. **Acts 2:38** - “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - b. **Acts 3:19** - “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

- c. Repentance - that ‘change of mind’ in which we turn from sin to serve God.
- d. Baptism - that “burial” in which we are united with Christ into His death, crucified and buried with Him and then rise to walk a new life. **Romans 6:3-7** - “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
 - 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
 - 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,
 - 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
 - 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.”

3. Forgiveness continues as we repent and confess our sins in prayer.

1 John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

4. In this way Jesus deals with the **guilt** of sin (**legal** and **emotional**) .

Hebrews 9:14 - “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

B. By providing the power over sin.

1. In Romans 6:6-7, Paul speaks of freedom from sin.

a. “We should no longer be slaves of sin.”

b. “. . . Has been freed from sin.

2. Later, in Romans 8:1-2, 12-13 he describes where this power comes from.

a. It is “**the law (principle) of the Spirit of life in Christ**” which frees one from “**the law of sin and death.**”

b. In particular, the Spirit enables us to “**put to death the deeds of the body.**”

c. With the aid of the Spirit, we now have the help of God to overcome sin.

1. **Ephesians 3:16** - “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.”

2. **Ephesians 3:20-21** - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

CONCLUSION

A. To the one who is willing to believe in Jesus, and with trust and conviction, obey His will to do what He says, then **Faith is the Victory!**

B. There is certainly victory over sin.

1. Over the legal and emotion guilt of sin.
2. Over the power of sin which easily enslaves us.

C. Thanks to the power of the blood of Christ and the continued efforts of the Holy Spirit using the Word of God, we can now have the kind of relationship with God by which we can also overcome whatever else the world might throw at us.

D. **God's Plan for Man's Salvations**