

WORD

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 JOHN 5:5

In this letter, the Apostle John has been clarifying for the believers how our faith affects our lifestyle. He says that if we are really born of God, we will live differently—turning away from sin and loving others. In this lesson, we will look at four effects of believing in God.

1 The one who believes is born of God.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 1 JOHN 5:1

If we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, we are born of God—He lives in us and we are His children. We do not have to do anything to be loved or accepted by Him. The Bible just asks us to believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross. What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

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2 The one who believes loves God and His people.

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 1 JOHN 5:2

Jesus commanded us to love God and each other (Matthew 22:37,38). If we are truly born of God and we have experienced His great love for us, then we will also express this to God and His children. How much does God love you? How did a greater understanding of His love change you?

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3 The one who believes obeys God.

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome . . . 1 JOHN 5:2

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4 The one who believes overcomes the world.

⁴ . . . for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 JOHN 5:4,5

Because of our belief in God and who He is, we are overcomers. As believers, the trials, challenges, and hardships we experience in the world will not pull us down—not because of us, but because of who God is and because we choose to believe in Him. What does it mean to overcome? Without God, do you think you can overcome the world? Why not?

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