

## Faith: The Key To Victory

Intro: Up to this point, John has made no mention of “faith” as a noun. He has made a description of the various characteristics of the ones who “love God”. He now tells us how we can have victory over that which will impede our mastering these traits.

1. Remember the Building Blocks
  - A. Have a healthy respect for the “separating” sin.
  - B. Obey God’s commandments
  - C. Do not love the world.
  - D. Love your brother and hates sin.
  - E. And Others...
  
2. The Essence of Faith
  - A. John says faith and love are inseparable.
  - B. Love is not a substitute for faith. It is necessary evidence of faith.
  - C. Our culture says faith is important, but the object of faith, not so much.
  - D. Consider how Robert Louis Stephenson reflected this idea in 1800’s.
  - E. How do we respond to “I wish I had faith”?
  - F. What does it mean to believe in Christ? Acts 2:36; 1 Jn. 1:1-3; 1:7 & 2:2; 4:9-10; 5:11-12.
  - G. Source of Faith? Romans 10:17
  
3. What are the effects of that faith?
  - A. Love – 1 John 5:1
    1. We can evaluate ourselves – 2 Corinthians 13:5
    2. John wants to remove our tendency toward self-doubt and questioning our “love feeling”. (See Exodus 20:16 and apply understanding)
  - B. Obedience
    1. Obedience and love are not opposites.
    2. The heartbeat of love is sacrifice. (1 Jn. 4:9-10)
    3. John is clear about what our attitude should be toward its opposite.
  - C. Victory
    1. “Overcomes” is a word that speaks to the challenge.
    2. Consider the great confidence John has in his readers and more importantly, the work of Christ.

Conclusion: I am amazed at how much information is given to us to help us live a life of victory. But I know that I still must overcome my greatest enemy: Me. The only way to overcome “me” is to listen to the advice: Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.