

Grace to Overcome Our Enemies

Scripture: **1 John 4:4-6**

Series: **Doctrine & Devotion: A Study in the First Epistle of John**

Sunday, September 20, 2015



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Overview

We are not heroes. We can only overcome our enemies by the Holy Spirit given to us by God. There is no self-help found in the gospel. You can not self-teach yourself out of spiritual bondage and oppression or liberate yourself from the attacks and deceit of the devil.

Corroborating Texts

Luke 11; John 16:33; 1 John 4:12–13, 15; 1 John 5:19; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Romans 15:13

Discussion Questions

1. What is meant by the term, "little children?" What parallels can we draw between children and children of God? Is there any particular aspect of your walk that draws particularly parallel to that of a child? What other encouragements can we find in this parallel? ["belonging" to God]
2. Who is he who is "in the world?" [false teachers]. What threat do they pose? What makes them so difficult to overcome?
3. What is satan's work? [lying, deceiving, tempting, destroying] How do we see these things manifest on a practical level? Where does Satan's power end? [he can not take away your salvation—he can only lure us—not attack] In light of this truth, what can we do to guard against sin? Read 1 Corinthians 2:13, 1 Thessalonians 1:5, and Romans 15:13 for encouragement in the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Who are our enemies? [those who would lead us astray from the gospel; that which works against our faith] What is a good way to test these teachers—the "spirit of truth"? [do they confess Jesus Christ and do they articulate the gospel clearly?]
5. Joe laid out some truth about our weakness. How can this be encouraging? What is the importance of humbling ourselves? How can we take steps to do this?