

The Victorious Christian Life

Scripture: 1 John 5:4–5

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

Sunday, November 1, 2015



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

The Christian life is a fight—a battle. There is no sense in which we can have an authentic faith and not have enemies. But sometimes we misidentify our enemies and we fight the wrong fight. Our battle is not fundamentally over politics or social ills—it is a spiritual battle we are fighting. Our enemies are Satan, the world, and even other people. But our enemies are also sin, idols, and unbelief in our own heart. Therefore, we need to wage our battle with an effective strategy centered on faith and obedience—faith in God’s goodness and promises, and obedience to God’s Word and commands. We cannot experience victory if we are not following Christ. We can only overcome our enemies in and through Christ, who has already defeated our enemies. Because of Christ, our conquering King, we have the promise of certain final victory in the end.

Corroborating Texts

2 Corinthians 10:3-5; John 16:33; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 2:13-14; 1 John 4:4;
Romans 8:35-39; Romans 12:2; 2 Timothy 2:1-3

Discussion Questions

1. What does 1 John 5:4–5 mean by the need to “overcome?” [the Christian life is a fight; it is spiritual warfare. If we are to live a victorious Christian life, we must overcome our enemies] Who are our enemies? How can we overcome them? [only through faith and obedience to Christ, since Christ has gone before us and was victorious]
2. What is your initial reaction to these verses? Is it one of encouragement, or is it challenging, since we often experience fear, temptation, and doubt? We sometimes fight the wrong fight, focusing on external behavior rather than on our heart. What are some ways that we can seek to destroy strongholds that lead us away from faith in Christ?
3. How can God’s character be encouraging in this? What are some specific attributes of His character that can be a comfort? [God is sovereign; God is a conquering King; God is trustworthy; God is faithful; God is victorious; God will lead His people to victory.] In contrast, what faults in our own character encourage our reliance on Christ? [Without a firm foundation in Christ, we are weak, fearful, doubtful, insecure, and defeatist. In our own heart, we struggle with sin, pride, idols, and unbelief.] If we place our faith and trust in Christ and remain obedient to Him, we can overcome our enemies, and overcome evil with good, both in the world and in our heart.