



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 5:4-5
Faith in Christ
Overcomes the World

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Born of God

1 John 5:4a (ESV)

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.

- All true believers are born of God
- Regeneration is thematic in John
- “overcomes” means “conquers”
- “world” is *kosmos* and here denotes the world in its alienation from God

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Range of Meaning for “Kosmos”

From the Theological Dictionary of the NT

- World I = The Universe, The Sum of All Created Being
- World II = The Abode of Humanity, The Theater of History, The Inhabited World, Place of Human Affairs
- World III = Fallen Creation, The Setting of Salvation History, The Human World that is Hostile to God

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Victory Over the World

1 John 5:4b (ESV)

And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

- “Victory” is *nike*, a noun form of *nikao* (conquer)
- All who are regenerate have victory
- Faith alone in Christ alone conquers
- The world’s lusts will not defeat us (1 John 2:15-17)

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“Overcome” in John

- John 16:33 Jesus has overcome the world
- 1 John 2:13, 14 Young men have overcome the evil one
- 1 John 4:4 believers overcome false prophets
- 1 John 5:4, 5 “overcome” in various forms 4 times for believers

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Overcoming Faith Has Content

1 John 5:5 (ESV)

Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- We must affirm the true doctrine of Christ
- John the Baptist: “This is the Son of God”
- False pietism claims that there is some “secret” to being an overcomer

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A Christological Inclusio

1Jn 5:1 – “Believes Jesus is the Christ”

Born of God

Born of God (1Jn 5:4)

1Jn 5:5 – “Believes Jesus is the Son of God”

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Implications and Applications

- Overcomers have eternal life
- Only those who are born of God desire to overcome the world
- We must reject pietism
- Know the doctrine of Christ

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Overcoming the Accuser

Revelation 12:11 (NASB)

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

- Believers overcome through Christ's blood
- Believers openly testify about Christ

Victory Over the World

1 John 2:16 (NASB)

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world

- Jesus rejected all temptations (Lk 4:1-13)
- Overcomers do not live for these things and see them as Satan's lies

Reject Pietism

1 John 2:27 (NASB)

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

- This is a warning about deceivers (vs 26)
- There is no "secret" to overcoming
- Orthodoxy is not "dead"

A Christological Inclusio

Heb 1:5 – "to which of the angels?"

'You are my Son' (Ps 2:7)

'I will be a Father to Him' (2Sam 7:14)

'angels worship Him'

'Your throne O God' (Ps 45:6, 7)

'You laid the foundation' (Ps 102:25)

'You remain' (Ps 102:26)

'Your years will not end' (Ps 102:27)

Heb 1:13 – "to which of the angels?"



The Doctrine of Christ

Luke 1:32 (NASB)

“He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of **His father David**”

- These are Gabriel’s words to Mary
- Jesus the Son of God
- Jesus is the Son of David

The Doctrine of Christ

Luke 1:34, 35 (NASB)

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since **I am a virgin**?” The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the **Son of God**.”

- Jesus is the virgin born Son of God

