



Community Bible Experience: New Testament
A Banished Missionary: John (1 John 5:1-5)
 By Pastor David Hillis, 12 March 2017

BIG IDEA: Our faith is our ticket to living the life of an overcomer, as long as we choose to cash it in.

John tells us, in today's reading, that those who follow Christ live the lives of overcomers as they keep doing 3 things:

1. Overcomers keep believing. (v4-5, Hebrews 10:35-39, 11:1)

Faith is not just a one-time confession or prayer to God; it is something we hold on to and act on, every day.

2. Overcomers keep obeying. (v2-3; James 2:14,17; Revelation 12:11)

In the book of Revelation, John tells us that being an overcomer means being obedient to God, even when it means sharing your life story and telling others about what God has done in your life. Being obedient also means stepping up to do hard things at God's leading rather than succumbing to the lower expectations people have of you and others around you.

3. Overcomers keep loving. (v1-3; Romans 8:37; 1 John 4:20)

Romans 8 reminds us that you and I are more than conquerors, because of love that starts with God loving us. It's a love that never gives up on anyone, and starts with God loving us that way.

Next Step:

What impossible situation in your life today is God asking you to overcome by believing? Obeying? Loving?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. John's message in his letters was focused around love — loving God and loving others. What draws you to love God as you do? Is your love for others — even difficult people — reflective of that love you have for God? Why/why not?
2. The main theme of Revelation is Jesus' role as "overcomer." How is this message applicable to your life today? What are some of the evils in this world that you can't wait for Jesus to defeat? How important is it to you that you fully understand how this is going to happen?
3. Take some time this week to be thoughtful about the seemingly impossible situations you are facing in your life today. Write them down. What are they? How long have they been there? Have you been tempted to give up? As you look at those situations, what is God specifically asking of you today?
4. Catch up on any readings during the Community Bible Experience that you had to skip over, during the past 8 weeks. As you do so, consider these 5 questions:
 1. What's something you noticed for the first time?
 2. What questions did you have?
 3. Was there anything that bothered you?
 4. What did you learn about loving God?
 5. What did you learn about loving others?