

## **Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline**

**November 20, 2016 (John Robertson)**

### ***Kingdom Family - Overcomers***

***1 John 5:1-5; 13-15***

This letter by John has had a very clear-cut purpose. John has been trying to convince this family of God just what it means to be a Christian. All the way through he wants to convince his friends of the tests by which they can know they're a true believer.

Key verse: *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God in order that you may know that you have eternal life."* (1 John 5:13)

Cycling through the same themes multiple times John intends to broaden our understanding of those themes each time. As we come in to chapter 5, however, there's a special note here that appears only in this opening section of this chapter.

#### **Overcomers (1 John 5:1-5)**

Through Christ we are now overcomers (John 16:33; Romans 8:37)

*Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:5 (NIV)*

Where in your day-to-day life do you feel defeated by the world? Where do you tell yourself it's a losing battle? When do you fight to believe the struggle is already won?

- *Overcomers of Satan* (Revelations 12:11; 1 John 2:13)
- *Overcomers in Life* (1 Corinthians 15:54)
- *Overcomers in the World* (1 John 5:4; 1 John 2:15)

### **How Do We Overcome?**

*Everyone born of God overcomes the world. 1 John 5:4 (NIV)*

*Because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1  
John 4:4 (NIV)*

You are invincible, not in and of ourselves, but in Christ. Your sins have been paid for in Christ. The penalty of sin has been paid in full. You have been born again. You possess the life of God. You are free to choose truth over lie because the truth is in you and the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in your life.

We are this way by grace. It is because a righteousness that is not your own has been granted to you, the righteousness of God in Christ.

Overcomers are characterized by the three tests by which anybody's salvation can be evidenced.

- 1. Faith** - faith in the truth.
- 2. Love** - love to God and to others.
- 3. Obedience** – obedience to the Word.

The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith (1 John 5:5). It's our faith that allows us to conquer. Overcomers are those born of God.

This faith then leads to a confidence in our relationship.

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:13-15 (NIV)*

The amount of confidence we have in approaching God affects how we live!

To ask according to His will not only implies knowledge of God and His purposes but also implies oneness of the believer with God. When we make such petitions in accordance with the divine will 'we' do so with the assurance that God 'hears us'. This is mature faith. From this certainty that our prayers will be heard without limit and a certainty that we have what we have prayed for.

What are you missing out on because you have not had the confidence to ask!

John now brings his letter to a close. He reminds us that the power of sin is broken in those who are born of God and that they are protected by God from the evil one. Further, true life—eternal life—is found only in the true God and in his Son Jesus Christ. We are a part of this Kingdom Family – His love is so great that we are called God’s children (1 John 3:1).

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why does John refer to the believers as the “born of God”? (See John 1:12–13; Romans 8:14–17; Galatians 4:3–7; 1 Peter 1:3, 23; and 1 John 3:1.) What is the distinction between being merely “saved” versus “adopted”?
2. Where in your day-to-day life do you feel defeated by the world? Where do you tell yourself it’s a losing battle? When do you fight to believe the struggle is already won?
3. Because Jesus’ victory is our victory, we are free to obey. Jesus promised in him our burdens would be light (Matthew 11:28–30). What heavy burdens do you believe you must bear? In light of Jesus’ promise, how do you exchange your heavy load for his offer of relief?
4. Read Matthew 6:9–10, John 14:12–14; John 15:7 and John 16:23–24. How do Jesus’ words and example help you understand what John says about having what we ask of him?
5. If you have more confidence toward God (1 John 5:14), how does that affect how you live? How can you grow in your prayers in the area of “asking according to his will”?