

1 JOHN 5:1-12 (NASB)

5 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

⁵Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. ¹⁰The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. ¹¹And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

REVIEW

Like a song with a memorable refrain, John beckons the Church to fully believe in Jesus and love one another. Even as a first-hand witness to the ministry, death, and resurrection, John still reminds us that God's story is sufficient. He speaks forth his own testimony, and *it is greater* than any testimony. Ultimately, the challenge before us lies in our answer to this question: *do we believe in the Son?* If our answer is yes, then we have LIFE! If it is no, the warning is clear, and we will never take hold of Jesus or his promises.

STUDY IT

- Who is born of God? (v.1)
- How does a believer keep the commands of God? (v.2)

- What might it mean for a command to be burdensome? How are Jesus' commands *not* burdensome? (v.3)
- What does it mean to overcome the world? (v.4)
- What might John be referring to with the "water and blood"? (vs.5-6)
- How does the Spirit testify within us? (vs.6,10)
- How do the symbols of the water and the blood testify within us? (vs.7-8)
- What is the testimony of men? (v.9)
- What is the testimony of God? (v.9,11)
- Why is the testimony of God greater? (v.9)
- How can someone (try to) make God a liar? (v.10)
- What is the life we have in Christ? (v.11-12)

APPLY IT

- Do you find God's command (*to love*) burdensome? Why/why not?
- Which do you tend to trust more, the testimony of a person or the testimony of God? Why?
- What do these events mean for you:
 - God's gift of the Spirit to testify within you?
 - Jesus' coming into the world? ("water": his baptism or his birth)
 - Jesus' death in payment for *your* sins? ("blood": the sacrifice that satisfies the requirement of the Law.)
- Are you living in full confidence that the *life of Christ* that is in you?