OVERCOME THE WORLD

1 John 5:1–12

Key Verse: 5:4

1. What distinction about people does John make? (1a) Review what John has said already about being born of God (2:29; 3:9; 4:7). In 5:1, if we are born of God, what will we naturally do?
2. How do we know that we love God’s children, and why is this true? (2) How do we know that we love God? (3) Which command does John seem to have in mind? (3:23; 4:21; cf. Jn15:17) Why did he have to command us to love? How is love for God related to loving others? (4:8,16,19) How else does being born of God change us? (3b; cf. Mt11:28–30)
3. Read verses 4–5. Review how John has used the word “overcome” (2:13,14; 4:4; cf. Rev12:11; Ro8:37). In 4:20–5:2, what is it that our faith in Jesus helps us to overcome? (cf. Mt24:12) What other kind of pull does the world have on us? (2:15,16) Read verse 4 again; how do we overcome the world, and why does he use the word “even”?
4. Read verse 5. In light of this verse, what is the content of overcoming faith? Compare verse 5 with verse 1 and with 2:22; 4:2,15. Why does believing in Jesus enable us to overcome the world? (See also Jn16:33.)
5. In verses 6–8, what three testimonies did God give us about Jesus to help us believe in him? What does it mean that he “came by water”? (Jn1:31–33) “Blood”? (1:7; 4:10; cf. Ro3:25a) How does the Spirit help us to believe and understand what it means that Jesus came by water and blood? (6b; cf. Jn14:17; 16:13)
6. Why is God’s testimony stronger than human testimony? (9–11) In light of these verses, how can anyone receive eternal life? (11,12)