

Christ Community Church
Living in the Light: Victory and Assurance

Start: Take some time to check in and open in prayer

Read 1 John 5:1-13

1. Defining True Love (Verses 1-3)

According to the opening verses, what is the defining evidence that a person's claim to love God is genuine? Specifically, how do love for the Father and love for His children become intrinsically linked?

2. Victory's Source (Verses 4-5)

The passage defines the victory that overcomes the world as "our faith." If "faith" is the victory, what specific aspect of Jesus' identity and work must be believed in order to experience this victory?

3. The Purpose and Power of Testimony (Verses 6-9)

John states that Jesus Christ "came by water and blood." The "water" is widely interpreted as the proof of His authentic humanity and divine anointing at His baptism, while the "blood" points to the proof of His substitutionary death on the cross. The Spirit testifies internally to believers, confirming the truth of both events.

Given that the testimony is confirmed by three distinct, irrefutable, and agreeing witnesses (Spirit, water, and blood), how does this overwhelming evidence deepen your assurance that the promise of eternal life resting solely in the Son (v. 11-12) is absolutely trustworthy?

4. Assurance and Eternal Life (Verses 11-13)

The core testimony is that eternal life is in God's Son. If you already believe in the Son of God, what is the practical, emotional, and spiritual difference between merely *hoping* you have eternal life and truly *knowing* you have it, as John intended?

5. The Burden of Commands (Verses 3-4)

Identify one area of your life where you currently view a biblical command as "burdensome" (e.g., patience, giving, self-control). How can remembering your identity as one "born of God" and the promise of victory transform your perspective on that command?

Make a Commitment: Based on the promise that God's commands are not burdensome because we overcome through faith, choose one specific command that challenges you. Commit to practicing that command for the next week, and briefly write down *why* this act is an expression of faith and an act of love (v. 3).