

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 2021

Saturday, 5/9 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/10 at 9:00

# Believers Are Winners

You Are Invited  
Join the Jesus Team Today!

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Text: 1 John 5:1-8 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: As you think about the current circumstances of the world, our nation, your life, your family, and your health – how are you feeling? Maybe ☹depressed, ☹angry, ☹fearful, or ☹overwhelmed. Such feelings are **normal and natural**; HOWEVER, such feelings are also **unnecessary** when we understand that – IN CHRIST – **we are overcomers and winners!**

Today's sermon is based on **1 John 5:1-8...**

1. **Believing Results in Loving:** **1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.**
  - a. What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ? **He is the One sent by God to destroy the works of the devil!** God promised **Eve** (**Gen. 3:15**) that the Christ would be one of her descendants. Then, *as continued reminders of His coming and to identify the ones*

through whom He would come, God promised He would come through **Abram** (Gen. 12:3), **Isaac** (Gen. 26:4), **Jacob** (Gen. 28:14), and **David** (Isaiah 11:1-4).

- b. Who is born of God? **All who repent and believe in Jesus!** The Bible says: "...as many as received ["God's Son], [they] were born... of God" (John 1:12-13 NAU).
- c. One big loving family: **God, Christ, and all believers!** We are members *when we know the Christ as Savior.*

2. **Knowing that We Love:** <sup>2</sup> **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.**

- a. God's action to us: He ▶loved us, ▶chose us, and ▶saved us!
- b. Our response: We ▶love God, ▶desire to keep His commandments, and ▶love all who believe in Jesus.

3. **An Inside Change and a New Desire:** <sup>3</sup> **For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.**

- a. Before conversion: Our ▶love, ▶thankfulness, and ▶obedience to God were either **non-existent OR external, forced, and false.**
- b. After conversion: *Everything was different!* Upon understanding God's tremendous work to save us, we became motivated by the gospel. Now our ▶love, ▶thankfulness, and ▶obedience are **internal, willing, and true!**

4. **Faith Is Powerful:** <sup>4</sup> **For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has**

overcome the world-- our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? // Faith is a common word for us, and most say they have faith, but **what is FAITH?** Here are two easy-to-remember definitions:

- a. **F – A – I – T – H**: Make a word out of each letter:  
**Forsaking All I Trust Him!** What does that mean?
- i. **Forsaking All**: GOD enables us to abandon all trust for heaven in anything we have done – such as  
▶being good, ▶helping others, ▶going to church, and  
▶giving money!
  - ii. **I Trust Him**: GOD enables us to put all trust for heaven in Jesus: ▶in who He is – *the Son of God*, and ▶in what He has done for us – *living without sin, receiving our sins and our punishment, and laying down His life!*
- b. **K – A – T**: **Knowledge, agreement, and trust!**  
Note: ALL 3 ingredients are necessary!
- i. **Knowledge**: **Knowing** the basics of the Bible –  
▶creation, ▶sin, ▶promise, and ▶Jesus' saving work.
  - ii. **Agreement**: **Agreeing** that those basics are true.
  - iii. **Trust**: **Knowing** those basics apply to me and **having** God-given trust in Jesus as my Savior!
5. **Powerful Evidence**: <sup>6</sup> **This 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.** <sup>7</sup> **For there are three that testify:** <sup>8</sup> **the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.**

- a. What is meant by water? **Water is Jesus' baptism!**  
The Spirit rested on Jesus and the Father said, "This is My beloved Son" (Matt. 3:16-17 NAU). On that very day, Jesus ✦ became the Christ and ✦ started His ministry.
- b. What is meant by blood? **Blood is what Jesus shed on His cross!** The blood points to Good Friday and Jesus' work to take away the sin of the world. Dr Luther wrote, "The water of Baptism is sanctified through the blood of Christ. Therefore... it is water stained with [Jesus' precious] blood" (TLSB).
- c. How does the Spirit tell the truth? He enables us to **know** ✦ the Bible is true, ✦ Jesus is the Christ, and ✦ heaven is open through repentance. What is repentance? **It is the Spirit's work to:**
- i. Show our sin.
  - ii. Convince of hell.
  - iii. Show our helplessness.
  - iv. Make us sorry.
  - v. Give us faith in Jesus.

### **Conclusion:**

- **Truth** – Everyone born of God overcomes the world.
- **Relevance** – We are winners, overcomers through Jesus!
- **Inspiration** – Everyone is invited to join the winning team!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father in heaven, we are so blessed to share in Jesus' victory – **TY**; *help us to invite others to share!*

**Website:** [www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com); **YouTube:** Bethlehem, Parma  
**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230