

FOCUS FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE

FOCUS

1 Jn. 5:1-5

1 Jn 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

4 For **whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:** and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

5 **Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

Our theme for this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

During these challenging days of the present pandemic, many people, including believers, are facing issues that a few months ago were simply unforeseeable. Life is, unfortunately, a series of unforeseeable events. For the next few weeks we will observe what the Bible says about how to handle such trying events, "*how to focus on the unforeseeable.*" We will begin with the principles found in 1 Jn. 5:1-5:

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FOCUS

I. THE ORIGIN OF THE RELATIONSHIP

1 Jn 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

A. The Relationship Defined – “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...”

Jn. 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ...**

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**

1 Pet. 1:23 **Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Eph. 2:8 For by **grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* **the gift of God**:

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- To believe “that Jesus is the Christ” is defined as the following:
 - The totality of the Gospel – The Incarnation, Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ;
 - That Christ is the propitiation for our sins, as all are sinners;
 - That conviction of sin leads to repentance – sorrowful turning from sin unto God.
 - That Salvation is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him alone:

1 Tim. 2:5 For *there is* one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;**

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Acts 4:12 **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

Eph. 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: *it is* **the gift of God:**

9 **Not of works,** lest any man should boast.

B. The Ramifications Declared – “...and every one that **loveth him that begat** loveth him also that is begotten of him.”

- Our relationship with Christ is first, then transcends to other believers.

1 Jn. 4:19 **We love him**, because **he first loved us**.

Jn. 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; **as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**

35 **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

Jn. 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye **love one another, as I have loved you.**

1 Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, **see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:**

- Such a love-relationship begins when a person is born-again, and is fruit of being born-again = identification with Christ!

1 Jn. 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and **every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ...**

11 **Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.**

12 No man hath seen God at any time. **If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

- The fruit of being like Christ is a natural, spiritual by-product of fellowship with Christ:

Jn. 15:8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

II. THE OPERATION OF THE REALIZATION

1 Jn 5:2 **By this we know** that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For **this is the love of God**, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

A. The Proof of Love is in the Experience, 5:2a – “By this **we know**...”

Original Word: γινώσκω

Transliteration: ginóskó

Definition: to come to know, recognize, perceive

Usage: I am taking in knowledge, come to know, learn; aor: I ascertained, realized.

ginōskō – properly, *to know*, especially through *personal experience*(*first-hand* acquaintance).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1097.htm>

- Christianity is not an ambiguous, uncertain, fearful and fruitless lifestyle.

1 Jn. 5:13a These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life...**”

- If a person believes salvation may be lost, there is never assurance of “knowing” that eternal life is a prized, personal possession.

2 Tim. 1:12b “...for **I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**”

B. The Particulars of Love is Explained, 5:2b-3 “...that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For **this is the love of God**, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

- “...we keep his commandments.”
- “...and his commandments are not grievous.”
- This love for God, and love for who God loves, is a self-realization which is not burdensome.
- The relationship with God is realized by the love which is a dominate lifestyle change within the believer.

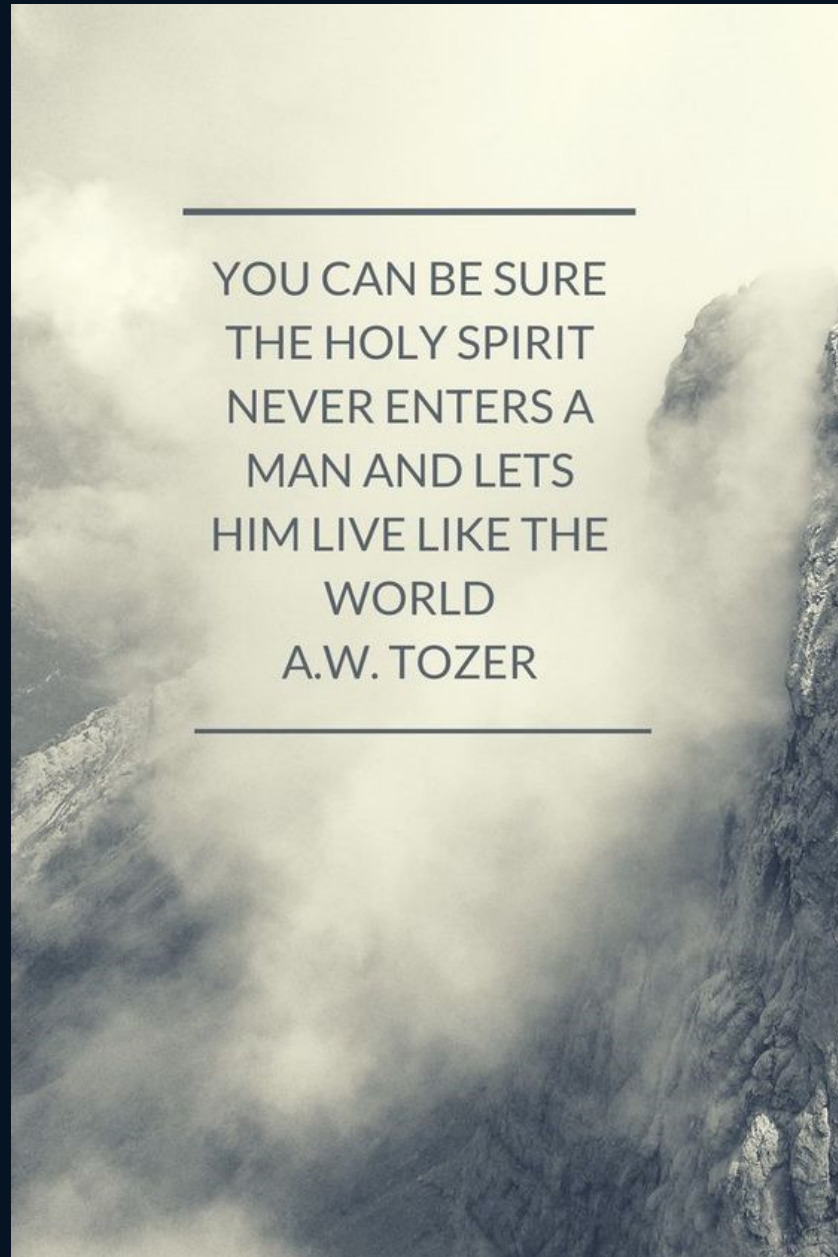
2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

III. THE OBSTACLES TO REFOCUS

1 Jn 5:4 For **whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world**: and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith**.

5 **Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

A. The Ever-Present Challenge, 5:4a – “...the world...”



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/99219998026278033/>

- The world is the nemesis of the believer, not a friend.

Jas. 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that **the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

1 Jn. 2:16 For **all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

B. The Ever-Present Capability, 5:4b – “...and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**”

C. The Ever-Present Conqueror, 5:5

1 Jn 5:5 **Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

Rom. 8:37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

Summary

We began by considering that during these challenging days of the present pandemic, many people, including believers, are facing issues that a few months ago were simply unforeseeable. Life is, unfortunately, a series of unforeseeable events. When we must face what we could not be prepared to face, we must face everything by faith.

- We begin by knowing Christ – that we have a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

Prov. 18:24b “...there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.”

- Having a relationship with Christ produces a love that motivates a believer to obedience.
- Obedience to Christ is not burdensome, but, a revelation of a real relationship of faith, as faith is activated and motivated by love.

Gal. 5:6 “...faith which worketh by love.”

- Real faith is manifested by real love which is developed from a real relationship that includes, and is manifested by, obedience.
- Victory in life to overcome unforeseeable challenges is by FAITH! -
- “...and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**”
- To live a victorious Christian life, we must live and walk by faith:

Conclusion

Heb. 11:1 Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

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