

The First Epistle of John

15

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we focus on the fifth and last section of John's first epistle – **5:1-21** – which can be divided into two sub-sections:

Read 1 John 5:1-12

- Who does John say is the one born of God? (**5:1**).
- How do we know that we love the children of God? (**5:2**).
- What is love for God? (**5:3**).
- Why are his commands not burdensome? (**5:3-4**).
- What is the victory that overcomes the world? (**5:4**).
- Who is the one who overcomes the world? (**5:5**).
- Who is the one who came by both water (baptism) and blood (the Cross)? (**5:6**).
- What are the three things that testify that Jesus is the Son of God? (**5:7**).
- What is the testimony that **5:10** says is in our heart? (**5:11**).
- Who is it that has life and who is it that does not have life? (**5:12**).

Read 1 John 5:13-21

- Why was John writing "these things"? (**5:13**).
- What is the confidence we have in approaching God? (**5:14**).
- What should you do if you see a brother who commits a sin that does not "lead to death"*? (**5:16-17**).
- John says that anyone born of God does not do what? (**5:18**).
- What are the three things that John says we know? (**5:19-20**).
- Why did Jesus come and how does this verse relate to **3:5** and **3:8**? (**5:20**).
- What is John's final instruction? (**5:21**).

* John does not identify what he means by "a sin that leads to death," but from the context of his letter it would be reasonable to assume he is referring to the sin of gnostic heresy that he is targeting in his letter. This "sin that leads to death" is considered by John to be so serious that, despite his focus throughout the letter on "loving your brother," he does not ask his readers to pray for that person. It is obvious he considers God's judgment to rest on that type of sinner.

Memory Verse

...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

1 John 5:4

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!