

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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LOVE, HONOR AND OBEY – PART II

I JOHN 5 VS 4-5

LAST WEEK JOHN REVEALED TO US THE FIRST THREE OF FOUR EVIDENCES THAT LET US KNOW THAT OUR LOVE FOR THE FATHER IS BEING PERFECTED:

I. **CONFIDENCE** (I JOHN 4 VS 17-19)

II. **HONESTY** (I JOHN 4 VS 20-21)

III. **JOYFUL OBEDIENCE** (I JOHN 5 VS 1-3)

TONIGHT AS WE LOOK AT VERSES 4 AND 5 , WE WILL IDENTIFY THE FOURTH EVIDENCE THAT ARE LOVE FOR THE FATHER IS BEING PERFECTED “:

IV. **VICTORY** (I JOHN 5 VS 4-5) WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH MATURING IN LOVE ? CHRISTIANS LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD AND ARE BESET WITH FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES. IT IS NOT EASY TO OBEY GOD. IT IS MUCH EASIER:

- A. **DRIFT WITH THE WORLD**
- B. **DISOBEY HIM**
- C. **DO YOUR OWN THING**

BUT THE CHRISTIAN IS “ BORN OF GOD. “ WHICH MEANS HE HAS THE :

DIVINE NATURE WITHIN HIM AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THIS NATURE TO DISOBEY GOD . (I JOHN 5 VS 4). IF THE OLD NATURE IS IN CONTROL OF US, WE DISOBEY GOD, BUT IF THE NEW NATURE IS IN CONTROL , WE OBEY GOD. THE WORLD APPEALS TO THE OLD NATURE (I JOHN 2 VS 15-17)AND TRIES TO MAKE GODS COMMANDS SEEM :

BURDENSOME

OUR VICTORY IS A RESULT OF :

FAITH AND WE GROW IN FAITH AS WE GROW IN LOVE . THE MORE YOU LOVE SOMEONE , THE EASIER IT IS TO TRUST HIM. THE MORE OUR:

LOVE FOR CHRIST IS PERFECTED , THE MORE OUR :

FAITH IN CHRIST IS PERFECTED – BECAUSE FAITH AND LOVE MATURE TOGETHER

THE WORD OVERCOME WAS A FAVORITE FOR JOHN – SEE HOW HE USED IT :

(I JOHN 2 VS 13-14) – **WITH REFERENCE TO OVERCOMING THE DEVIL**

(REV 2 VS 7 , 11,17, 26: REV 3 VS 5 , 12, 21)- **TO DESCRIBE BELIEVERS AND THE BLESSINGS THEY RECEIVE**

HE WAS NOT DESCRIBING A SPECIAL CLASS OF BELIEVERS. RATHER, HE WAS USING THE WORD OVERCOME AS A NAME FOR :

TRUE CHRISTIANS BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN BORN OF GOD WE ARE OVERCOMERS.

NOTE : TO BE “ BORN OF GOD “ MEANS TO SHARE GOD’S VICTORY. THIS IS THE VICTORY OF FAITH, BUT FAITH IN WHAT ? FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD! THE PERSON WHO OVERCOMES THE WORLD IS THE ONE WHO BELIEVES THAT JESUS IS THE “ SON OF GOD “ (I JOHN 5 VS5). IT IS NOT FAITH IN OURSELVES BUT FAITH IN CHRIST , THAT GIVES US THE VICTORY. (JOHN 16 VS 33).

IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST IN HIS VICTORY REMINDS US OF THE SEVERAL TIMES JOHN WROTE IN HIS LETTER “ ***AS HE IS, SO WE ARE IN THIS WORLD*** “ (I JOHN 4 VS 17) HOW IS HE :

- A. I JOHN 1 VS 7 – **AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT , WE SHOULD WALK IN THE LIGHT**
- B. I JOHN 2 VS 6 – **WE SHOULD CONDUCT OURSELVES AS HE CONDUCTED HIMSELF**

LOOK AT HOW THE SCRIPTURES IDENTIFY US WITH CHRIST

- 1. GAL 2 VS 20 - **WHEN CHRIST DIED , WE DIED WITH HIM**
- 2. ROM 6 VS 4 – **WHEN CHRIST WAS BURIED WE WERE BURIED WITH HIM , ROSE WE ROSE WITH HIM**
- 3. EPH 2 VS 6 – **WHEN CHRIST ASCENDED , WE ASCENDED WITH HIM**
- 4. COL 3 VS 4 – **WHEN CHRIST IS REVEALED , WE SHALL BE REVEALED WITH HIM**

NOTE : ALL THESE VERSE DESCRIBE OUR SPIRITUAL POSITION IN CHRIST . WE CLAIM THIS POSITION BY FAITH, WE SHARE HIS VICTORY. WHEN GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD, HE SEATED HIM AT HIS RIGHT HAND IN HEAVENLY PLACES , FAR ABOVE ALL RULE AND AUTHORITY AND POWER AND DOMINION, AND EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED AND HE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET(EPH 1 VS 20-22). THIS MEANS THAT, POSITIONALLY , EACH CHILD OF GOD IS PRIVILEGED TO SIT FAR ABOVE ALL HIS ENEMIES!

WHERE A MAN SITS DETERMINES HOW MUCH AUTHORITY HE MAY EXERCISE. THE MAN WHO SITS IN THE GENERAL MANAGER’ S CHAIR IS LIMITED IN HIS AUTHORITY – THE MAN WHO SITS IN THE VICE PRESIDENTS CHAIR , HAS MORE CONTROL – BUT THE MAN BEHIND THE DESK MARKED PRESIDENT EXERCISES THE MOST AUTHORITY . NO MATTER WHERE HE MAY BE IN THE FACTORY OR OFFICE, HE IS RESPECTED AND OBEYED BECAUSE OF WHERE HE SITS. HIS POWER IS DETERMINED BY POSITION, NOT BY HIS PERSONAL APPEARANCE OR THE WAY HE FEELS.

SO WITH A CHILD OF GOD : HIS AUTHORITY IS DETERMINED BY HIS POSITION IN CHRIST . WHEN HE TRUSTED CHRIST HE WAS IDENTIFIED WITH HIM BY THE :

HOLY SPIRIT AND : MADE A **MEMBER OF THE HIS BODY** (I COR 12 VS 12-13) HIS OLD LIFE HAS BEEN BURIED AND HE HAS BEEN RAISED TO A NEW LIFE OF GLORY. IN CHRIST HE IS SITTING ON THE VERY THRONE OF THE UNIVERSE !

PARAPHRASING WHAT JOHN IS SAYING : WE AS BELIEVERS DO NOT HAVE TO WALK AROUND DEFEATED, BECAUSE JESUS CHRIST HAS MADE YOU VICTORS ! HE HAS DEFEATED EVERY ENEMY , AND WE SHARE HIS VICTORY . NOW WE HAVE TO :

BY FAITH CLAIM HIS VICTORY – THE KEY TO VICTORY HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAITH , THE GREAT MEN AND WOMEN OF HEBREWS 11- SAYS “ BY FAITH ... THEY SIMPLY TOOK GOD AT HIS WORD AND ACTED ON IT, AND HE HONORED THEIR FAITH AND GAVE THEM VICTORY. FAITH IS NOT SIMPLY SAYING WHAT GOD SAYS IS TRUE , TRUE FAITH IS ACTING ON WHAT GOD SAYS BECAUSE IT IS TRUE. FAITH IS NOT SO MUCH BELIEVING INSPITE OF EVIDENCE , BUT OBEYING IN SPITE OF CONSEQUENCES.

SO VICTORIOUS FAITH IS THE RESULT OF MATURING LOVE . THE BETTER WE COME TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST, THE EASIER IT IS TO TRUST HIM WITH THE NEEDS AND THE BATTLES OF LIFE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS MATURING LOVE BECOME A REGULAR AND PRACTICAL THING IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

HOW DOES A BELIEVER GO ABOUT EXPERIENCING THIS KIND OF LOVE ?

1. ***WE MUST CULTIVATE FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD*** – ABRAHAM WAS A FRIEND OF GOD , BECAUSE HE SEPERATED HIMSELF FROM THE WORLD AND DID WHAT GOD TOLD HIM. (JAMES 2 VS 23)

2. ***THE FRIENDSHIP WILL BEGIN TO INFLUENCE OUR LIVES*** – AS WE READ THE WORD AND PRAY, AND AS WE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD’S PEOPLE , CHRISTIAN GRACES WILL START TO SHOW UP IN US. OUR THOUGHTS WILL BE CLEANER, OUR CONVERSATION MORE MEANINGFUL , OUR DESIRES MORE WHOLESOME. BUT WE WILL NOT BE SUDDENLY AND TOTALLY CHANGED; IT WILL BE A GRADUAL PROCESS.

3. ***OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST AND OUR BECOMING LIKE HIM WILL LEAD TO A DEEPER LOVE LOVE FOR CHRIST*** – ON A HUMAN LEVEL FRIENDSHIP OFTEN LEADS TO LOVE. ON A DIVINE LEVEL FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST OUGHT TO LEAD TO LOVE. (I JOHN 4 VS 19) THE WORD OF GOD REVEALS HIS LOVE TO US , AND THE INDWELLING SPIRIT OF GOD MAKES THIS LOVE MORE AND MORE REAL TO US. FURTHER MORE THIS LOVE IS WORKED OUT IN OUR LIVES IN DAILY OBEDIENCE. CHRISTIAN LOVE IS NOT A PASSING EMOTION ; IT IS A PERMANENT DEVOTION, A DEEP DESIRE TO PLEASE CHRIST AND TO DO HIS WILL.

4. ***THE MORE WE KNOW HIM THE BETTER WE LOVE HIM, AND THE BETTER WE LOVE HIM THE MORE WE BECOME LIKE HIM – “ CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON “ (ROM 8 VS 29)*** OF COURSE WE WILL NOT COMPLETELY CONFORMED TO CHRIST UNTIL WE SEE HIM (I JOHN 3 VS 1-3) BUT WE ARE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS NOW.

CLOSE REVIEW : AS GODS LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US WE HAVE :

I. **CONFIDENCE** – TOWARD HIM AND DO NOT LIVE IN FEAR , BECAUSE FEAR IS CAST OUT WE CAN BE :

II. **HONESTY** – OPEN NO NEED TO PRETEND – AND BECAUSE FEAR IS GONE WE HAVE :

III. JOYFUL OBEDIENCE - TO HIS COMMANDS IS BORN OUT OF LOVE , NOT TERROR. WE DISCOVER THAT HIS COMMANDS ARE NOT BURDENSOME . FINALLY LIVING IN THIS ATMOSPHERE OF LOVE , HONESTY AND JOYFUL OBEDIENCE WE ARE ABLE TO FACE THE WORLD WITH :

IV. **VICTORIOUS FAITH**