

1 John 5

Chapter 5 Summary

- In this chapter, John concludes his thoughts about how to maintain fellowship with God. Once again, he emphasizes that only those who practice love and obey God's commandments are in fellowship with Him (1 John 5:1-3).
- In 1 John 5:4-10, John shares some important facts about our faith. Through our faith, we can overcome the world (1 John 5:4-5). Our faith is also verified by three witnesses (1 John 5:6-8). The water represents the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17). The blood represents the events that took place at Calvary (Matthew 27:54). The Spirit represents the testimony of the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-15). These three provide sufficient proof that Jesus is the Christ!
- Those who have faith in Jesus can live with assurance regarding their salvation (1 John 5:11-13). They can also have confidence that God will both hear and respond to their prayers (1 John 5:14-15). God will not answer prayers in a way that is not in accordance with His will. An example of this is provided in 1 John 5:16-17. While we are to pray for all brethren who stray away from Jesus, we cannot expect God to save those who are determined to rebel against Him.

The book closes by stating some of the blessings that come to those who are in fellowship with God. These include protection (1 John 5:18-19), understanding, and eternal life (1 John 5:20). 1 John 5:21 warns us against a common pitfall for God's people – idolatry!

Chapter 5 Questions

- What is the true test of love for God (1 John 5:1-3)?
- What three things testify that Jesus is the Christ (1 John 5:6-8)? How?
- Why did John (and the other gospel writers) write down their inspired testimony (1 John 5:13)? Do you have this? If not, why not?
- What is the meaning of 1 John 5:16? Why should we not pray for "the sin leading to death?"