



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Does what we Believe Matter?

Bible Reading: 1 John 5:4-13

4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **5** Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **6** This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. **7** For there are three that testify: **8** the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. **9** If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. **10** Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. **11** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. **13** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Our faith overcomes the world – 5:4-5

A. The world

1. The world of the readers
2. The world we live in
 1. Must be tolerant – “you do you”
 2. “You do you” weakens community and leads to foolishness
 3. It leads to moral decay
 4. It leads to loneliness
 5. It leads to destruction

B. What is our faith that overcomes the world?

1. Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God
2. Jesus Christ came by water **and** blood
3. The Spirit testifies to the truth about Jesus – 5:6

4. The Spirit, the water and the blood all testify the truth concerning Jesus

Those who reject, who do not believe – 5:10b, 12bz

- A. Make God a liar
- B. Do not have the Son
- C. Do not have life

Those who accept, who believe – 5:9-13

- A. Accept the objective testimony
 - 1. The testimony of God
 - 2. The testimony of the Spirit
- B. Have the subjective testimony
 - 1. Have the testimony within them – v. 10a
- C. Have eternal life now – 5:11
- D. Have the Son of God, have life – 5:12
- E. Have the assurance that they have eternal life – 5:13

What we believe determines how we live

- A. We have the Son, we have life
- B. We know God and the love of God – 1 John 4:7-10
- C. Believers do not practice sin – 1 John 3:6
- D. Believers walk in the light – 1 John 1:7; 2:10
- E. Believers love each other – 1 John 4:7-8
 - 1. Sacrifice for others
 - 2. Care for and meet other's needs
- F. Believers overcome the world – 1 John 5:4