

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 80-Recognizing an Overcomer

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Introduction

This study guide examines First John chapter 5 (specifically 1 John 5:1–5, 13) based on the teaching from Lesson 80 presented on October 21, 2026. In this passage, the Apostle John introduces a powerful name for believers in Jesus Christ: **overcomers**.

The community noted several practical outreach efforts and prayer needs. Following these prayer needs, the lesson centered on what it truly means to be an overcomer. To overcome means to achieve victory, defeat an opponent, and stand triumphant. While the ancient world believed that only pagan gods could be invincible, Scripture declares that every true child of God is an overcomer through faith in Jesus Christ. This study guide breaks down the three foundational marks of an overcomer found in 1 John 5: **Faith, Love, and Obedience**.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. How does the Apostle John define an "overcomer" in First John chapter 5, and what does this mean for a believer's position in Jesus Christ?
 2. According to 2 Corinthians 2:14 and 1 John 4:4, why are believers considered ultimate winners in the spiritual battle?
 3. How did the ancient Greek and Roman culture view human capability compared to how the Bible describes a Christian?
 4. What is the biblical definition of "the world," and what does it mean that a believer is "continually overcoming" it?
 5. What is the first characteristic of an overcomer, and how does John refute the false idea of "unbelieving believers"?
 6. What is the second characteristic of an overcomer, and whom is a believer naturally compelled to love?
 7. How does true biblical love (agape) differ from mere feelings or soft sentimentality?
 8. What is the third characteristic of an overcomer, and how does it logically flow out of faith and love?
 9. What distinction exists between the Greek verb used for keeping commandments in 1 John 5:2 versus the word used in 1 John 5:3?
 10. According to John 14:21 and Matthew 11:29, why are God's commandments never a heavy burden for a true overcomer?
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Answer Key

1. An overcomer is a true believer in Jesus Christ who lives in total spiritual victory, defeating Satan, sin, and the world. John uses this phrase three times in 1 John 5:4–5 to show that everyone who is born of God enters into His divine triumph. Because believers are securely placed in Christ, their spiritual victory is guaranteed and permanent.
2. Believers are ultimate winners because God always leads His people in triumph through Jesus Christ, as stated in 2 Corinthians 2:14. Furthermore, 1 John 4:4 reminds Christians that He who is in them is greater than he who is in the world. While Christians may face trials or personal struggles, the permanent faith given to them by God ensures they will never be defeated ultimately.
3. In ancient Greek and Roman culture, people believed that only the gods were all-powerful and invincible, whereas human beings were considered inevitable failures. Scripture completely overturns this pagan view by declaring that through faith in Jesus Christ, ordinary human beings become super conquerors. Believers do not achieve this status through human strength, but through the divine power of God who saved them.
4. The Bible defines "the world" as the invisible system of evil that actively opposes God and operates under the rule of Satan. In the original Greek grammar, believers are described as continually overcoming this evil system day by day. This means that a true Christian's faith is constantly sustained by the Holy Spirit so that they will never fall away or permanently deny God.
5. The first characteristic of an overcomer is a continuous, genuine faith that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God. John refutes the modern false idea of "unbelieving believers"—people who claim one can believe once and then completely abandon God while still going to heaven—by showing that true saving faith is indestructible. Anyone who completely and permanently rejects Christ reveals that they were never truly born of God.
6. The second characteristic of an overcomer is an active love for God the Father and for all of His children. A regenerated believer naturally desires spiritual fellowship and seeks to spend time with other Christians in the local church. As John teaches throughout his letter, anyone who claims to live in God's light but hates fellow believers is actually still walking in spiritual darkness.
7. Biblical love is not a temporary feeling or gooey sentimentality, but a deliberate, sacrificial commitment to honor God and serve others. It is demonstrated practically by caring for the physical and spiritual needs of fellow believers without expecting anything in return. True love eagerly seeks to do God's will and promote the spiritual good of His family.
8. The third characteristic of an overcomer is loving obedience to God's commandments, which naturally grows out of faith and love. When a person truly trusts Jesus Christ and loves God, obeying His Word becomes a joyful desire rather than an unwanted obligation. Genuine faith fuels love, and that love actively propels the believer to follow the Savior's commands.

9. In 1 John 5:2, the original Greek verb highlights continuous physical action and the ongoing practice of doing God's commands. In 1 John 5:3, the term refers to an inward heart attitude of guarding, respecting, and treasuring God's laws as sacred. Together, these terms show that an overcomer honors God's Word through both internal reverence and daily active behavior.
 10. God's commandments are not burdensome because Jesus Christ promises rest to all who take His gentle yoke upon them, as recorded in Matthew 11:29. Additionally, John 14:21 explains that those who keep His commandments will experience a deeper realization of His presence and the Father's love. Obeying God brings spiritual freedom and peace rather than exhausting labor.
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Essay Questions

1. **The Chain of Overcoming:** Analyze how 1 John chapter 5 connects **Faith, Love,** and **Obedience**. How does each characteristic depend upon and build upon the previous one in the daily life of a Christian?
 2. **Greco-Roman vs. Biblical Worldview:** Compare and contrast the ancient pagan understanding of human frailty and divine invincibility with the biblical doctrine of the believer as an overcomer in Jesus Christ.
 3. **Refuting False Assurance:** Examine John's rebuttal of "unbelieving believers." Why is the concept of a person permanently losing faith while retaining eternal life biblically impossible according to First John?
 4. **Practical Christian Love:** Based on the letter of First John and the lesson transcript, describe how genuine biblical love (agape) is practically expressed within a local church community.
 5. **The Source of Eternal Security:** Explain the doctrine of eternal security as presented in 1 John 5:13 and 2 Corinthians 2:14. Why is a believer's invincibility rooted in God's gift of faith rather than human willpower?
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Comprehensive Glossary

- **Adopted:** The legal and spiritual act of God whereby He brings justified believers into His divine family, granting them all the full rights and privileges of His children.
- **Agape (Sacrificial Love):** The selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional love modeled by God; an active choice to seek the highest good of God and others regardless of emotional feelings.
- **Converted:** The spiritual transformation in which a sinner turns away from sin and self-reliance toward complete trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

- **Eternal Security:** The biblical truth that a person who has been genuinely saved by God is kept by His power and will remain saved forever.
- **Justified:** The legal act of God declaring a believing sinner righteous and innocent before Him through the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- **Overcomer:** A true believer in Jesus Christ who continuously triumphs over sin, Satan, and the world system through faith granted by God.
- **Regeneration (New Birth):** The miraculous work of the Holy Spirit that imparts spiritual life to a spiritually dead person, enabling them to repent and believe.
- **Sanctified:** Set apart by God from sin unto holiness; the ongoing process wherein the Holy Spirit transforms a believer's character into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- **The World:** The unseen global system of evil values, ideas, and desires organized by Satan that stands in direct opposition to God and His truth.
- **Yoke:** A heavy wooden frame joined over the necks of working animals; used metaphorically by Jesus Christ in Matthew 11:29 to describe submission to His gentle guidance and teaching.

Greek Words and Pronunciation Guide

The following Greek words were referenced in the teaching context to clarify the nature and action of an overcomer:

Greek Word / Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
Nike [¹]	NEE-kay	A conqueror, victor, or overcomer; one who achieves total triumph over an opponent.
Poieo ("boil") [²]	poy-EH-oh	To do, make, perform, or execute; used in 1 John 5:2 to describe the continuous action of keeping God's commandments.

[¹]: **Nike (NEE-kay):** Referenced in the transcript when explaining that believers are "super conquerors" or overcomers in Jesus Christ, entering into His divine victory over Satan and the world. [²]: **Poieo (poy-EH-oh):** Transcribed phonetically as "boil" in the raw teaching transcript. It refers to the primary Greek verb for active obedience in 1 John 5:2, signifying a continuous, lifestyle practice of carrying out God's commandments.