Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 82 – Recognizing an Overcomer and God's Witness

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Introduction & Comprehensive Review

This study guide reviews the teaching from 1 John Lesson 82 (covering 1 John 5:1–12 along with supporting passages from Revelation and Matthew). The lesson is divided into two central themes: **"Recognizing an Overcomer"** (1 John 5:1–5) and **"God's Witness"** (1 John 5:6–12).

Part 1: Recognizing an Overcomer (1 John 5:1–5)

The Core Traits of an Overcomer

In the ultimate and eternal sense, Christians are invincible. An overcomer is defined in Scripture as someone who keeps the works of the Lord Jesus Christ until the end (Revelation 2:26). True overcomers display three foundational characteristics in their daily walk:

- **Faith:** Unwavering trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
- **Love:** Genuine love for God, His Son, and fellow believers.
- **Obedience:** Both the outward action of obedience and an inner heart attitude or desire to obey. Overcomers do not obey because they are forced to do so; they obey because they genuinely want to please God.

The Delights and Eternal Rewards of Overcomers

Scripture outlines several heavenly rewards and emblems promised to those who overcome:

1. **Eternal Life in Paradise & The Tree of Life:**
    - Overcomers enjoy the eternal presence of Jesus Christ in heaven.
    - The First vs. Second Death: The first death mentioned in the Bible refers to physical death. The second death refers to a far worse outcome: a spiritual and eternal separation from God.
    - The First vs. Second Resurrection: The first resurrection is the resurrection of the just, whereas the second resurrection involves the ungodly of all ages standing before the Great White Throne Judgment.
2. **Hidden Manna:** Correlates to everything believers possess in Jesus Christ, representing full, personal fellowship with Him as the Bread of Life.
3. **The White Stone:** In ancient Greek and Roman court trials, jury members handed a white stone to a defendant who was found innocent, setting them free (while a black

stone signaled guilt). For the overcomer, the white stone symbolizes freedom and acquittal in Jesus Christ.

4. **Intimate Personal Identification:** Heaven will not consist of believers lost in an anonymous crowd. Jesus Christ will relate to each overcomer individually, one-on-one, with personal knowledge and a special individual name.
5. **Delegated Authority Over the Nations:**
    - Revelation 2:26–27 states that overcomers will receive authority over the nations to rule them with a rod of iron.
    - As undershepherds under the authority of the great King, overcomers will exercise this delegated responsibility during the Millennial Kingdom.
    - Matthew 25:21, 23 reinforces this promise: "I will make you ruler over many things."
6. **The Morning Star:**
    - Revelation 22:16 identifies Jesus Christ Himself as the Morning Star: "I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."
    - Receiving the Morning Star means receiving Jesus Christ in all His fullness as an eternal gift from the Father.
7. **White Garments and Absolute Security:**
    - White Garments (Revelation 3:4–5): Represent purity, righteousness, victory, glory, and festivity. Believers wear white because they are clothed in the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
    - Security of Salvation: Jesus Christ promises, "I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."
    - Historical Example of Savonarola: In the 1400s, the French friar Savonarola spoke out against the Roman Catholic Church in Florence. When the Pope threatened to excommunicate him from both the "church militant" (the church on earth) and the "church triumphant" (the church in heaven), Savonarola responded that while the Pope could separate him from the church on earth or kill his physical body, no human authority could ever remove his name from the church triumphant in heaven.
8. **Pillars in the Temple of God:**
    - Revelation 3:12 promises that the overcomer will be made a pillar in the temple of God, bearing a prominent name of honor. Overcomers will possess perfect humility, completely free from pride.

- The Promise of Safety ("He shall go out no more"): The ancient city of Philadelphia was built on a volcanic area prone to frequent earthquakes, forcing residents to flee the city for safety. In God's heavenly temple, believers will dwell in absolute safety without fear of destruction.
- God will write upon the overcomer three things: the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and Jesus Christ's new name.

9. **Sitting on Christ's Throne:**
    - Revelation 3:21 states: "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne."
    - This represents the highest pinnacle of honor and intimacy granted to believers through Jesus Christ.

Part 2: God's Witness (1 John 5:6–12)

The Source Scripture (1 John 5:6–12 NKJV)

"This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Key Theological Truths of God's Witness

- **God's Testimony vs. False Cults:** God's own witness is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, God incarnate. Groups such as self-proclaimed "Jehovah's Witnesses" fail to hold the true witness because they deny that Jesus Christ is God incarnate.
- **The Necessity of Sound Christology:**
    - Christology is critical to a believer's salvation and sanctification.
    - 1 John 2:22–23 notes that whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ is a liar and an antichrist who denies both the Father and the Son.
    - 1 John 3:23 commands belief on the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ.
    - 1 John 4:1–3 instructs believers to test the spirits: any spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, while any spirit that denies this is the spirit of the antichrist.

Quiz: Review Questions

Answer each of the following ten short-answer questions based on the text. Answers are located in the subsequent section.

1. What three core characteristics define an overcomer according to 1 John 5, and how does the transcript describe the specific attitude an overcomer has toward obedience?
2. What are the key differences explained in the lesson between the first death and the second death, as well as the first resurrection and the second resurrection?
3. How did ancient Greek and Roman court trials utilize white and black stones, and what does the white stone symbolize for a Christian believer?
4. What is the identity of the Bright and Morning Star mentioned in Revelation 22:16, and what does it mean for an overcomer to receive this gift?
5. How does the lesson explain the meaning of ruling the nations with a rod of iron in Revelation 2:26–27, including the underlying Greek concept of shepherding?
6. What historical event involving the friar Savonarola in the 1400s illustrates the truth that a believer's name can never be blotted out of the Book of Life?
7. Why was the promise "he shall go out no more" in Revelation 3:12 especially meaningful to the citizens living in the ancient city of Philadelphia?
8. According to 1 John 5:6–8, what three witnesses bear testimony in heaven, and what three witnesses agree as one on earth?
9. Why does the lesson state that modern groups claiming to be "Jehovah's Witnesses" are confused regarding the true testimony of God?
10. Define the term "Christology" as presented in the transcript, and explain why having a correct view of Jesus Christ is essential for salvation according to 1 John.

Answer Key

1. An overcomer is characterized by faith, love, and obedience. Rather than obeying out of external force, an overcomer possesses an internal desire and attitude to obey God because they want to please Him.
2. The first death refers to physical death, whereas the second death refers to eternal, spiritual separation from God. The first resurrection is the resurrection of the just, while the second resurrection involves the ungodly appearing before the Great White Throne Judgment.
3. In ancient trials, jury members gave a white stone to an accused person to signify innocence and freedom, whereas a black stone signaled guilt. For the believer, the white stone represents complete freedom and acquittal through Jesus Christ.
4. Revelation 22:16 identifies Jesus Christ Himself as the Bright and Morning Star. Receiving the Morning Star means that overcomers will receive Jesus Christ in all His fullness as an eternal gift from the Father.
5. Ruling with a rod of iron refers to exercising delegated authority under Jesus Christ during the Millennial Kingdom to shepherd the nations. The underlying Greek term refers to shepherding as undershepherds who guide and protect people rather than abuse them.
6. When the Pope attempted to excommunicate Savonarola from both the church on earth and the church in heaven, Savonarola replied that while men could end his physical life, no human authority could ever remove his name from the church triumphant in heaven.
7. Ancient Philadelphia was located on a fertile volcanic plain plagued by frequent severe earthquakes that forced citizens to constantly flee the city for safety. The promise guarantees that believers in God's heavenly temple will remain permanently secure without fear.
8. In heaven, the three that bear witness are the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. On earth, the three witnesses that agree as one are the Spirit, the water, and the blood.
9. They fail to carry the true witness of God because they deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and God incarnate, which is the exact central testimony God has revealed about His Son.
10. Christology is the study or knowledge of Jesus Christ (derived from Christos, meaning "Anointed One"). A correct Christology is vital because denying that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh is the spirit of the antichrist, whereas receiving His true identity is necessary for salvation.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the ultimate security of the believer as taught in 1 John and Revelation, referencing the Book of Life, white garments, and the historical example of Savonarola.
2. Explain the significance of the various symbols promised to overcomers in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 (such as hidden manna, the white stone, pillars in the temple, and sitting on Christ's throne).
3. Contrast the Biblical definition of God's true witness in 1 John 5:6–12 with the false claims of groups that deny the deity and incarnation of Jesus Christ.
4. Describe the role and responsibilities of overcomers during the Millennial Kingdom as outlined in the study, focusing on delegated authority, shepherding the nations, and ruling with Jesus Christ.
5. Analyze how 1 John links right doctrine (Christology) directly to Christian living, faith, love, and the testing of spiritual spirits.

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Acropolis:** A Greek term meaning "high place" or citadel, referring to elevated hilltops in ancient Greek cities where major temples containing large stone pillars were constructed.[^1]
- **Antichrist:** Any spirit, person, or doctrine that denies that Jesus is the Christ, denies the equality of the Father and the Son, or denies that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.
- **Book of Life:** The heavenly registry containing the names of all citizens of God's Kingdom, from which an overcomer's name will never be blotted out.
- **Church Militant:** A historical theological term referring to the active Christian church living and laboring on earth.
- **Church Triumphant:** The church of redeemed believers gathered in heaven in ultimate victory with Jesus Christ.
- **Christology:** The study and detailed knowledge of the person, nature, deity, and work of Jesus Christ.[^2]
- **First Death:** The physical death of the human body.
- **First Resurrection:** The resurrection of the righteous (the just) unto eternal life with God.

- **Millennial Kingdom:** The thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth, during which faithful overcomers will exercise delegated authority and shepherd the nations under His rule.
- **Overcomer:** A true believer in Jesus Christ who maintains faith, love, and obedience, keeping the works of the Lord until the end.
- **Poimaino:** A Greek verb contextually translated in Revelation 2:27 as "to rule," carrying the core meaning of shepherding or guiding as an undershepherd.[^3]
- **Second Death:** Eternal spiritual separation from God, which has no power over true overcomers.
- **Second Resurrection:** The resurrection of all ungodly individuals throughout history to face the Great White Throne Judgment.
- **White Garments:** A symbol of purity, festivity, victory, glory, and true righteousness imputed to believers through Jesus Christ.
- **White Stone:** An ancient courtroom token representing acquittal, innocence, and freedom, given to believers to symbolize their absolute justification in Jesus Christ.

Greek Words and Pronunciation Guide

This section highlights the specific terms of Greek origin referenced within the lesson context, providing their phonetic pronunciations, contextual definitions, and notes.

Greek Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
Christos	kris-TOSS	"Anointed One"; the Greek equivalent of Messiah, referring to Jesus Christ.[^2]
Poimaino / Pono	poy-MAY-noh / POH-noh	Verb meaning "to shepherd" or "to tend sheep"; used in Revelation 2:27 for ruling under Christ's authority.[^3]
Acropolis	uh-KROP-uh-liss	Literally "high place" or citadel; refers to ancient elevated temple grounds containing pillars.[^1]

[^1]: Referenced in the discussion of ancient Greek cities (such as Athens), where temples with prominent pillars were constructed on high places. [^2]: Derived from the Greek Christos ("Anointed One") combined with -ology ("the study of"), forming the theological term Christology. [^3]: Used in Revelation 2:27 to describe how overcomers will shepherd the nations using delegated authority from Jesus Christ.

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 82 – Recognizing an Overcomer and God's Witness

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Introduction & Comprehensive Review

This study guide reviews the teaching from 1 John Lesson 82 (covering 1 John 5:1–12 along with supporting passages from Revelation and Matthew). The lesson is divided into two central themes: **"Recognizing an Overcomer"** (1 John 5:1–5) and **"God's Witness"** (1 John 5:6–12).

Part 1: Recognizing an Overcomer (1 John 5:1–5)

The Core Traits of an Overcomer

In the ultimate and eternal sense, Christians are invincible. An overcomer is defined in Scripture as someone who keeps the works of the Lord Jesus Christ until the end (Revelation 2:26). True overcomers display three foundational characteristics in their daily walk:

- **Faith:** Unwavering trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
- **Love:** Genuine love for God, His Son, and fellow believers.
- **Obedience:** Both the outward action of obedience and an inner heart attitude or desire to obey. Overcomers do not obey because they are forced to do so; they obey because they genuinely want to please God.

The Delights and Eternal Rewards of Overcomers

Scripture outlines several heavenly rewards and emblems promised to those who overcome:

1. **Eternal Life in Paradise & The Tree of Life:**
    - Overcomers enjoy the eternal presence of Jesus Christ in heaven.
    - The First vs. Second Death: The first death mentioned in the Bible refers to physical death. The second death refers to a far worse outcome: a spiritual and eternal separation from God.
    - The First vs. Second Resurrection: The first resurrection is the resurrection of the just, whereas the second resurrection involves the ungodly of all ages standing before the Great White Throne Judgment.
2. **Hidden Manna:** Correlates to everything believers possess in Jesus Christ, representing full, personal fellowship with Him as the Bread of Life.
3. **The White Stone:** In ancient Greek and Roman court trials, jury members handed a white stone to a defendant who was found innocent, setting them free (while a black

stone signaled guilt). For the overcomer, the white stone symbolizes freedom and acquittal in Jesus Christ.

4. **Intimate Personal Identification:** Heaven will not consist of believers lost in an anonymous crowd. Jesus Christ will relate to each overcomer individually, one-on-one, with personal knowledge and a special individual name.
5. **Delegated Authority Over the Nations:**
    - Revelation 2:26–27 states that overcomers will receive authority over the nations to rule them with a rod of iron.
    - As undershepherds under the authority of the great King, overcomers will exercise this delegated responsibility during the Millennial Kingdom.
    - Matthew 25:21, 23 reinforces this promise: "I will make you ruler over many things."
6. **The Morning Star:**
    - Revelation 22:16 identifies Jesus Christ Himself as the Morning Star: "I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."
    - Receiving the Morning Star means receiving Jesus Christ in all His fullness as an eternal gift from the Father.
7. **White Garments and Absolute Security:**
    - White Garments (Revelation 3:4–5): Represent purity, righteousness, victory, glory, and festivity. Believers wear white because they are clothed in the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
    - Security of Salvation: Jesus Christ promises, "I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."
    - Historical Example of Savonarola: In the 1400s, the French friar Savonarola spoke out against the Roman Catholic Church in Florence. When the Pope threatened to excommunicate him from both the "church militant" (the church on earth) and the "church triumphant" (the church in heaven), Savonarola responded that while the Pope could separate him from the church on earth or kill his physical body, no human authority could ever remove his name from the church triumphant in heaven.
8. **Pillars in the Temple of God:**
    - Revelation 3:12 promises that the overcomer will be made a pillar in the temple of God, bearing a prominent name of honor. Overcomers will possess perfect humility, completely free from pride.

- The Promise of Safety ("He shall go out no more"): The ancient city of Philadelphia was built on a volcanic area prone to frequent earthquakes, forcing residents to flee the city for safety. In God's heavenly temple, believers will dwell in absolute safety without fear of destruction.
- God will write upon the overcomer three things: the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and Jesus Christ's new name.

9. **Sitting on Christ's Throne:**
    - Revelation 3:21 states: "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne."
    - This represents the highest pinnacle of honor and intimacy granted to believers through Jesus Christ.

Part 2: God's Witness (1 John 5:6–12)

The Source Scripture (1 John 5:6–12 NKJV)

"This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Key Theological Truths of God's Witness

- **God's Testimony vs. False Cults:** God's own witness is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, God incarnate. Groups such as self-proclaimed "Jehovah's Witnesses" fail to hold the true witness because they deny that Jesus Christ is God incarnate.
- **The Necessity of Sound Christology:**
    - Christology is critical to a believer's salvation and sanctification.
    - 1 John 2:22–23 notes that whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ is a liar and an antichrist who denies both the Father and the Son.
    - 1 John 3:23 commands belief on the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ.
    - 1 John 4:1–3 instructs believers to test the spirits: any spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, while any spirit that denies this is the spirit of the antichrist.

Quiz: Review Questions

Answer each of the following ten short-answer questions based on the text. Answers are located in the subsequent section.

1. What three core characteristics define an overcomer according to 1 John 5, and how does the transcript describe the specific attitude an overcomer has toward obedience?
2. What are the key differences explained in the lesson between the first death and the second death, as well as the first resurrection and the second resurrection?
3. How did ancient Greek and Roman court trials utilize white and black stones, and what does the white stone symbolize for a Christian believer?
4. What is the identity of the Bright and Morning Star mentioned in Revelation 22:16, and what does it mean for an overcomer to receive this gift?
5. How does the lesson explain the meaning of ruling the nations with a rod of iron in Revelation 2:26–27, including the underlying Greek concept of shepherding?
6. What historical event involving the friar Savonarola in the 1400s illustrates the truth that a believer's name can never be blotted out of the Book of Life?
7. Why was the promise "he shall go out no more" in Revelation 3:12 especially meaningful to the citizens living in the ancient city of Philadelphia?
8. According to 1 John 5:6–8, what three witnesses bear testimony in heaven, and what three witnesses agree as one on earth?
9. Why does the lesson state that modern groups claiming to be "Jehovah's Witnesses" are confused regarding the true testimony of God?
10. Define the term "Christology" as presented in the transcript, and explain why having a correct view of Jesus Christ is essential for salvation according to 1 John.

Answer Key

1. An overcomer is characterized by faith, love, and obedience. Rather than obeying out of external force, an overcomer possesses an internal desire and attitude to obey God because they want to please Him.
2. The first death refers to physical death, whereas the second death refers to eternal, spiritual separation from God. The first resurrection is the resurrection of the just, while the second resurrection involves the ungodly appearing before the Great White Throne Judgment.
3. In ancient trials, jury members gave a white stone to an accused person to signify innocence and freedom, whereas a black stone signaled guilt. For the believer, the white stone represents complete freedom and acquittal through Jesus Christ.
4. Revelation 22:16 identifies Jesus Christ Himself as the Bright and Morning Star. Receiving the Morning Star means that overcomers will receive Jesus Christ in all His fullness as an eternal gift from the Father.
5. Ruling with a rod of iron refers to exercising delegated authority under Jesus Christ during the Millennial Kingdom to shepherd the nations. The underlying Greek term refers to shepherding as undershepherds who guide and protect people rather than abuse them.
6. When the Pope attempted to excommunicate Savonarola from both the church on earth and the church in heaven, Savonarola replied that while men could end his physical life, no human authority could ever remove his name from the church triumphant in heaven.
7. Ancient Philadelphia was located on a fertile volcanic plain plagued by frequent severe earthquakes that forced citizens to constantly flee the city for safety. The promise guarantees that believers in God's heavenly temple will remain permanently secure without fear.
8. In heaven, the three that bear witness are the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. On earth, the three witnesses that agree as one are the Spirit, the water, and the blood.
9. They fail to carry the true witness of God because they deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and God incarnate, which is the exact central testimony God has revealed about His Son.
10. Christology is the study or knowledge of Jesus Christ (derived from Christos, meaning "Anointed One"). A correct Christology is vital because denying that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh is the spirit of the antichrist, whereas receiving His true identity is necessary for salvation.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the ultimate security of the believer as taught in 1 John and Revelation, referencing the Book of Life, white garments, and the historical example of Savonarola.
2. Explain the significance of the various symbols promised to overcomers in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 (such as hidden manna, the white stone, pillars in the temple, and sitting on Christ's throne).
3. Contrast the Biblical definition of God's true witness in 1 John 5:6–12 with the false claims of groups that deny the deity and incarnation of Jesus Christ.
4. Describe the role and responsibilities of overcomers during the Millennial Kingdom as outlined in the study, focusing on delegated authority, shepherding the nations, and ruling with Jesus Christ.
5. Analyze how 1 John links right doctrine (Christology) directly to Christian living, faith, love, and the testing of spiritual spirits.

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Acropolis:** A Greek term meaning "high place" or citadel, referring to elevated hilltops in ancient Greek cities where major temples containing large stone pillars were constructed.[^1]
- **Antichrist:** Any spirit, person, or doctrine that denies that Jesus is the Christ, denies the equality of the Father and the Son, or denies that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.
- **Book of Life:** The heavenly registry containing the names of all citizens of God's Kingdom, from which an overcomer's name will never be blotted out.
- **Church Militant:** A historical theological term referring to the active Christian church living and laboring on earth.
- **Church Triumphant:** The church of redeemed believers gathered in heaven in ultimate victory with Jesus Christ.
- **Christology:** The study and detailed knowledge of the person, nature, deity, and work of Jesus Christ.[^2]
- **First Death:** The physical death of the human body.
- **First Resurrection:** The resurrection of the righteous (the just) unto eternal life with God.

- **Millennial Kingdom:** The thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth, during which faithful overcomers will exercise delegated authority and shepherd the nations under His rule.
- **Overcomer:** A true believer in Jesus Christ who maintains faith, love, and obedience, keeping the works of the Lord until the end.
- **Poimaino:** A Greek verb contextually translated in Revelation 2:27 as "to rule," carrying the core meaning of shepherding or guiding as an undershepherd.[^3]
- **Second Death:** Eternal spiritual separation from God, which has no power over true overcomers.
- **Second Resurrection:** The resurrection of all ungodly individuals throughout history to face the Great White Throne Judgment.
- **White Garments:** A symbol of purity, festivity, victory, glory, and true righteousness imputed to believers through Jesus Christ.
- **White Stone:** An ancient courtroom token representing acquittal, innocence, and freedom, given to believers to symbolize their absolute justification in Jesus Christ.

Greek Words and Pronunciation Guide

This section highlights the specific terms of Greek origin referenced within the lesson context, providing their phonetic pronunciations, contextual definitions, and notes.

Greek Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
Christos	kris-TOSS	"Anointed One"; the Greek equivalent of Messiah, referring to Jesus Christ.[^2]
Poimaino / Pono	poy-MAY-noh / POH-noh	Verb meaning "to shepherd" or "to tend sheep"; used in Revelation 2:27 for ruling under Christ's authority.[^3]
Acropolis	uh-KROP-uh-liss	Literally "high place" or citadel; refers to ancient elevated temple grounds containing pillars.[^1]

[^1]: Referenced in the discussion of ancient Greek cities (such as Athens), where temples with prominent pillars were constructed on high places. [^2]: Derived from the Greek Christos ("Anointed One") combined with -ology ("the study of"), forming the theological term Christology. [^3]: Used in Revelation 2:27 to describe how overcomers will shepherd the nations using delegated authority from Jesus Christ.

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 82 – Recognizing an Overcomer and God's Witness

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Introduction & Comprehensive Review

This study guide reviews the teaching from 1 John Lesson 82 (covering 1 John 5:1–12 along with supporting passages from Revelation and Matthew). The lesson is divided into two central themes: **"Recognizing an Overcomer"** (1 John 5:1–5) and **"God's Witness"** (1 John 5:6–12).

Part 1: Recognizing an Overcomer (1 John 5:1–5)

The Core Traits of an Overcomer

In the ultimate and eternal sense, Christians are invincible. An overcomer is defined in Scripture as someone who keeps the works of the Lord Jesus Christ until the end (Revelation 2:26). True overcomers display three foundational characteristics in their daily walk:

- **Faith:** Unwavering trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
- **Love:** Genuine love for God, His Son, and fellow believers.
- **Obedience:** Both the outward action of obedience and an inner heart attitude or desire to obey. Overcomers do not obey because they are forced to do so; they obey because they genuinely want to please God.

The Delights and Eternal Rewards of Overcomers

Scripture outlines several heavenly rewards and emblems promised to those who overcome:

1. **Eternal Life in Paradise & The Tree of Life:**
    - Overcomers enjoy the eternal presence of Jesus Christ in heaven.
    - The First vs. Second Death: The first death mentioned in the Bible refers to physical death. The second death refers to a far worse outcome: a spiritual and eternal separation from God.
    - The First vs. Second Resurrection: The first resurrection is the resurrection of the just, whereas the second resurrection involves the ungodly of all ages standing before the Great White Throne Judgment.
2. **Hidden Manna:** Correlates to everything believers possess in Jesus Christ, representing full, personal fellowship with Him as the Bread of Life.
3. **The White Stone:** In ancient Greek and Roman court trials, jury members handed a white stone to a defendant who was found innocent, setting them free (while a black

stone signaled guilt). For the overcomer, the white stone symbolizes freedom and acquittal in Jesus Christ.

4. **Intimate Personal Identification:** Heaven will not consist of believers lost in an anonymous crowd. Jesus Christ will relate to each overcomer individually, one-on-one, with personal knowledge and a special individual name.
5. **Delegated Authority Over the Nations:**
    - Revelation 2:26–27 states that overcomers will receive authority over the nations to rule them with a rod of iron.
    - As undershepherds under the authority of the great King, overcomers will exercise this delegated responsibility during the Millennial Kingdom.
    - Matthew 25:21, 23 reinforces this promise: "I will make you ruler over many things."
6. **The Morning Star:**
    - Revelation 22:16 identifies Jesus Christ Himself as the Morning Star: "I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."
    - Receiving the Morning Star means receiving Jesus Christ in all His fullness as an eternal gift from the Father.
7. **White Garments and Absolute Security:**
    - White Garments (Revelation 3:4–5): Represent purity, righteousness, victory, glory, and festivity. Believers wear white because they are clothed in the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
    - Security of Salvation: Jesus Christ promises, "I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."
    - Historical Example of Savonarola: In the 1400s, the French friar Savonarola spoke out against the Roman Catholic Church in Florence. When the Pope threatened to excommunicate him from both the "church militant" (the church on earth) and the "church triumphant" (the church in heaven), Savonarola responded that while the Pope could separate him from the church on earth or kill his physical body, no human authority could ever remove his name from the church triumphant in heaven.
8. **Pillars in the Temple of God:**
    - Revelation 3:12 promises that the overcomer will be made a pillar in the temple of God, bearing a prominent name of honor. Overcomers will possess perfect humility, completely free from pride.

- The Promise of Safety ("He shall go out no more"): The ancient city of Philadelphia was built on a volcanic area prone to frequent earthquakes, forcing residents to flee the city for safety. In God's heavenly temple, believers will dwell in absolute safety without fear of destruction.
- God will write upon the overcomer three things: the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and Jesus Christ's new name.

9. **Sitting on Christ's Throne:**
    - Revelation 3:21 states: "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne."
    - This represents the highest pinnacle of honor and intimacy granted to believers through Jesus Christ.

Part 2: God's Witness (1 John 5:6–12)

The Source Scripture (1 John 5:6–12 NKJV)

"This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Key Theological Truths of God's Witness

- **God's Testimony vs. False Cults:** God's own witness is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, God incarnate. Groups such as self-proclaimed "Jehovah's Witnesses" fail to hold the true witness because they deny that Jesus Christ is God incarnate.
- **The Necessity of Sound Christology:**
    - Christology is critical to a believer's salvation and sanctification.
    - 1 John 2:22–23 notes that whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ is a liar and an antichrist who denies both the Father and the Son.
    - 1 John 3:23 commands belief on the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ.
    - 1 John 4:1–3 instructs believers to test the spirits: any spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, while any spirit that denies this is the spirit of the antichrist.

Quiz: Review Questions

Answer each of the following ten short-answer questions based on the text. Answers are located in the subsequent section.

1. What three core characteristics define an overcomer according to 1 John 5, and how does the transcript describe the specific attitude an overcomer has toward obedience?
2. What are the key differences explained in the lesson between the first death and the second death, as well as the first resurrection and the second resurrection?
3. How did ancient Greek and Roman court trials utilize white and black stones, and what does the white stone symbolize for a Christian believer?
4. What is the identity of the Bright and Morning Star mentioned in Revelation 22:16, and what does it mean for an overcomer to receive this gift?
5. How does the lesson explain the meaning of ruling the nations with a rod of iron in Revelation 2:26–27, including the underlying Greek concept of shepherding?
6. What historical event involving the friar Savonarola in the 1400s illustrates the truth that a believer's name can never be blotted out of the Book of Life?
7. Why was the promise "he shall go out no more" in Revelation 3:12 especially meaningful to the citizens living in the ancient city of Philadelphia?
8. According to 1 John 5:6–8, what three witnesses bear testimony in heaven, and what three witnesses agree as one on earth?
9. Why does the lesson state that modern groups claiming to be "Jehovah's Witnesses" are confused regarding the true testimony of God?
10. Define the term "Christology" as presented in the transcript, and explain why having a correct view of Jesus Christ is essential for salvation according to 1 John.

Answer Key

1. An overcomer is characterized by faith, love, and obedience. Rather than obeying out of external force, an overcomer possesses an internal desire and attitude to obey God because they want to please Him.
2. The first death refers to physical death, whereas the second death refers to eternal, spiritual separation from God. The first resurrection is the resurrection of the just, while the second resurrection involves the ungodly appearing before the Great White Throne Judgment.
3. In ancient trials, jury members gave a white stone to an accused person to signify innocence and freedom, whereas a black stone signaled guilt. For the believer, the white stone represents complete freedom and acquittal through Jesus Christ.
4. Revelation 22:16 identifies Jesus Christ Himself as the Bright and Morning Star. Receiving the Morning Star means that overcomers will receive Jesus Christ in all His fullness as an eternal gift from the Father.
5. Ruling with a rod of iron refers to exercising delegated authority under Jesus Christ during the Millennial Kingdom to shepherd the nations. The underlying Greek term refers to shepherding as undershepherds who guide and protect people rather than abuse them.
6. When the Pope attempted to excommunicate Savonarola from both the church on earth and the church in heaven, Savonarola replied that while men could end his physical life, no human authority could ever remove his name from the church triumphant in heaven.
7. Ancient Philadelphia was located on a fertile volcanic plain plagued by frequent severe earthquakes that forced citizens to constantly flee the city for safety. The promise guarantees that believers in God's heavenly temple will remain permanently secure without fear.
8. In heaven, the three that bear witness are the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. On earth, the three witnesses that agree as one are the Spirit, the water, and the blood.
9. They fail to carry the true witness of God because they deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and God incarnate, which is the exact central testimony God has revealed about His Son.
10. Christology is the study or knowledge of Jesus Christ (derived from Christos, meaning "Anointed One"). A correct Christology is vital because denying that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh is the spirit of the antichrist, whereas receiving His true identity is necessary for salvation.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the ultimate security of the believer as taught in 1 John and Revelation, referencing the Book of Life, white garments, and the historical example of Savonarola.
2. Explain the significance of the various symbols promised to overcomers in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 (such as hidden manna, the white stone, pillars in the temple, and sitting on Christ's throne).
3. Contrast the Biblical definition of God's true witness in 1 John 5:6–12 with the false claims of groups that deny the deity and incarnation of Jesus Christ.
4. Describe the role and responsibilities of overcomers during the Millennial Kingdom as outlined in the study, focusing on delegated authority, shepherding the nations, and ruling with Jesus Christ.
5. Analyze how 1 John links right doctrine (Christology) directly to Christian living, faith, love, and the testing of spiritual spirits.

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Acropolis:** A Greek term meaning "high place" or citadel, referring to elevated hilltops in ancient Greek cities where major temples containing large stone pillars were constructed.[^1]
- **Antichrist:** Any spirit, person, or doctrine that denies that Jesus is the Christ, denies the equality of the Father and the Son, or denies that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.
- **Book of Life:** The heavenly registry containing the names of all citizens of God's Kingdom, from which an overcomer's name will never be blotted out.
- **Church Militant:** A historical theological term referring to the active Christian church living and laboring on earth.
- **Church Triumphant:** The church of redeemed believers gathered in heaven in ultimate victory with Jesus Christ.
- **Christology:** The study and detailed knowledge of the person, nature, deity, and work of Jesus Christ.[^2]
- **First Death:** The physical death of the human body.
- **First Resurrection:** The resurrection of the righteous (the just) unto eternal life with God.

- **Millennial Kingdom:** The thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth, during which faithful overcomers will exercise delegated authority and shepherd the nations under His rule.
- **Overcomer:** A true believer in Jesus Christ who maintains faith, love, and obedience, keeping the works of the Lord until the end.
- **Poimaino:** A Greek verb contextually translated in Revelation 2:27 as "to rule," carrying the core meaning of shepherding or guiding as an undershepherd.[^3]
- **Second Death:** Eternal spiritual separation from God, which has no power over true overcomers.
- **Second Resurrection:** The resurrection of all ungodly individuals throughout history to face the Great White Throne Judgment.
- **White Garments:** A symbol of purity, festivity, victory, glory, and true righteousness imputed to believers through Jesus Christ.
- **White Stone:** An ancient courtroom token representing acquittal, innocence, and freedom, given to believers to symbolize their absolute justification in Jesus Christ.

Greek Words and Pronunciation Guide

This section highlights the specific terms of Greek origin referenced within the lesson context, providing their phonetic pronunciations, contextual definitions, and notes.

Greek Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
Christos	kris-TOSS	"Anointed One"; the Greek equivalent of Messiah, referring to Jesus Christ.[^2]
Poimaino / Pono	poy-MAY-noh / POH-noh	Verb meaning "to shepherd" or "to tend sheep"; used in Revelation 2:27 for ruling under Christ's authority.[^3]
Acropolis	uh-KROP-uh-liss	Literally "high place" or citadel; refers to ancient elevated temple grounds containing pillars.[^1]

[^1]: Referenced in the discussion of ancient Greek cities (such as Athens), where temples with prominent pillars were constructed on high places. [^2]: Derived from the Greek Christos ("Anointed One") combined with -ology ("the study of"), forming the theological term Christology. [^3]: Used in Revelation 2:27 to describe how overcomers will shepherd the nations using delegated authority from Jesus Christ.