

Session #4: "Life Together: Faithfulness"  
I John 5:1-21

"That you may know" (I Jo 5:13): All spiritual knowing begins in "faithing" (Jo 6:69)  
(living more "inner-stantially" than "circum-stantially")  
...slowly crossing over from the human side ("faithing") to the Divine side ("knowing")

The Walk of Faith(ing): (I Jo 5:4,5,10; Col 2:6) - "Overcoming Faith"

- The Questions of Faith (Ja 1:2-4)

..."below the line" questions are meant to take us to "above the line" answers (II Cor 4:15-18)  
(questions/doubts, tensions/needs, riddles/difficulties = the soil of revelation and faith!) (Jo 3-6)  
...questions of faith overcome the ignorance/meaninglessness of "below"!

- The Hearing, the Response of Faith (Ro 10:9-10)

..."But God - what do You say? see?"  
(We present ourselves to God with a non-selective readiness to hear and obey Him!)  
...In Christ, we have a free "Yes"/"No" - "Yes, I believe You"  
...the hearing and response of faith overcome my helplessness, indecisiveness

- The Purification, Refinement of Faith (I Jo 3:3; Is 40:31)

...Trusting without seen and temporal validation; without "natural" assurance (II Cor 5:7; 4:18)  
(faith that "works" is not in signs, but in Him! - II Tim 4:16,17)  
...We let go of lesser, immature faith (seeing/feeling/understanding faith) (Heb 11:6)  
...The purification of faith overcomes immature "mixtures" of faith

- The Rest, Knowing of Faith (I Jo 5:13; Ro 8:28)

...A "blessed assurance" (Ro 4:18-21 - "fully assured")  
(faith that abandons to His faithfulness - Ro 3:3; I Cor 1:9)  
...The "faithfulness of Christ" is becoming our faith (Ga 2:20)  
...the knowing of faith overcomes anxiety and uncertainty (I Jo 5:11-13)

## **What We May Believe and Come to Know (I Jo 5:1-21)**

### **- We Can Come to Know We Are Born of God (I Jo 5:1-2; Ro 8:16)**

...this new birth is our actual condition (Jo 3:3-6,16; I Jo 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; I Pet 1:3)

...conceived in love, all of grace: a "mystery" lived by faith (I Jo 2:6; Col 1:26-27)

= new creations in Christ Jesus (II Cor 5:17; Ro 6:4,10)

...the faithful, loving character of Christ has been "imported" into our spirits (Ga 2:20; Col 3:4)

...every time we faithfully obey God and love one another, our awareness and experience of our "born-againness" solidifies and grows (I Jo 5:3)

### **- We Can Come to Know His Commands Are Not Burdensome (I Jo 5:3; Matt 11:28-30)**

...the Lover and Lawkeeper lives in us (Matt 5:17)

(What may seem burdensome to "just me" is no burden to Christ in me! - Col 1:27)

...He never asks out of us what is not already in us (Eph 1:3; II Pet 1:3,4; Ga 5:22-25)

...In the faithful practice of "not I, but Christ" we find our supply (Ga 2:20; Phil 4:13)

(Be careful of "commands" that didn't come from God in the first place! - Matt 23:4; Mk 7:6-9)

### **- We Can Come to Know We Are Overcomers (I Jo 5:4,5; Jo 16:33)**

...There are things to overcome! (I Tim 6:12)

...The world, devil, sin, evil, fallenness: neither irresistible nor unconquerable for the child of God (I Jo 4:4; 5:4,5; Ro 8:37ff; II Cor 2:14)

...We place our faith in the One who "has overcome" (once for all) the world/fallen: (I Jo 5:4)

= in who He is (the Conqueror of everything that is against us) (I Jo 5:5; Heb 7:16; Jo 16:33)

= in where He is (I Jo 4:4)

### **- We Can Come to Know We Possess God's Life (I Jo 5:6-13)**

...God has given us Himself (I Jo 5:10,11,12; Jo 10:10)

(God is no longer "external" to us... separated from us - Col 1:27)

...We have the inner witness of God's Spirit (I Jo 5:7-10)

("water" = He identifies with us; "blood" = He dies for us; "spirit" = He is raised and living within us)

...We faithfully "lean" on the living reality of His indwelling life (I Jo 5:11-12)

**We Can Come to Know How to Pray Confidently (I Jo 5:14-17; Jo 15:7)**

- In Christ, We Have Unhindered Access/Communion with God (I Jo 5:14)
  - ..."before Him" - face to face with nothing in between (Jo 14:3; Phil 4:6)
  - ...we trust Him with our requests (I Jo 5:15)
  - ...we bow before our "Supplier" with no fear of rejection (Phil 4:6-7)
- Our Faith (That Overcomes) Is in God, Not in Praying (I Jo 5:14,15)
  - ...we are willing for God to be the Willer (Matt 7:7; Jo 7:17)

**We Can Come to Know We Are Kept/Protected in Christ (I Jo 5:18-19; Jo 10:27-28)**

- The "Begotten One" Keeps the "Born Again" Ones (I Jo 5:18)
  - ...the devil can take no ground in us without our permission (Eph 4:27)
  - ...we may have a great "adversary", but an even greater "Advocate"! (Lk 11:21ff; 22:31-32)
    - (Body and soul may not be "off limits" to the devil - but "spirit" is!)

**We Can Come to Know How to Live in Ultimate Reality (I Jo 5:20-21; Jo 8:31-36)**

- The Truth Is What God Says... Reality Is What God Sees
  - ...God's Truth, God's Reality - Jesus Christ - "has come..." ...into us! (I Jo 5:20; 2:8; 4:17)
  - ...abiding in God's Truth/Reality yields less disappointment, less stumbling (I Pet 2:6,8)
- We overcome the "Un-real" by staying away from "idols" (I Jo 5:21; I Thess 1:9)
  - ...we are all shaped according to the objects of our faith (Ps 115:8)
  - ..."idol" = what we believe will deliver us; "gods" that cannot "God"!
    - (Un-real, empty objects of faith render us un-real and empty!)
- "Understanding" of the Real/True Is Ours Only When the Real and the True - Jesus Christ the Lord - Is Our Life! (I Jo 5:21)

## Testing the Spirits

1) Is Jesus Christ fully God and fully man? (I Jo 4:2)

2) Questions to ask:

- Does the "inspiration" yield

...pride (James 4:6)...?

...fear (II Tim 1:7)...?

...confusion/complexity (I Cor 14:33; II Cor 11:3)?

- Does it cause

...love to grow cold (Matt 24:10-12)?

...a fuss over control/power (Mk 10:42)?

...one to demand rights/to be served (Mk 10:45; Phil 2:6-7)?

- Does it offer a "way"

...other than the cross/death (Lk 4:1-3; Jo 12:24; Ga 6:14)?

...other than the sufficiency of Christ alone (II Cor 3:5; II Pet 1:3,4)?

...other than self expenditure (II Cor 12:15)?

3) Is there evidence/the witness of "agape" (I Jo 4:7-8)?