

FAITH—OUR KEY TO VICTORY (1 John 5:1-5)

March 1, 2026

TEXT: 1 John 5:1-5

MAIN IDEA—Living by faith is the key to victorious Christian living that overcomes the world.

MEMORY VERSE—1 John 5:4

THE NATURE OF FAITH (1 Jn. 5:1a)—John has been teaching about various tests a person may use to know if they are truly a follower of Jesus Christ. He has spoken of moral tests of righteousness (**1 John 3:7-10**), social tests of loving others (**1 John 4:7-8**), and doctrinal tests of proper beliefs about Jesus (**1 John 4:1-3**). Here John continues to elaborate on the doctrinal test by applying faith as a test of whether or not one has eternal life.

> Saving faith involves **content**. Contrary to secular views of faith, saving faith is not a blind faith that simply hopes things will get better someday. Saving faith involves specific content.

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Knowledge (Noticia)-We must start with hearing accurate facts about who Christ is, as God's Son who came in the flesh, and what Christ did through His substitutionary death on the cross to atone for our sins.

Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:1-3

Agreement (Assent)--This is agreement that these facts about Christ are true and our hearts are moved by this message. **Rom. 10:9**

Trust (Fiduccia)--Once we have heard the message and are in agreement with its truth, we must completely rely upon Christ's finished work alone for our forgiveness and acceptance before God.

Rom. 10:10, 13

F-A-I-T-H—Forsaking All I Take Him.

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> Saving faith **comes from God (5:1)** The word ‘believes’ in the original language is present tense meaning A CONTINUING ACTIVITY, not a one-time event. The word ‘born’ in the phrase ‘born of God’ is in the perfect tense indicating A PAST EVENT WITH CONTINUING CONSEQUENCES.

Jn.3:3; Eph. 2:4-5; Rom. 10:17

> Saving faith results in **perseverance**. Again, the word ‘believes’ means A CONTINUING ACTIVITY, not a one-time event.

Heb. 10:38-39

THE EFFECTS OF FAITH (1 Jn. 5:1b-5)—Just as faith in Jesus Christ is a sign of the new birth, John goes on to describe three other evidences of true faith in those who are ‘born of God.’

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>Love (1 Jn. 5:1b)—Now, in Christ, we not only love our Heavenly Father, but all of His children (starting with Jesus & our adopted family in Christ).

>Obedience (1 Jn. 5:2-3)—Those who are truly saved are characterized by a desire to do the will of God. Willing obedience is a clear expression of faith in Jesus **[Jn. 14:15]**.

Matt.11:28-30

>Victory (1 Jn. 5:4-5)—The child of God is born into victory. Every enemy of God's kingdom arrayed against us (i.e. the world, flesh, devil) are defeated foes. Through Christ and faith in His promises we can enjoy victory. **1 Cor.15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14**

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*ENOCH is a picture of victorious faith that overcomes the world *by walking with God* (Heb. 11:5).

*NOAH is a picture of victorious faith that overcomes the world by *obeying God* (Heb. 11:7).

*ABRAHAM is a picture of victorious faith that looks to *God's promises* (Heb. 11:8-16).

Rom. 10:13; 1 Jn. 1:9; Prov. 3:5-6

Homework-Read Heb. 11 throughout this week and meditate on the heroes of faith, whom God gave faith for deliverance (V1-35a) or faith to die to the glory of God (V35b-40).

BLESSING—HEBREWS 12:1-2