



Reflection and Discussion Guide - Week 10

1 John 5:1-12

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. 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. 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. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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1. In verse 4, John speaks of Christians overcoming the world through faith in Christ. Why must we overcome the world instead of making peace with it? In what ways are you currently experiencing pressure from the world to conform to its ways?
 2. Throughout this letter, John describes Christians as people who have been “born of God.” According to verse 1, is a person spiritually reborn before or after they believe in Jesus? Why does this matter? How does depending on God’s grace help us overcome the world?
 3. What was John’s point in verses 2-3? How does loving one another according to God’s commandments help us overcome the world? Give some practical examples of how you’ve either given or received this kind of love.
 4. In verses 6-10, John describes God’s testimony about Jesus. Discuss what John meant in verse 7 about the Spirit, the water, and the blood. What are some things that have given you confidence in God’s testimony, and how is this confidence helping you overcome the world?
 5. Discuss verses 11-12. How does having assurance of eternal life in Christ help you overcome the world? What are some reasons why a person might lack this kind of assurance? What would you say to someone who lacks it?