

John Presents Believing Alone for Salvation (1 John 5:1-13)

1. John Explains the Birth of a Believer (1a)

^{1a} Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...

Each [one] BELIEVING (~) that Jesus is being the Christ out of the God has been begotten (→)...

The first part of this verse is one of the clearest statements in Scripture of what a person has to do to be saved (cf. John 20:31). There is no other way that John ever defined a Christian. We must believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ (i.e., the Anointed One whom God promised to provide as a substitute sacrifice for the sins of the world). What defines a Christian is his or her faith in Jesus Christ, not lifestyle, good works, or obedience to God. Tom Constable, [Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), 1 Jn 4:21.

2. John Shows How Believing Behaves (1b-3)

^{1b-3} ...and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

and each [one] loving (~) the [one] **who begot (x) is loving (~)** also the [one] **begotten (→)** out of him. In this we are knowing (~) that **we are loving (~)** the children of the God, whenever the God **we might be loving (~s)** and the commandments of him we might be doing. For this is (~) the **love** of the God, in order that the commandments of Him we might be keeping (~s), and the commandments of Him heavy not are (~).

a. Loving the One Who begot = loving the one who has been begotten out of God

b. Keeping God's commandments

We must love other Christians in obedience to God's commandments. Those who genuinely love God will obey His commandments. This love expresses itself in action, not just emotion. We love other Christians best when we obey God. Tom Constable, [Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), 1 Jn 5:2.

3. John Reveals the Victory in Believing (4-5)

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

*Because each [one] **having been begotten (→) out of the God** is being-victorious-over (~) the world; and this is the victory that was-victorious-over (x) the world, the BELIEF of us. And who is (~) the [one] being-victorious-over the world if not the [one] BELIEVING that Jesus is (~) the son of the God?*

a. Begotten (believing) out of God is being victorious over the world

b. This is possible through our belief

c. The one victorious over the world is the one believing that Jesus is (~) the son of God

Continuing to overcome is not automatic for the Christian. Not all Christians continue to overcome the world (cf. 2 Tim. 4:10). Only those who continue to live by faith (i.e., trust and obey God day by day) do. However, no one can overcome the world unless he or she believes that Jesus is the Son of God. It is in this sense that John refers to overcomers here; every Christian overcomes essentially because he or she believes in Jesus Christ.

Tom Constable, [Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), 1 Jn 5:5.

4. John Defines what Belief Believes (6-8)

⁶ 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. ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: ~~the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.~~ ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

WHY question the text in Verse 7?

- **Does not appear in any Greek texts before the 1600s.**
- **Is not cited by early sermons, writings, or creeds.**
- **Does not align with the flow of the context.**
- **Seems to have been added to support the Trinity.**

*This [one] is (~) the [one] having come (x) through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood, and the spirit is (~) the [one] **witnessing** (~), because the spirit is (~) the truth. Because three are (~) the [ones] **witnessing** (~). The spirit and the water and the blood, and the three unto the one are (~).*

a. The water – Jesus’ physical birth or His baptism (when the Father spoke, and the Spirit descended)

b. The blood – Jesus’ sacrificial death (the payment has been made!)

c. The Spirit – the revelation that confirms the first two

5. John Reviews the Evidence for Believing (9-11)

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

*If the **witness** of the men is being received (~), the **witness** of the God greater is being (~); because this is being (~) the **witness** of the God, because **he-has-born-witness** (→) concerning the Son of him. The [one] BELIEVING in the son of the God is having (~) the **witness** in him, the [one] not BELIEVING (~) in the God a liar he-has-made (→) him, because not HE-HAS-BELIEVED (→) in the **witness** which **he-has-born-witness** (→) the God concerning the son of him. And this is being (~) the **witness**, that life eternal he gave to us the God, and this the life in the son of him is being (~).*

a. God’s witness – OT prophecies, at Jesus’ baptism, through the fulfillment of Jesus’ sacrifice, through Jesus’ resurrection, through clear revelation about salvation

b. Believing = receiving the witness

c. Not believing = made God a liar

d. Believe the witness of God!

6. John Shares the Necessity to Believe (12)

¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

The [one] having (~) the Son is having (~) the life; the [one] not having (~) the Son of the God the life not is having (~).

a. Eternal life – having our sins forgiven and being in a right relationship with God – is only through Jesus.

b. No Jesus, no life. Believe Jesus, have life.

7. John Confirms Salvation to All Who Believe (13)

¹³ These things I have written to you ~~who believe in the name of the Son of God~~, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue* to believe in the name of the Son of God.

These [things] I have written to you, in order that you might know that life you are having (~) eternal, to the [ones] BELIEVING (~) in the name of the son of the God.

DARBY These things have I written to you that ye may know that ye have eternal life who believe on the name of the Son of God.

NAU These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. (New American Standard 1995 Update)

ESV I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (English Standard Version)

CSB¹⁷ I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (Christian Standard Bible 2017 Update)

a. John’s purpose in writing this section (coming full circle from 5:1)

b. If you are believing in that name of the son of God (who He is, what He has done), you are having (right now) eternal life. You are saved!