

**1 John 5:2 – 21***English Standard Version*

1 <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love  
 2 God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God,  
 3 that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not  
 4 burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For everyone who has been born of God overcomes  
 5 the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—  
 6 our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who  
 7 believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is he who came by  
 8 water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the  
 9 water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies,  
 10 because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the  
 11 Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. <sup>9</sup>If we  
 12 receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for  
 13 this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his  
 14 Son. <sup>10</sup>Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in  
 15 himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar,  
 16 because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne  
 17 concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony, that God gave us  
 18 eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has  
 19 life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>I  
 20 write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of  
 21 God, that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup>And this is  
 22 the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything  
 23 according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears  
 24 us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we  
 25 have asked of him. <sup>16</sup>If anyone sees his brother committing a sin  
 26 not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to  
 27 those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that  
 28 leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. <sup>17</sup>All  
 29 wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.  
 30 <sup>18</sup>We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep  
 31 on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil  
 32 one does not touch him. <sup>19</sup>We know that we are from God, and  
 33 the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. <sup>20</sup>And we know  
 34 that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so  
 35 that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true,  
 36 in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup>Little  
 37 children, keep yourselves from idols.

**Observation (What does it say?):***What do you notice in this passage?*

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Purpose or explanation?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Commands or instructions?
- Conditional (if–then) statements?
- Other observations?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):***After observing the passage:*

- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What parts challenge your previous thinking?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- What parts of this passage fit your current life situation?
- What parts seem unrelated to your circumstances?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

- *What is the connection (if any) between “his commandments are not burdensome” (v. 3) and overcoming the world (v. 4)?*
- *What does “overcoming the world” mean? Where do you feel you are successfully overcoming the world? And where not?*
- *What are “the water and the blood” John describes as witnesses? How might those witnesses relate to the controversies over the humanity and divinity of Jesus in that church?*
- *What is the distinction John makes about sin “leading/not leading to death” (v.16-17)?*
- *What do you make of John’s ending to this letter? Is it an abrupt afterthought? How might it relate to the rest of the context?*

**Inductive Bible Study**

(A few general ideas)

**Observation**  
**(What does it say?)**

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

**Interpretation**  
**(What does it mean?)**

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**  
**(What does it mean for me?)**

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Benael (1687-1752)**