

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 78-“Recognizing an Overcomer”

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Introduction

This study guide explores First John Chapter 5 based on Lesson 78 of the First John series. The lesson opens with church announcements, community activities, and prayer requests before entering a deep study of First John 5:1–5.

Main Lesson Overview

First John is a foundational book with a clear-cut purpose: to provide tests by which believers can know with certainty that they possess eternal life. The central thesis statement of the epistle is found in 1 John 5:13: "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."

In First John 5:1–5, the focus turns to the concept of being an **overcomer**. Through faith in Jesus Christ, believers receive permanent victory over Satan, sin, death, and the worldly system.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. What is the October memory verse assigned to the congregation, and what fundamental truth does it teach about God? Please explain the context of this verse as presented in the lesson in two to three sentences.
2. What is the central thesis statement of the First Epistle of John, and where is it located in scripture? Describe the main purpose that the apostle John had for writing this letter to believers.
3. How did the specific term "Christian" originate in ancient history according to the text? Explain what the original term meant when used by pagans toward early followers of Jesus Christ.
4. What Greek verb is translated as "overcomes" or "conquers" in First John 5, and how did ancient Greek culture view this concept? Mention how their view of victory differed between mortals and their gods.
5. How does the apostle Paul expand upon the word for conqueror in Romans 8:37 when describing the status of believers? Explain the compound Greek term he uses and what it means for Christians.
6. What historical figure and military battle were cited in the lesson to illustrate a triumph so massive that the word "victory" was insufficient? Briefly describe the message sent to the British Admiralty.

7. According to First John and the Book of Revelation, how do believers overcome Satan and his deception? List the specific means provided in scripture by which the power of the evil one is defeated.
 8. What three major spiritual enemies do believers triumph over through their faith in Jesus Christ? Summarize how victory is achieved over each enemy as discussed in the lesson.
 9. How is "the world" explicitly defined in the context of this Bible study? Explain what elements make up this system and who rules over it.
 10. What is the grammatical significance of the verb tense used for "overcomes" in First John 5:4? Describe how this impacts a Christian's daily spiritual walk.
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Answer Key

1. The October memory verse is Jeremiah 32:17. It demonstrates that God created the heavens and the earth by His great power and outstretched arm, proving that nothing is too difficult for Him.
2. The thesis statement is 1 John 5:13. The main purpose of the epistle is to provide clear tests so that those who believe in the Son of God may have absolute assurance of their salvation.
3. The term "Christian" was originally used by pagans as a derisive or mocking label. It literally translated to "little Christ."
4. The Greek verb is Nikaō (noun: Nikē). Ancient Greeks believed that only their gods could possess permanent, unconquerable victory, whereas human mortals could only achieve temporary triumphs.
5. Paul added the prefix huper- to form Hupernikaō, translated as "more than conquerors" or "super conquerors." This signifies that believers have entered a permanent state of being unconquerable through Him who loved us.
6. British Royal Navy officer Lord Nelson was cited following his victory over the French at the Battle of the Nile. He reported that the word "victory" was not large enough to describe what took place.
7. Believers overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, and by having the word of God abide inside them, which neutralizes Satan's lies and power.
8. Believers triumph over Satan (the evil one), death (including sin and the penalty of the law), and the worldly system (including false prophets).
9. "The world" is defined as the invisible spiritual system of evil that operates apart from God, dominated by Satan and driven by carnal ambition, pride, greed, and lust.
10. The verb "overcomes" is written in the present tense in Greek, meaning that overcoming is a continuous, habitual, and ongoing reality for every true child of God.

Essay Questions

1. Explain how the apostle John uses repeating, cycling themes in his epistle to build assurance of salvation for believers.
2. Compare and contrast the ancient Greek pagan concept of Nikē (victory) with the New Testament doctrine of the Christian as an overcomer in Jesus Christ.
3. Detail the three specific realms that believers overcome according to First John 5 (Satan, death/sin, and the world), and explain how Jesus Christ secured victory in each area.

4. Analyze the biblical definition of "the world" provided in the study, distinguishing between human societal structures and the invisible spiritual system of evil.
5. Explain what it means for a Christian to be referred to as an "epistle" or "living letter" in the world today, referencing how spiritual maturity affects daily behavior.

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Assurance of Salvation:** The absolute certainty and confidence that a believer possesses regarding His eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:13).
- **Derisive:** Expressing contempt, ridicule, or mock praise; used to describe how pagans originally coined the label "Christian."
- **Epistle (Living Letter):** A formal letter; used metaphorically to describe a believer whose transformed life communicates the gospel and character of Jesus Christ to surrounding society.
- **Mentorship:** A church program designed to train younger and older individuals in practical life skills, fellowship, and spiritual growth.
- **Overcomer:** A child of God who, through faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, habitually conquers Satan, sin, spiritual death, and the corrupt world system.
- **Thesis Statement:** The primary proposition or central purpose of a written text; in First John, it serves to give believers knowledge of their eternal life.
- **The World:** The invisible, organized spiritual system of evil operating in rebellion against God, ruled by Satan, and powered by carnal ambition, greed, pride, and lust.

Greek Words and Pronunciation Guide

The primary passage studied in First John 5 utilizes specific Greek concepts to express the believer's permanent status in Jesus Christ.

Greek Word / Concept	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition	Footnote
Nikaō (verb) / Nikē (noun)	nik-ah'-oh / nee'-kay	To conquer, win, defeat, or gain victory; triumph over an opponent.	[^1]
Hupernikaō	hoo-per-nik-ah'-oh	To overwhelmingly conquer; to be a "super conqueror" or completely victorious beyond normal measure.	[^2]

[^1]: *Nikaō* (transcribed in the teaching as *nico*) is the Greek verb used three times in 1 John 5:4–5. The ancient Greeks named their goddess of victory *Nikē*, believing that permanent,

unconquerable triumph belonged strictly to the gods, whereas mortals could only gain temporary victories. Jesus Christ uses the verb form in John 16:33 when He declares that He has overcome the world.

[^2]: *Huper nikaō* combines the prefix *huper-* (meaning "above" or "beyond") with *nikaō*. The apostle Paul uses this compound verb in Romans 8:37 ("in all these things we are more than conquerors"), emphasizing that through the love of God in Jesus Christ, believers are placed in an invincible, permanent condition of ultimate victory that no created thing can break.