

## Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 79-Recognizing an Overcomer

October 14, 2026

### Introduction

Welcome to the study guide for "Recognizing an Overcomer." This guide is designed to help you understand what the Bible teaches in 1 John 5:1-5 about spiritual victory and true faith.

In this lesson, an overcomer is defined as a true believer in Jesus Christ. Overcomers are victors, winners, and super-conquerors over Satan, spiritual deception, worldly persecution, and death itself. Even though believers face daily struggles, temptations, and tribulations in this physical world, their ultimate victory is secure. This security exists not because of human effort, but because of the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the First Letter of John, three main tests are used to show whether a person has truly been born of God:

- **The Doctrinal Test:** Faith in the truth, specifically believing that Jesus is the Christ, God in human flesh.
- **The Moral Test of Love:** True love toward God and toward other people.
- **The Moral Test of Obedience:** A living desire to obey the Word of God.

As you review this guide, keep in mind that saving faith is a permanent, unbreakable gift given by God at salvation. True believers continuously place their trust in Jesus Christ because they have been begotten by Him.

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### Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the lesson, what does it mean for a believer to be a "super-conqueror"?
2. What are the three main tests presented throughout First John to show evidence of a person's salvation?
3. What is the biblical relationship between continuous believing and being born of God?
4. What is the worst thing the world can physically do to a believer, and why does it fail to take away their victory?
5. How does the teacher explain the two meanings behind the phrase "our faith" in 1 John 5:4?
6. What is the key difference between Arminian theology and Apostle John's teaching regarding faith and salvation?

7. According to 1 John 2:22-23 and 1 John 4:1-3, how can a believer identify a false teacher or the spirit of the Antichrist?
  8. What does 1 John 2:19 reveal about individuals who completely walk away from the fellowship and stop believing?
  9. Why is a believer's status as an overcomer a reason for deep humility rather than pride?
  10. Which Old Testament hero is highlighted in the lesson to demonstrate an unbreakable, enduring faith in God during extreme suffering?
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### Quiz Answer Key

1. Being a super-conqueror means that through Jesus Christ, believers have completely defeated Satan, his deception, death, and the world. Believers are invincible in Him because their sins are fully paid for, and nothing can ever separate them from the love of God.
2. The three tests of salvation are faith in the truth (a doctrinal test), love toward God and others (a moral test), and obedience to God's Word (a moral test). These three evidences cycle repeatedly through the letter of First John to prove that a person is begotten of God.
3. Continuous believing is the result and evidence of having been born of God, rather than the cause of being born again. When God grants new spiritual birth, He implants a permanent faith that continuously trusts in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
4. The worst thing the world can do to a believer is end their earthly life, but this only ushers them into the full honors of their eternal triumph. Death frees the believer from their hindering flesh and introduces them to complete spiritual perfection in the presence of Jesus Christ.
5. The phrase "our faith" contains a intentional double meaning that includes both the subjective personal act of believing and the objective body of Christian truth. It shows that overcomers are saved by placing their personal trust in the true Christian faith once delivered to the saints.
6. Arminian theology incorrectly teaches that a person remains saved only as long as they keep believing through their own effort. In contrast, Apostle John teaches that ongoing faith is an enduring gift granted by God at salvation, proving that the person was permanently begotten by Him.
7. A person exhibits the spirit of the Antichrist if they deny that Jesus is the Christ, deny His deity, or refuse to confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Anyone who rejects Jesus Christ as God incarnate and the only Savior does not belong to God.

8. First John 2:19 explains that people who abandon the true faith and leave the church were never genuinely saved to begin with. If they had possessed genuine saving faith from God, they would have remained with the believers to the end.
9. Believers do not deserve to be overcomers because they still experience daily sin, weaknesses, and moral failures. It is only by the grace and mercy of God that the righteousness of Jesus Christ is granted to them, leaving no room for self-righteous boasting.
10. Job is highlighted as an Old Testament hero who possessed an unbreakable faith given by God. Even when Satan took away his family, wealth, and physical health, Job declared in Job 13:15, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

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### Essay Questions

1. Explain how 1 John 5:1-5 refutes the idea that human faith is a work used to purchase salvation, focusing on the divine origin and permanent nature of true faith.
2. Discuss the three ongoing tests of salvation found in First John, explaining how a believer can still be considered an overcomer despite experiencing daily struggles with sin.
3. Contrast how the unbelieving world views physical suffering and death with how an overcomer in Jesus Christ views these same hardships.
4. Analyze the biblical criteria for identifying false prophets and spiritual deception as outlined in First John chapters 2 and 4.
5. Using the examples from Hebrews 11 and Job, describe how enduring faith during severe trials serves as proof of spiritual rebirth.

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### Comprehensive Glossary

- **Antichrist:** Any individual, teacher, or spirit that denies that Jesus is the Christ, denies His full deity, or rejects that He came in human flesh.
- **Arminian Theology:** A system of theological thought claiming that a person remains saved only as long as they maintain their own belief, contrasting with the biblical truth that God bestows a permanent, unbreakable faith.
- **Begotten of God:** The spiritual rebirth or new birth initiated by God, by which a person is made His child and receives His eternal life.
- **Doctrinal Test:** An examination focused on what a person believes concerning Jesus Christ, requiring full trust in Him as God incarnate, Messiah, and sole Savior.

- **Joint Heirs:** The glorious status of believers who share fully in the spiritual inheritance that God bestows upon His Son, Jesus Christ.
- **Moral Tests:** Tests of authentic salvation demonstrated through personal love for God and others, alongside a persistent lifestyle of obedience to His Word.
- **Overcomer:** A true believer in Jesus Christ who, through Him, has achieved final victory over Satan, the world, sin, lies, and eternal death.
- **Regeneration:** The sovereign work of God bringing spiritual life to a dead sinner, making them a new creation with a brand-new spiritual nature.
- **Saving Faith:** An enduring, unbreakable trust in Jesus Christ granted as a gracious gift from God, which perseveres through all lifetime trials and persecutions.

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### Greek Vocabulary and Pronunciation Guide

The text of the lesson references several key Greek words and phrases that clarify the biblical definition of an overcomer, the gift of divine birth, and the nature of enduring faith.

| Greek Term                    | Phonetic Pronunciation          | Biblical Definition                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| nikē [^1]                     | NEE-kay                         | A victor, conqueror, or one who achieves victory.                                                                          |
| huper nikē [^2]               | hoo-per NEE-kay                 | A super-conqueror or supreme victor who gains an overwhelming, ultimate triumph.                                           |
| ek tou Theou gegen'nētai [^3] | ek too theh-OO geh-ghen-NAY-tye | Literally, "out of God has been begotten," referring to the divine origin of a believer's new spiritual birth.             |
| hē pistis [^4]                | hay PISS-tiss                   | "The faith" or "our faith," referring both to personal trust in Jesus Christ and to the objective body of Christian truth. |

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### Footnotes

[^1]: **nikē**: Used to describe an overcomer or victor who conquers spiritual enemies. [^2]: **huper nikē**: Adapted from Apostle Paul's vocabulary to express that believers are elevated to "super-conquerors" through Jesus Christ over sin, Satan, and death. [^3]: **ek tou Theou gegen'nētai**: Found in 1 John 5:1, highlighting that continual faith is the direct output and proof of having already been begotten out of God. [^4]: **hē pistis**: Found in 1 John 5:4, referring to the unbreakable faith granted by God that enables believers to overcome the world.