



# International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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## 1 John 5:1-5 Commentary King James Version

**Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse [International Bible Study Commentary](#). **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the *International Bible Study Commentary* website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [International Bible Study Forum](#).

**(1 John 5:1) Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.**

John gives believers another test by which we can know if we are true Christians: “Do we believe that Jesus is the Christ;” that is, the Messiah that God promised in the Old Testament to send? Do we believe Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One as the Bible represents Him? Do we believe Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world as a human being—fully God and fully man? Do we believe Jesus is the King, our King, not just the King of the Jews? Do we love Jesus’ Father in heaven? Do we love the children of God, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ who follow Him too? If we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus Christ as the Holy Scriptures teach, we know we are born-again and we have been given the Holy Spirit to live within us. When we are born-anew, we become new creations, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” Those who are born of God believe in Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures. Their new birth leads them to love and obey Jesus Christ

according to the Scriptures. Those who are truly born from above will truly love God the Father, and they will love His Son, Jesus Christ. They will also love other children of God as their brothers and sisters in Christ, because they have the same Father. John carries forward into chapter 5 his teaching in 1 John 4 by writing, “Everyone who loves the father loves his child as well,” which means that a person who says they love God; that is, *if they truly love God*, will love “God the Father” and they will love “God the Son, Jesus Christ,” and they will also love all those who believe in Jesus Christ because they too are members of God’s family. If a person does not love “God the Son, Jesus Christ” they cannot truly love and know the true God. If a person says they love God, but they do not love their brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ (that is, those who are born again by faith in Jesus Christ), they do not truly love God the Father or God the Son.

**(1 John 5:2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.**

If we love God the Father and God the Son, we will love the children of God—those who are born-again into the family of God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. The Bible commands and requires the true children of God to love God and obey God’s commandments. If we love God and obey God’s commandments, we will also love God’s children. As born-again believers, we can know whether we love God and God’s children by examining what we say and do. If we love God, we will carry out His commands, and His commands often describe specific ways we can express the love of God and our love to others in a variety of situations. For example, John wrote in James 1:27, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” We do not love God or carry out His commands as some “works” we must do to “be saved” or “born again.” Rather, because as followers of Jesus Christ we are born again, we love God, we love to carry out His commands, and we love all who follow Jesus Christ.

**(1 John 5:3) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.**

Love for God and obedience to God go together. If we are obeying God because we love God, then we have no fear of punishment by God—this is gospel living—this is living with good news from God. If we are trying to obey God because we are afraid of punishment by God—this is living under the law of God and not the love of God. It is not burdensome to obey God when we know God loves us and we love God and love to obey God because we truly love God and want to bring God joy, happiness, and glory by the way we live. It is burdensome to try to live by a book of rules and regulations and interpretations of these rules by others in order to please some group or some person or some god, as the scribes and Pharisees tried to do and tried to force others to do. In Matthew 23:4, Jesus said of them, “They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them.” For this reason and others, Jesus invited people to come to Him and said in Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Jesus lifted more than a finger to help people—He died and rose from the dead to help people. And after He rose from the dead He sent the Holy Spirit to help all who believe in Him to obey Him in love—because they love God. If we truly love God and others, we will want and pray for the Holy Spirit to help us find ways to express the love of God and our love in practical ways to bless others, in wise and God-honoring ways, in ways that show forth the love of Jesus Christ in us for them. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit will give us the incentive and the power to do whatever God commands. Depending on our situation, we may not have the money or the physical ability to help others according to their needs, but we do have the power of prayer. God will do whatever He knows is wise and best for others in answer to prayer. We can always pray for others in need and for the Lord Jesus Christ to help them and send them those who can help them. Truly, God’s commands are not burdensome when we obey them because we love God and others and know that God is giving us the ability to love and do whatever He commands.

**(1 John 5:4) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even**

**our faith.**

Those born of God can follow Jesus Christ and His commands to say and do what is loving as the Holy Spirit directs and empowers in every situation. They can obey God because the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have come to live, love, and work within them. They can overcome the world because the Holy Spirit within them gives them the power and the wisdom to do what God wants as they face the world and the worldly who would tempt them to sin, who would try to lead them away from God, who would persecute them, or who would kill their bodies. However, no one can kill a follower of Jesus Christ because Jesus has given eternal life to those born of God. In 2 Corinthians 5:5-9, when the Apostle Paul wrote about facing the world's opposition, persecutions, and death, he encouraged believers with these words: "He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him." The bodies of those who are born anew have become temples of the living God. Even as the soul and spirit of human beings live in physical human bodies, so God comes to live in the bodies of those born of God. Therefore, they can keep on loving and obeying God when the world tempts them to sin or persecutes and kills them. Through the abiding and indwelling Spirit of Truth, they can have a strong faith in God, and they can do what is most loving and most wise according to the Bible's teachings in every trial—thereby they conquer the world. When, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we love and obey God we are overcoming the world. God has freed us from slavery to do as the world wants or as the ruler of this world demands. Despite all the opposition of the world to Jesus Christ, our faith in Jesus Christ provides the victory that overcomes the world. The world and the ruler of this world cannot prevent anyone from repenting of their sins and trusting in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. In this life, we will not be all we may want to be as God's children, but with God's help we are maturing as God's children. We will not be perfect in love and obedience, but we will grow in faith and love for God. We will become more perfect,

and we will become more like Jesus Christ in the world, and the world will know that we are children of the God the Father and Jesus is our King.

**(1 John 5:5) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

The entire focus of the Bible is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God the Father commands everyone to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. As the Bible reveals the truth to us, believing Jesus is the Son of God enables us to love God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and all those born of God. By believing what the Bible teaches despite all who would try to mislead us, we conquer the world. If we find ourselves being defeated by the world or living a defeated life before the world because of the world and the world's temptations to disobey God and Jesus, then we need to examine our beliefs and see if we truly believe in Jesus, love Jesus, and obey His commands as revealed in the Bible. Along with the gift of eternal life, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, will give the Holy Spirit to indwell those who have faith in Him and the power they need to love and overcome the world.

**Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

1. How do you know you are born of God? What does that mean to you?
2. What do you think John meant to illustrate when He wrote "everyone who loves the parent loves the child"
3. How do we know that we love the children of God?
4. How do we love God or how do we show God that we love God?
5. What did John say was not burdensome? Why are they not burdensome?

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