

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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“OUR AMAZING VICTORY IN 2022”

1 JOHN 5:1-6

I am doing a series from **1 John** titled **GENUINE-CONFIDENT CHRISTIANITY** that I started last fall; then we did Advent in December and I want to get back to 1 John as we begin this new year. And it is from **1 John 5:4** that we get our verse of the year and theme of the year for 2022, which is: **Our Amazing Victory**.

“**Overcome**” comes from the Greek word **nike**, which means “**victory, victorious, conqueror or to conquer, and to prevail.**” It carries with it the idea of struggle. The Christian life is not easy. Too many of us settle for surviving, when we’re called to be thriving. We’re overwhelmed, not overcoming. Friends, please don’t just try harder; the only way to overcome is by trusting in the victory that Jesus has already won. That’s what we read in **Revelation 12:11**: “**And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**”

As we think about our Amazing Victory that God has designed and already given to us let me pose 3 questions to you this morning.

I. WHAT MUST WE OVERCOME?

In my last message from **1 John 2:15-17** (turn back there with me) I spoke about the Lure of the World and what John says to us. This word “world” is used 3 ways:

- ⇒ **The created world of creation should be admired by us** and should cause us to praise God for His creative power and beauty.
- ⇒ **The world of people is what John spoke of in the gospel**
John 3:16.
- ⇒ **The third use of the “world” is the world system is used in this verse where John exhorts us not to love the world.** This refers to the world’s system which is under the control of Satan.
(1 John 5:19).

The world will **infiltrate** us, **infect** us, and **infatuate** us if we are not filled with the Holy Spirit. What John is talking about here fall into three areas:

- ⇒ **The lust of the flesh refers to passion**
- ⇒ **The lust of the eyes refers to possession**
- ⇒ **The pride of life refers to position**

So, here we see that the world system wants to overcome you to keep you from knowing **God’s presence**, experiencing **God’s power** and pursuing **God’s purpose**.

Most Christians don’t understand or don’t believe that they have already “**overcome the world.**” We don’t have to look for “**victory**” because we already have “**victory.**” When Jesus died and rose again, He overcame the enemy. He broke the power of sin. The empty tomb is the sign of “**victory.**” When you were “**born of God**” the Spirit of Christ came to live in you, the mind of Christ was made available to you and the power of Christ was given to you! The winner of the cosmic battle is within you and because He is a winner, you are a winner! Your life is wrapped up in His. You “**sit**” with Him in “**heavenly places.**”

We don’t have to fight the world to attain “**victory**” we just have to walk in the “**victory**” that is already ours through Christ. His power, authority and resources are already ours!

II. HOW CAN WE BE OVERCOMERS?

Our Scripture text reveals we face a powerful enemy. This text reveals three resources that are given to us to enable us to be overcomers.

- ⇒ **First**, it requires a **Birth (V- 4)**. You must be born again
John 3:1-6
- ⇒ **Secondly**, it requires a **Belief (vv. 4b-5)**. You do not become an overcomer by **trying**. You become an overcomer by **trusting**. It is by belief or faith, that we are born again.
- ⇒ **Finally**, it requires the **Blood (V-6)**. The Bible tells us, “Without the shedding of blood there is no remission (of sin)” **Hebrew 9:22**. If you have read the last page in scripture, you know that we win. It is already a fact. We are overcomers now, right now because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

III. HOW CAN WE LIVE LIKE OVERCOMERS?

John tells us in **Revelation 12:11**, “**And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**” (NKJV)

We can overcome the obstacles that we face in this life this year of 2022 through the strength that we receive in the Lord. The believer is reminded in **1 John 4:4**, “**You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world**” (NKJV). Our challenge now is to live in the light of the victory that has already been won.

To be an overcomer you must, have experienced the rebirth, are you born again? You must have come by faith and have a belief in Him as your personal savior. You must have come under the blood. Have you been cleansed by the blood of Jesus?