

# Becoming a Faithful Kingdom Servant, Like Jesus Overcoming!

## An Overcoming Love (To Love is Not an Option)

Am I living a life that is overcoming? Before that question is answered I need to make an assessment. And in order to make a proper assessment, I need to identify a standard of reference. I'm not asking the question, "Am I saved?"; although that question will be answered in the assessment. But the question on the table is, "Am I living a life that is overcoming?". Now, back to that standard of reference. My standard of reference is the Bible (The Word of God). The life that is overcoming must be defined by the Word of God. And if it is defined by the Word of God, it can only be tested by the Word of God. Therefore, my reference is the Word of God. The Word of God tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16,17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Our focus scripture for the year 1John 5:4 is set in a greater context. A context of love. Obviously, this love

starts with God Himself, but is then commanded by all who are born of God to demonstrate. In this context (1John 4:7-5:1-5) we find that loving our brother and sister is a key indicator that we are born of God. And remember that being born of God is the prerequisite for living the overcoming life. The overcoming life is filled with faith. Faith is my positive obedient response to what God has commanded of me. It is not enough to love God, because if we love God, we will love our brother and sister that He has begotten, just as He has commanded (John 15:12). It is impossible to live the overcoming life to its fullest when we're having challenges concerning love. To the extent that we love, will be the blessing that we experience in our walk with Jesus. If we love little, we experience little in our relationship with God. If we love liberally, we will experience much in our relationship with God.

This love is identified in several ways. This list is not all inclusive, but it is foundational:

- Love is pro-active- this means that we are not looking for love, we are looking to love first. Just as God demonstrated His love for us first, we are to do the same for others. John 3:16, Rom 5:8 (love demonstrated), 1John 4:10 (this is love, not that we loved....)

- Love is forgiving- We are to forgive the most egregious offenses. Luke 23:34 (Jesus on cross), Eph 4:32 (forgive one another), Acts 7:60 (Stephen)

- Love is relational (kinship)- We are to fellowship with one another, be with one another. Heb 2:10-12 (Jesus was not ashamed to be with us.) Heb 10:25 (forsake not the assembling) Acts 2:40-47 (breaking bread together)

- Love is need meeting- Acts (sold to provide) Luke 12:32 (sell your possessions and give.)

Is your love doing this? Before you answer, remember that those who are born of God can love like this. If not the Lord would not have commanded it (John 13:34,35).