**The Epistle of 1st John**

Chapter 5

 **Believing Just This One Thing**

1. We Love Both Father and Son; We Joyfully Follow God’s Law (1-3)
2. We Overcome the World through Our Love for Christ Jesus (4-6)
3. Blood and Water; The Holy Spirit’s Witnesses (6-8)
4. We Have Eternal Life When We Believe in the Son; He Hears Us (9-15)
5. Life when we believe; death when we do not
6. He hears all that we ask according to God’s will
7. We Must Pray for Others; Avoid Idols
8. Prayers of intercession
9. A world overridden with sin
10. Worship only God

*Summary: Lessons in this final chapter of the 1st Epistle involve complex concepts. John’s statement regarding “sin that unto death” (v. 16) is one that scholars have deliberated over for generations. John adds another conditional statement: the affirmation that we overcome only if we believe that Jesus is God’s Son. He ends with a familiar warning that Christ’s followers should avoid idols.*

**Study Questions**

1. John states that we overcome the world by simply believing that Jesus is the Son of God – how would you explain this declaration in your own words? Who else mentions “overcome” in the NT – are the messages the same in each case?
2. The Spirit, Water and Blood are “in agreement” (v. 8). What water is John referencing? What does it have to do with the blood of Jesus?
3. John refers to praying according to God’s will in order to have answered prayer; what Gospel message does this mirror? Does it conflict with any scriptural text or other voice in the NT?
4. A sin that “leads to death” –what does this mean, and why would we not pray for a person in this context?

**Notes**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_