

SERMON-BASED STUDY: WALK IN FAITH

1 John 5:1-5, ESV – *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week, we were reminded that faith is not a one-time event. How is faith actually a life long journey?

2 Why does our love for God and His people grow over time?

- 3 How is keeping God's commands an act of love? Why do people think that His commands are burdensome? Why are they actually not a burden?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV** – *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Ephesians 2:8-10, ESV – ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- 4 What does the author of Hebrews mean when he describes Jesus as “the founder and perfecter of our faith”?

- 5 What does Paul mean when he describes us as God's workmanship?

- 6 In both passages above, we are exhorted to “run with endurance the race that is set before us” and “that we should walk in them.” How is faith an integral part for us to do these things? How is it an ongoing process?

B **Hebrews 12:3-11, ESV** – ³ *Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

7 Looking at the passage above, how is God's discipline toward us a good thing? How is His discipline even better than our earthly father's discipline?

8 If God's discipline is such a good thing, why do people resist it? How is accepting God's discipline toward us an act of love?

9 How does God's discipline of us grow our faith? In what ways does our growing faith affect those around us?

TAKING IT HOME

Walking in faith is a life-long journey of love and obedience toward God. As we allow Him to discipline us, grow our faith, and make us more like Jesus, we see other people the way Jesus sees them and we cannot help but to love them. How are you doing, walking in faith, loving and obeying God, and loving others? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you strive to walk in faith.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

John 1:12, 8:42, 14:15, 21
2 John 6