

1 John 5

1. Verses 1–4 talk about being “born of God.”
 - a. What were you like before you were “born of God”? See 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:6–8; Ephesians 2:1–3; Titus 3:3.
 - b. Look up the following passages and summarize what they say about the new birth. Who initiates it? How does it change a person? Why is it necessary? See John 3:1–8; Ezekiel 36:26–27; Titus 3:4–7; Ephesians 2:4–5.
 - c. According to 1 John 5:1–4, what are some evidences of the new birth?
2. “Witness” is a key word in verses 5–12.
 - a. What does John mean by referring to the “witness” of “the Spirit and the water and the blood”? On “the Spirit” and “the water,” see John 1:32–34. On “the blood,” see John 19:31–37.
 - b. How do these witnesses (Spirit, water, blood) confirm John’s claim in verse 11?
3. In verse 13, John says that his purpose in writing is to help his readers obtain an assurance of their salvation. How has 1 John helped you acquire (or strengthen) your assurance that you have eternal life in Christ?
4. Verses 16–17 is difficult to interpret, but the context of 1 John indicates that “sin leading to death” most likely refers to the sin of rejecting Christ. This was the sin that the “false prophets” and “antichrists” were committing (2:22; 4:1). Assuming this is what John meant, then this passage is giving us a promise to hold onto as we pray for Christians who have fallen into sin (a promise that does not necessarily apply to false teachers). What is this promise and how does this motivate you to pray more faithfully for other Christians?
5. This book concludes with an exhortation to guard yourself from idols. What “idols” were the original readers being tempted by? See 2:16; 4:5. What idols tempt Christians today? How do you guard against them?