

An Outline of 1 John

Prologue (1:1-4)

- I. The Tests of Eternal Life: Cycle 1 (1:5—2:27)
 - A. Obedience to Jesus Christ & His Word (1:5—2:6)
 - B. Love for God & His People (2:7-17)
 - C. Faith in Jesus Christ & His Gospel (2:18-27)
- II. The Tests of Eternal Life: Cycle 2 (2:28—4:6)
 - A. Obedience to Jesus Christ & His Word (2:28—3:10)
 - B. Love for God & His People (3:11-24)
 - C. Faith in Jesus Christ & His Gospel (4:1-6)
- III. The Tests of Eternal Life: Cycle 3 (4:7—5:21)
 - A. Love for God & His People (4:7-21)
 - B. Faith in Jesus Christ & His Gospel (5:1-13)
 - C. Obedience to Christ & His Word (5:14-21)

The Nature of Saving Faith (Pt. 3)

1 John 5:1-13

- I. The Cause of Saving Faith (1a)
- II. The Results of Saving Faith (1b-5)
 - A. Love for God (1b)
 - B. Love for Other Believers (1c)
 - C. Obedience to God's Word (2-3)
 - D. Victory over the World (4-5)
 - 1. The Certainty of our Victory (4a)
 - 2. The Explanation of our Victory (4a)
 - 3. The Means of our Victory (4b)

Faith Overcomes

1. Our victory over the world commences in the new birth and our initial faith in the gospel.
2. Our victory over the world continues in a continual life of faith, marked by love and obedience.
3. Our victory over the world culminates in glorification because our faith in Christ and the gospel endures to the end.

Matthew Henry

“Faith is the cause of victory, the means, the instrument, the spiritual armor and artillery by which we overcome; for...

1. In and by faith we cleave to Christ, in contempt of, and opposition to, the world.
2. Faith works in and by love to God and Christ, and so withdraws us from the love of the world.
3. Faith sanctifies the heart and purifies it from those...lusts by which the world obtains such sway and dominion over souls.
4. It receives and derives strength from the object of it, the Son of God, for conquering the frowns and flatteries of the world.
5. It obtains by gospel promise a right to the indwelling Spirit of grace, that is greater than he who dwells in the world.
6. It sees an invisible world at hand, with which this world is not worthy to be compared, and ... it tells the soul ... it must be continually prepared to enter.”

The Nature of Saving Faith (Pt. 3)

1 John 5:1-13

D. Victory over the World (4-5)

1. The Certainty of our Victory (4a)
2. The Explanation of our Victory (4a)
3. The Means of our Victory (4b)
4. The Recipients of this Victory (5)
5. The Reward of our Victory (Rev. 2-3)