

1st John Lesson 12 – Greater Is He That Is In You

1Jn 4:4-6 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (5) They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. (6) We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Keep everything in context. You have overcome "them" means you have not been deceived by the false prophets and teachers that have separated themselves from John and the doctrines of Christ. As I was meditating and praying on this passage, I knew by revelation that the phrase "little children" in verse four has to be the Greek word for "newborn infant." And when I looked it up, sure enough it is. It is that same Greek word John used earlier in this epistle. It is G5040 teknon – infant, newborn (figuratively: new Christian converts).

When you are born again, you have escaped the doomed, fallen species of the first man Adam. You have escaped this fallen world that is doomed to perish. You have overcome the death sentence passed on the world through the fall of Adam. You may be a newborn infant in the kingdom of God, but you are a newborn infant with spiritual LIFE inside of you instead of spiritual death. You are of the species of Christ and no longer of the species of Adam. This is why Jesus said,

Luk 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

John elevates John the Baptist above Moses, Elijah, Isaiah and all of the Old Testament prophets. But a newborn infant in the kingdom of God is greater than John the Baptist. Why? Because John the Baptist and all of the other Old Testament prophets died before the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist never had the opportunity to be born again as a child of God. He had to wait in that place called "Abraham's Bosom" and "Paradise" until after Jesus finished His work. Then the risen Christ came to the place called Abraham's Bosom and preached the gospel to all the Old Testament saints who had served God even though they had a sin nature. They had believed in the promise of the Messiah to come. Jesus gave us a little glimpse into that unseen realm when He taught us about the Rich Man and Lazarus.

Luk 16:22-26 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (23) And in

hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. (25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. (26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

This is not just a parable. We know this because Jesus gives us the actual name of the beggar ... Lazarus. He tells us it was "a certain" rich man ... not rich men in general. [There is a hell to shun. Make sure you do not end up there!]

The rich man was in hell, but Abraham and Lazarus were waiting in a very comfortable place called Paradise, along with all the other Old Testament saints. What a day it was when the price had been paid by Jesus, and our quickened Lord went to Abraham's Bosom and preached the gospel to them. Can you imagine that day when the Lord Himself preached to all those who had waited out the centuries there? When they heard the gospel and believed, they were all quickened from spiritual death unto life by the Last Adam. They were born again as children of God and Christ led them on into heaven to be in the presence of the Father forever. Glory to God!

1Jn 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

You are of God because you have been quickened by the last Adam, Jesus Christ. You have overcome these false prophets, these antichrists, who are teaching that Jesus did not come in the flesh as a new species of man. They keep telling you that you are a mere man and cannot live above sin. You have overcome them by believing the gospel and being born again as a child of God. You abide in Christ and ... **He abides in you. Christ in you** is much greater than Satan who rules in the hearts of the people of this world. This is the foundational message of the gospel. Paul described the mystery this way:

Col 1:25-27 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; (26) *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (27) To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Joh 14:19-21 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me:

because I live, ye shall live also. (20) At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. (21) He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

"Manifest" is G1718 *emphanizo* and the first meaning is: to "exhibit in person."

Joh 14:22-24 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? (23) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (24) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

"I love Jesus, but I do not keep His commandments." John says you are a liar. *"I love Jesus. I do not keep His commandments, but I'm in fellowship with the Father and the Son."* That's the same thing the antichrist false teachers who went out from John were saying. If you do not keep the commandments of Jesus, you are in fellowship with "another Jesus" because Jesus is the Word made flesh and He cannot deny Himself.

2Co 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.

You have Christ in you! "Christ" is not Jesus' last name. Christ means "The Messiah, the Anointed One." Think about it. You have the ANOINTED ONE in you. Let's acknowledge that in worship for just a moment ... *"I worship you Father because You have made it possible for me to have the Anointed One within me. Christ is in me. The Holy Spirit is in me. Father ... you are in me. You have made me ONE with you."*

Now say it with me: GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN ME THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.

1Jn 4:5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

"They are of the world" is still referring to those antichrist false prophets and teachers who "went out from them" because they were not willing to abide in the commandments of Christ. There are only two kinds of humans on planet earth. Those born of the first Adam and those born of the last Adam. Those born of the first Adam have the spirit of

the world in them. Those born of Jesus have the spirit of Christ in them. These antichrist spirits ... they are of the world ... they speak the things of the world ... they speak from the perspective of sense knowledge, feelings and emotions, things that seem "reasonable" to the natural man. The world listens to them because they understand those kinds of "natural" things. John is remembering when Jesus had this same kind of discussion with the Pharisees more than fifty years earlier:

Joh 8:42-47 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. (43) Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word. (44) Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (45) And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not. (46) Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? (47) He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

John is saying the same thing Jesus said.

1Jn 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

If you are born of God, you are able to hear and understand the truth. Those who are born again will remain in fellowship with John and the doctrine of Christ. They can comprehend it because they are born of God. But these antichrist, false prophets and teachers who have "gone out" from John to preach false doctrine in the world ... the world will understand them ... even if they have the name CHRISTIAN on the building ... **because it will make sense to the natural mind.** The natural mind, without the spirit of Christ, CANNOT KNOW THE THINGS OF GOD! THEY ARE FOOLISHNESS UNTO HIM. HE CANNOT KNOW THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED!

1Co 2:12-16 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. (13) Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (14) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. (15) But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself

is judged of no man. (16) For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

1Jn 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Let's say you visit a church of the "whatever" denomination and everything looks right and smells right. The people are dressed right, they sing good songs, the choir is good, the piano player is good. You begin to think this is really a nice church. You listen as the preacher begins to teach along the line of, *"Thank God for Jesus and His blood. Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. He led a sinless life and shed His blood for us."* So far, so good. Man, this must be a good church. But the pastor continues, *"Thank God for His grace that covers all our sins, past, present and future. God knows we are mortal, weak, fallen creatures that cannot cease from sin. We love Jesus, but thank God, He knows we cannot keep His commandments. God knows we are sinful creatures, so He gave us grace that covers all of our disobedience. We are just mere humans, sinners by nature, but we worship Jesus who was God manifested in the flesh. We love Him, but we cannot be like Him. We are just old sinners saved by grace."*

That is the spirit of error! That is a gospel based on sense knowledge and emotions, not the truth of God's Word. I still remember the words of my dad's friend Ansel Hull who patted me on the shoulder when I was in full rebellion at about age seventeen when he said, *"Gary, I went to church for twenty five years and thought I was a Christian. Thank God I finally got saved."* **[Please review lesson number 9 – The Children of God & The Children of The Devil]**

I remember another man I met in South Africa who said he attended church there for forty five years and was never born again. He told me that he got saved the very first time he heard the gospel, but that was around a campfire during a men's safari in the African bush country. He said not once in forty five years of attending that church did they ever preach Christ and Him crucified. Stunned, I asked him what did they preach in that church. He said they taught about morals, philosophy, economics, marriage, child rearing, politics, and so forth. But never once did he hear them preach about salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. [The church at large, worldwide, is full of people who have never been born again.]

John is writing all of this as a faithful witness to what He heard Jesus teach more than fifty years ago:

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Let us yield to the truth. We are followers of Jesus. We no longer walk in darkness. We walk in the light of life. We abide in Christ and His words abide in us. We love Him, and we keep His commandments. We know Him, and we keep His commandments. We have overcome them because;

GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN US THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD!

Say it with me,

"GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN ME THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD."

"CHRIST IS IN ME."

"THE ANOINTED ONE IS IN ME."

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENS ME."

"HALLELUJAH"