

PREACHING AND TEACHING | 1 John 5:1-5

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

RESPONSE | PRAYER | The Valley of Vision

O Heavenly Father,
Teach me to see
 that if Christ has pacified you and satisfied
 divine justice
 he can also deliver me from my sins;
 that Christ does not desire me, now justified,
 to live in self-confidence in my own strength,
 but gives me the law of the Spirit of life
 to enable me to obey you;
 that the Spirit and his power are mine
 by resting on Christ's death;

—break—

...that the Spirit of life within answers to the law
without;
that if I sin not I should thank you for it;
that if I sin I should be humbled daily for it;
that I should mourn for sin more than other men do,
 for when I see I shall die because of sin,
 that makes me mourn;
 when I see how sin strikes at you,
 that makes me mourn;
 when I see that sin caused Christ's death,
 that makes me mourn;

that sanctification is the evidence of reconciliation,
 proving that faith has truly
 apprehended Christ;

—break—

You have taught me
 that faith is nothing else than receiving
 your kindness;
 that it is an adherence to Christ, a resting
 on him, loving
 clinging to him as a branch to the tree,
 to seek life and vigour from him.

I thank you for showing me the vast difference
 between knowing things by reason,
 and knowing them by the spirit of faith.
By reason I see a thing is so; by faith I know it as it is.
I have seen you by reason and have not been
amazed,
I have seen you as you are in your Son
 and have been ravished to behold you.
I bless you that I am in yours in my Savior, Jesus..

BENEDICTION | John 6:47-51

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."