



DAILY FAITH PRACTICES

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B) – 1 John 5:1-6

Focus: *Victory of Faith*

word of life

“And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.” 1 John 5:4 (NRSV)

Read 1 John 5:1-6

By the time a reader of the First Letter of John gets to the fifth and final chapter, it should be no surprise that the passage makes a reference to love—a main theme of this book. Over and over, we are reminded God is love and we are to love one another.

1. *Why does the author keep repeating this theme of “love”?*
2. *Why is it so important for Christians to love?*

This passage emphasizes the familial aspect of God’s love. Since we have been born from God’s love, then God can be understood as a parent. Out of our love and respect for the parent, we love all children of the parent.

When we love God, we desire to please God in all we do, including following the commandments of God. We don’t obey God because we are obligated to do so, but we aspire to live a life worthy of God’s love because our lives have been transformed and reformed by God’s love for us. God is at work in our lives creating us to be people who have genuine love for others. As we love we reflect our heavenly parent, God.

3. *How have you experienced God’s love expanding your capacity to love your neighbor?*
4. *Describe genuine love for others.*

The First Letter of John shifts slightly as it draws to a conclusion, “And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.” (1 John 5:4 NRSV) It is not a small victory, but one that conquers the entire world. For anyone experiencing persecution or doubts, this reference to victory can be encouraging and hopeful. As much as 1 John emphasizes love, one might think the victory involves the power of love to defeat enemies.

5. *What does the word “victory” trigger for you?*
6. *What in the world needs to be defeated?*

There is a clear shift within this passage from an emphasis on love to one on faith. The word *faith* is not used in either the Gospel of John or the First letter of John with the exception of this verse. Faith is the foundation on which love is built. For the author of First John, faith in Jesus forms us to be children of God and empowers us to love. And love overcomes fear, sin, and the powers of this world.

7. *Does faith conquer the world or is it Jesus Christ who conquers the world?*
8. *What is the victory of Jesus Christ?*

“Who is it that conquers the world but he one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5 NRSV) This passage is appropriately read during the season of Easter. We celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over the power of sin, death, and the devil.

This emphasis on victory serves as a culmination. Belief in God is about love, but there is more. A victory has been promised as we place our trust and faith in Jesus Christ. We become connected to the one who has been raised from death.

word among us

The church year includes the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost with colors, symbols, and music designated for each particular season. In addition, lectionary readings are selected to support the primary theme of each season of the church year.

1. *What is your favorite season of the church year? Why?*
2. *What is the primary theme emphasized during the season of Easter?*

Sometimes, the lectionary follows a book of the Bible for several weeks. For example, the lectionary during the season of Easter has included six lessons from First Letter of John. Since there are only five chapters, this represents a significant amount from one single book of the Bible.

3. *What have you learned about the First Letter of John?*
4. *Do you enjoy it when the lectionary stays with one book of the Bible? How so?*

During the season of Easter, we celebrate how God defeated death through Jesus Christ. “And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.” (1 John 5:4 NRSV) Victory is a word used often throughout the season of Easter because on the first Easter, God won the victory over death. The tomb would not and could not keep Jesus contained.

We share in the victory that conquers the world when we believe in God’s action in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The power of the world is strong and seduces us to wander down paths not of God. But God ultimately is stronger than this world. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens us through God’s word.

5. *How is your faith a victory that conquers the world?*
6. *What does it mean to you to share in the victory of Christ?*

faith practice in daily life

Hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper

The water poured over our heads in baptism is a wet reminder of being born of God. We have been claimed by the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit forever. We are part of God’s team and join with the church in the victory over death itself.

Despite the grip of this world on our lives, there is hope. All is not lost. There are days when we need to pause, be still, and listen to the word of God. That’s true of every day of life. It is God’s word which orders and aligns our lives so that we are free to celebrate God’s victory.

7. *How does your daily life reflect the victory of God?*

Prayer

God of All, you defeated the powers of this world and death itself. We cling to you as we celebrate your victory. Strengthen our faith as you open our ears and lives to your word. Amen

last word

Remember God’s victory
over this world.

Daily Faith Practices

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