

Who Is It That Overcomes The World?

– 1 John 5:5-8

1 John 5:7 – This verse is **not** found in any Greek manuscripts before the sixteenth century so has been left out of some modern translations.

Yet there are many places in scripture where the Three Persons of the Triune God are mentioned together as one being.

[Please download the article *‘The Holy Spirit Is Personal – The Biblical Evidence’* and *‘Meet The Holy Spirit’* both listed under main heading *‘Holy Spirit’*.]

1 John 5:5 [New King James] *“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

This passage of scripture is speaking about our overcoming the world.

The world we are to overcome is at this time ruled by Satan, [1 John 5:19] who is seeking to blind all human beings to the good news about the Creator God’s plan for all humanity [2 Corinthians 4:4].

The faith is Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord is the incentive and strength to overcome Satan’s influence.

Revelation 12:11 [New King James] *“And they [Christians – verse 10] overcame him [Satan – verse 9] by the blood of the Lamb [faith in Jesus Christ’s sacrifice as the Lamb of God – John 1:29, 36] and the word of their testimony, [Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 3:15-16] and they did not love their lives to the death,” [Romans 12:1; Luke 14:26, 33].*

1 John 5:6 [New King James] *“This is He who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.”*

This scripture is speaking of the plan of God for all human salvation.

Spirit

John 16:7 [New King James] *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”*

The *“helper”* Greek word *“paraklētos”* refers to the Holy Spirit, meaning One who walks beside to exhort or console, and comfort.

Once God the Father has decided that a person’s *“day of salvation”* has come, [John 6:44; 2 Corinthians 6:2], He will send the Holy Spirit to be with us, [John 14:17] but **not** yet in us.

The Holy Spirit will do three major things in our life.

John 16:8 [NIV] *“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:”*

a) Convict us of sin that will lead us to repentance.

b) Show us true righteousness, imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ as a result of our continuous trust in Him, [Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24].

c) Remind us that we will all face Jesus Christ on His judgement seat, [**2 Corinthians 5:10-12**].

Only after this happens in our lives will the Holy Spirit, at our request [**Luke 11:13**], enter into our lives and actively begin our conversion [**Romans 12:2**] and the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit will begin to grow within our lives [**Galatians 5:22-25**] as long as we follow His lead.

Water

Romans 6:1-11 [New King James] *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

This is our baptism by complete immersion in water, an outward sign for us to remember and others to witness the death of our old way of life and a resurrection to a new way of life as a servant of Jesus Christ, [Acts 20:28].

We can only really make this change if we offer our lives as a “living sacrifice” to Jesus Christ, to show our love for Him, [**John 15:13**].

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning the whole life, physical body, mind and human spirit, [**Job 32:8**].

The Blood

Only the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Second Person of the One Triune God, could ever be a substitute for the deserved death of all humanity because we have all sinned, [**Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8**] and all our self-righteousness, if any, has earned is death, [**Romans 6:23**].

John 1:1-3, 14 [New King James] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” ... “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

This is how the Word, who is God, and who became “flesh” the Son of Man, the physical Jesus Christ, so that He could sacrifice His life blood, [**Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 17:11**] for all humanity.

Romans 5:6-10 [New King James] *“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

This is the starting point of our new life on our path towards being offered eternal life and a place in the created family of God.

Applying and accepting these three dramatic changes in our lives, proves to our Creator God that we do desire to become a created child of His and to spend eternity seeking to know Him and God the Father more intimately.

John 17:3 [New King James] *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

The Greek word translated “*know*” is “*ginōskō*” is also used for the intimate relationship between a married man and woman, [**Luke 1:34**].

It is the constant awareness of this great Plan of God for all humanity [2 Peter 3:9] that can strengthen our resolve to overcome all within our lives that is unacceptable to our Creator God.

Never let this great truth out of our thoughts.

Meditate on it constantly and we will overcome.

Acts 4:12 [New King James] *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

Jesus Christ is the **only way** for us to be saved from eternal death.

Believe this, and live in the strength of such truth, whatever other religions may claim.