

## Sermon Discussion - 19 March 2023

Read 1 John 5:1-5 together.

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

Life can be overwhelming, can't it? Jesus said we would have trouble in this world (John 16:33) but He also said we could be overcomers. What was your go-to strategy when life felt overwhelming before you had faith in Christ? What is it today?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

- In 1 John 2:15-17, Jesus commands us not to love the world, the things of the world or the things that are IN the world. What types of things do you think He is referring to when He says not to love the things IN this world and why?
- Why is the new birth so important for the Christian? How does the new birth relate to repentance and faith?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. Why must we maintain a connection between God's love and His commands? What is the danger of separating them?
2. Do you consider obedience a joy or a burden? What should a believer do when he/she feels that God's commandments are burdensome? What steps should he/she take?
3. Loving others without reference to loving God leads to a distorted understanding of love. What are some ways love can be distorted?
4. What does it mean for believers to have conquered the world? What role does faith play?
5. First John 5:5 says that the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God conquers the world. James 2:19 says that the demons believe there is one God. How are these two examples of belief different?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?
  
- Try memorising 1 John 5:4.  
*“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world- our faith.”*
  
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?