

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Faith to Love

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 John 5:1-5

Theme: Lay hold of Christ and you will love and obey him.

Introduction: Some of the most common and important words we use are actually quite difficult to define, words like truth, beauty, justice, and love. Though many think of love as an emotion or being made much of, the Bible defines love much more as a *steadfast commitment to the good of another*. In this letter, love has been one of John's main themes, and in this text he shows how faith connects to love. He shows us the connections between the gospel and our responses to it, which will help us to grow as disciples of Jesus.

This text shows us 2 aspects of faith

1. The nature of faith (1-3)

Faith and love are inseparably connected. They are both fruits of the same Spirit. Faith itself is a Trinitarian work: its *object* is the Son, its *author* is the Father, and its *effects* are applied by the Spirit.

More specifically, regeneration precedes faith (v. 1). The Father works to grant us new life, and as he does so we then respond to the gospel with faith.

The validation of faith ("by this we know") is seen in our love for and obedience to God (vv. 2-3). His commandments are not burdensome because he has freed from sin's power and guilt and given us new hearts that delight to please him.

2. The conquest of faith (4-5)

John then offers the deeper explanation for how and why we can bear fruit as God's people: the victory that Jesus has secured for us.

Those who have been born of God overcome the world. We do so by our faith, and our faith is fully in Jesus and what he has done for us.

Jesus' work on our behalf is finished. He has won the full victory. He has defeated all of our enemies. He sat down in triumph. As we trust him, we participate in his victory. In this world we will have troubles (Jn 16:33); but Jesus has overcome the world. We can endure any suffering, any hardship, in faith because we know that Jesus has overcome and that when he returns we will enjoy salvation to its fullest.

Questions:

1. Are you hopeless about anything in your life: any relationship, any sin, any suffering?
2. Are there any unconfessed sin in your life, any lingering guilt and condemnation that seem to stick with you?
3. How does Jesus' victory speak to your struggles? How is he calling you to trust him in the midst of hardship?