

Devotional Questions – 1 John 5

1. *How do we know that we love the children of God (1 John 5:2)?*
2. *What should our attitude be towards God's commands (1 John 5:3)?*
3. *What does John mean by 'the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith'* (1 John 5:4)? *The correct expression is "**the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**"*
4. *Who has overcome the world* (1 John 5:4-5)? *The correct expressions are "**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world**" 1 John 5:4 and "**Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**" 1 John 5:5.*
5. *What could the terms 'water' and 'blood' refer to (1 John 5:6, 8)?*
6. *What does John say about eternal life (1 John 5:11-13)?*
7. *What encouragement does John give to promote prayer – what conditions does he give (1 John 5:14-15)?*
8. *What is the sin that leads to death (1 John 5:16)? Can it be committed by a believer?*
9. *What has God given to us and why has he given it (1 John 5:20)?*
10. *Why does John close his letter with the warning to avoid idols (1 John 5:21)?*

Devotional Questions – 1 John 5

Answers to Questions

For detailed comments see Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Books of the General Epistles* Volume 2 pp 162-195 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1386, 1503, 1637-1638.

1. *How do we know that we love the children of God (1 John 5:2)?*

1 John 5:2 states **“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.”**

Observe that 1 John 5:2 is complementary to what John said at the end of the previous chapter.

“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” 1 John 4:20-21.

John is describing a two-way street.

“And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” 1 John 4:21.

“...we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments” 1 John 5:2.

John shows that to love God is to keep His commandments, with the promise that God will love the individual in return. It is certainly the Lord's will that the believer should know God's love personally and that includes obeying God's commandment to **“love one another.”** That is a command, not an option, as these scriptures show according to what the Lord Himself said.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another” John 13:34.

“If ye love me, keep my commandments” John 14:5.

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” John 14:21.

“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love” John 15:10.

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you” John 15:12.

“These things I command you, that ye love one another” John 15:17.

Paul then gives *God's commandment with respect to loving the brethren* to the Corinthians **“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another”** 1 Corinthians 12:25. This is binding on today's believer.

It is possible to fulfil 1 Corinthians 12:25 and in turn 1 John 5:2 in various ways by practically, for example, remembering to pray when someone requests prayer over health issues or another requests prayer on leading a Bible study group or encouraging another who is getting earache from some of the 'brethren' on FaceBook. This writer this evening sent such a message of support that reads in part as follows, for both the recipient and his missus:

Don't despair, young man ☺...“Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded” 2 Chronicles 15:7.

2. *What should our attitude be towards God's commands (1 John 5:3)?*

Bizarre as it sounds, the devil gives a challenging example.

"And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD" Job 1:12.

The devil's obedience to God's commands concerning Job was:

- *Prompt*, no **"Lord...me first"** Luke 9:59, 61. *Delayed obedience is disobedience.*
- *Unquestioning*, no **"Not so, Lord"** Acts 10:14. *Reluctant obedience is disobedience.*
- *Total*, no **"these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone"** Matthew 23:23. The devil 'totalled' Job, as Job testified **"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD"** Job 1:21. *Partial obedience is disobedience.*

Saul is an example of partial obedience and his partial obedience cost him the kingdom.

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass...And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly...And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king" 1 Samuel 15:2-3, 7-9, 22-23.

Taking on board the lessons of the devil's obedience to God, the Christian's attitude to God's commands should be as David's.

"With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments" Psalm 119:10.

The Christian's attitude to God's commands should also be as Paul's, *including having a right attitude to earthly service or employment.*

"Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" Ephesians 6:5-6.

3. *What does John mean by 'the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith'* (1 John 5:4)? *The correct expression is "the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."*

1 John 5:4 states **"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."**

The application of 1 John 5:4 to today's believer appears to be as follows.

"Whatsoever is born of God" refers to the individual's *spirit*, a neuter entity within each individual. Every individual is a trinity of **"soul and spirit and body"** 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and therefore **"made after the similitude of God"** James 3:9 in that God is a Trinity of three Persons **"the Father...the Son, and...the Holy Ghost"** Matthew 28:19 i.e. **"the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one"** 1 John 5:7.

It is the “*spirit in man*” Job 32:8 that is “*born of God*” when that man receives the Lord Jesus Christ, John 1:12, as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself explained.

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” John 3:5-6.

It is “*the Spirit of Christ*” that then indwells the believer *permanently*, who is therefore a Christian believer, one in whom is “*the life of God*” Ephesians 4:18. That is the *only* Biblical definition of a Christian believer, as Paul makes clear.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” Romans 8:9.

The Lord Jesus Christ stated of Himself versus “*the world*” that “**These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world**” John 16:33.

Paul then says of himself “**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me**” Galatians 2:20.

Note that “*faith*” is one of “*the fruit of the Spirit*” Galatians 5:22 because it is “**the faith of Jesus Christ...the faith of Christ**” Galatians 2:16, Philippians 3:9 *in operation in the believer* as Paul also states “**For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure**” Philippians 2:13 as in Galatians 2:20 above in that “**our faith**” 1 John 5:4 is then “**the faith of the Son of God**” in that “**Christ liveth in me.**”

In *that* sense, and *only* in that sense, was Paul *then* and is today’s believer *now* able to “**overcome the world**” as the Lord said *in the sense of* “**the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in**” that “**choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful**” Mark 4:19 and “**all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**” that “**is not of the Father, but is of the world**” 1 John 2:16 *in order to* “**attend upon the Lord without distraction**” 1 Corinthians 7:35.

Such attendance is *conditional upon steadfast obedience* - see *Question 2* - to “**the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus**” Romans 8:2 by “**them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**” Romans 8:1 *and is not a once-for-all overcoming, which is why John uses the present tense expression* “**overcometh the world**” in 1 John 5:4.

Observe Paul’s use of the *present* tense for *victory in order to* “**attend upon the Lord without distraction**” 1 Corinthians 7:35 *in that God’s giving must be on-going for victory.*

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:57.

Disobedience - see *Question 2* - to “**the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus**” Romans 8:2 by “**them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**” Romans 8:1 is the *main* reason is why many if not most of today’s believer do not “**overcome the world**” John 16:33 in spite of possessing “**the faith of the Son of God**” Galatians 2:20. They fail to follow Paul’s exhortation to Timothy and in turn to today’s believer. It should be noted that as a brief example of overcoming the world, working on scripture memorisation has saved this writer a considerable amount of otherwise wasted television time.

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 1:13.

4. *Who has overcome the world** (1 John 5:4-5)? *The correct expressions are **“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world”** 1 John 5:4 and **“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”** 1 John 5:5.

See *Question 3*. The *direct* answer to the question is *only the Lord Jesus Christ*. The believer **“overcometh the world”** *only* in that **“it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”** Philippians 2:13 *but he has never overcome the world as the Lord has:*

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” John 16:33.

Note in 1 John 5:5 **“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”** that this scripture will only apply *practically for today’s believer according to the principles set forth under Question 3 requiring both a believing heart and a steadfast heart*. See also above. The Ethiopian is an example.

“And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” Acts 8:37 with Romans 1:4, 10:9, 10. The Ethiopian then **“went on his way rejoicing”** Acts 8:39 i.e. *manifesting “the fruit of the Spirit”* Galatians 5:22 as no doubt the Lord enabled him **“to keep himself unspotted from the world”** James 1:27. Not all believers follow the Ethiopian’s example, however. Demas, for example, was one of those in his time **“that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God”** but Demas was *not* of those **“that overcometh the world”** as Paul had cause to lament.

“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica” 2 Timothy 4:10.

Paul therefore exhorts *all* of today’s believers, not only Timothy, to stand firm in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 2:1.

5. *What could the terms ‘water’ and ‘blood’ refer to (1 John 5:6, 8)?*

Note that 1 John 5:6 states **“he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood.”**

These terms refer to the Lord’s *human birth with God’s blood, Acts 20:28 and death* in that only in that way could the Lord promise as He Himself said **“to give his life a ransom for many”** Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45 and as Paul said **“Who gave himself a ransom for all”** 1 Timothy 2:6 **“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”** Hebrews 2:14-15 i.e. *bondage through sin*.

Note in passing that devil **“had the power of death”** as Job 1:12-19 shows. He does *not* have it now. *The Lord Jesus Christ does.* **“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death”** Revelation 1:18.

John and Paul identify the **“water and blood”** as follows. Paul explains further why the Lord **“came by water and blood”** 1 John 5:6.

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” John 3:5-6.

“But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe” John 19:34-35.

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” Galatians 4:4.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php Assurance and the Witnesses of 1 John 5 p 3 with respect to God’s blood, Acts 20:28.

The Lord’s blood is of course special.

The blood of Jesus Christ is God’s blood because as Paul states in Acts 20:28 **“God...hath purchased with his own blood...the church of God.”**

This purchase is called **“redemption”** as Paul says of the Lord in Colossians 1:14.

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

God is of course **“the eternal God”** and **“the everlasting God”** Deuteronomy 33:27, Isaiah 40:28. Therefore, His blood is eternal.

It follows that God’s blood still avails for redemption, forgiveness and cleansing from sin, as 1 John 1:7 reveals in the statement **“the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”** present tense.

6. What does John say about eternal life (1 John 5:11-13)?

- Eternal life is God’s record. **“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son”** 1 John 5:11.
- Eternal life is God’s gift. **“God hath given to us eternal life”** 1 John 5:11.
- Eternal life is in God’s Son. **“this life is in his Son”** 1 John 5:11.
- Eternal life is only in God’s Son. **“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”** 1 John 5:12. This is an additional insight into the definition of a Christian. See *Question 3* and remarks on **“the life of God”** Ephesians 4:18 and Romans 8:9.
- Eternal life is God’s Son. **“(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)”** 1 John 1:2 with 1 John 5:12.
- Eternal life is God’s guarantee. **“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”** 1 John 5:13.
- Eternal life is even yet God’s offer and invitation. **“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”** 1 John 5:13.

7. What encouragement does John give to promote prayer – what conditions does he give (1 John 5:14-15)?

1 John 5:14-15 state **“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”**

John’s encouragement for prayer is that:

- Prayer can be bold i.e. with **“confidence...in him”** i.e. **“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”** Hebrews 4:16.
- Prayer can be heard i.e. **“he heareth us.”**
- Prayer can be answered i.e. **“if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”**

John gives two conditions for *specific* answered prayer in 1 John, listed below, together with other conditions from the scriptures. There appear to be *seven* in total.

- *Prayer must be without un-confessed sin. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me”* Psalm 66:18 with 1 John 1:9.
- *Prayer must be with fidelity to “the book of the law of the LORD”* 2 Chronicles 17:9, 34:14, Nehemiah 9:3, now “the law of Christ” Galatians 6:2. “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination” Proverbs 28:9.
- *Prayer must be in harmony with the Lord Jesus Christ and His words. “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you”* John 15:7.
- *Prayer must be in Jesus’ name. “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full”* John 16:24.
- *Prayer must be in faith. “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord”* James 1:6-7.
- *Prayer must be in obedience to God’s commands. “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight”* 1 John 3:22.
- *Prayer must be according to God’s revealed will. “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”* 1 John 5:14-15.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” John 13:17.

8. What is the sin that leads to death (1 John 5:16)? Can it be committed by a believer?

1 John 5:16 states “If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.”

Paul refers to sin of “the lust of the flesh” that can lead to death in Romans 8:13 “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” but even that kind of sin has a remedy as Romans 8:13 also shows and it is not one from which prayer should be withheld as John stipulates.

By inspection, the only sin that 1 John 5:16 could realistically refer to is one that applies to the End Times and therefore not to any Christian, all of whom “are sealed unto the day of redemption” Ephesians 4:30.

What follows is a pre-determined fate for stubborn devil-worshippers of the End Times.

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name” Revelation 14:9-11.

That declaration gives added urgency to Paul’s exhortation to the Corinthians.

“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” 2 Corinthians 6:2.

9. What has God given to us and why has he given it (1 John 5:20)?

1 John 5:20 states **“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”**

John states that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has given today’s believers **“an understanding, that we may know him that is true”** that is, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself personally – along with the knowledge that the Lord has given this understanding. Paul explains that this understanding to know the Lord Jesus Christ, which he prayed that believers would have, is given specifically to each believer in order for him to know:

- *The Lord’s particular calling and what to look forward to at His Return.* **“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints”** Ephesians 1:17-18.
- *The Lord’s will.* **“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding”** Colossians 1:9.
- *The Lord’s perception of “all things.”* **“Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things”** 2 Timothy 2:7.

That is what is specifically to have **“an understanding, that we may know him that is true”** 1 John 5:20 i.e. **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”** Philippians 2:5.

10. Why does John close his letter with the warning to avoid idols (1 John 5:21)?

See *Question 3* about overcoming the world. John has shown that idols are **“all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life”** that **“is not of the Father, but is of the world”** 1 John 2:16. Idols therefore entice the believer to conform to *the wickedness** of the world – because **“the whole world lieth in wickedness”** 1 John 5:19: *Will Kinney shows that *“the evil one”* etc. 1984, 2011 NIVs, NKJV etc. is wrong, Matthew 28:18. See brandplucked.webs.com/articles.htm *Who Rules the World – God or Satan? 1 John 5:19.*

- *The world’s works are wicked.* **“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil”** John 7:7.
- *The world’s ways are wicked.* **“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”** Ephesians 6:12.
- *The world’s wisdom is wicked.* **“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish”** James 3:15.
- *The world’s worship is wicked.* **“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”** Revelation 13:4.

As Dr Ruckman has observed, *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1503, the devil only wants today’s believer to conform i.e. identify with the worldly devilment around him. All else is mere detail.

That is why John in 1 John 5:21 and Paul to the Romans urge *non-conformity to the world.* **“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”** Romans 12:2.

Again:

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” John 13:17.

Appendix - "The Godhead"

Introduction

The word "**Godhead**" occurs *three* times in scripture; Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9. Each occurrence of the word "**Godhead**" has a special significance with respect to the word itself. 1 John 5:7 identifies the three Persons of the "**Godhead**."

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" 1 John 5:7.

Fundamentalists have disputed 1 John 5:7 but Gail Riplinger, *New Age Bible Versions* p 381, states that *The testimony of early writers, the great mass of Old Latin and Vulgate manuscripts, the necessities of Greek syntax and the cry of the priesthood of believers all mandate its inclusion in the text...*

Versions: Old Syriac A.D. 170, Old Latin A.D. 200, Vulgate: 4th and 5th century, Italic: 4th and 5th century.

Writers: Tatian A.D. 150, Tertullian A.D. 200, Cyprian A.D. 225, Athanasius A.D. 350, Priscillian A.D. 350, Vadmarium A.D. 380, Cassian A.D. 435, Jerome A.D. 450, Cassiodorus A.D. 480, Vigilantius A.D. 484, Victor-Vita A.D. 489, Fulgentius A.D. 533, PS Athanasius A.D. 550.

Writings: Liber Apologeticus A.D. 350, Council of Carthage A.D. 415.

See also www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php 1 John 4, 5.

Considering the three references in scripture to the term "**Godhead**" in turn:

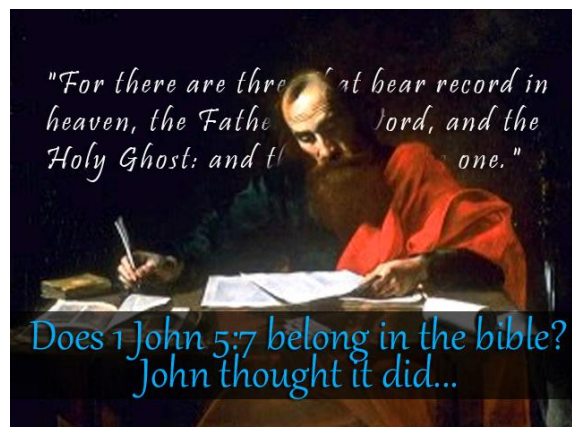
Acts 17:29

Acts 17:29 is significant as *the first mention* of the word "**Godhead**" in scripture.

"Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device" Acts 17:29.

Paul's statement condemns idolatry but it also shows that *even idolatrous heathen* (apart from "**certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks**" Acts 17:18, who may be found in various academic circles today) had a better understanding of "**the true God and eternal life**" 1 John 5:20 than modern version editors and Bible critics like James White and Robert A. Joyner. Acts 17:29 shows that they knew that they needed three materials; gold, silver, stone to represent "**THE UNKNOWN GOD**" Acts 17:23 *even in idolatry*. Note then Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians. "**Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble**" 1 Corinthians 3:12.

Noting again that "**we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone**" because these substances do not live and God is "**the living God**" Deuteronomy 5:26, Joshua 3:10, 1 Samuel 17:26, 36, 2 Kings 19:4, 16, Psalm 42:2, 84:2, Isaiah 37:4, 17, Jeremiah 10:10, 23:36, Daniel 6:20, 26, Hosea 1:10, Matthew 16:16, 26:63, John 6:69, Acts 14:15, Romans 9:26, 2 Corinthians 3:3, 6:16, 1 Timothy 3:15, 4:10, 6:17, Hebrews 3:12, 9:14, 10:31, 12:22, Revelation 7:2; 30 references in all, these substances are nevertheless a reminder of "**the Godhead**." See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1513:



1 John 5:7 and the Record in Heaven
www.defendproclaimthefaitth.org/1_john_57_and_the_record_in_heaven.html

- **“Gold”** is a reminder of **“the Father”** 1 John 5:7 in that gold was used extensively in the construction of the tabernacle and in the making of the priestly garments. **“All the gold that was occupied for the work in all the work of the holy place, even the gold of the offering, was twenty and nine talents, and seven hundred and thirty shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary”** Exodus 38:24 with Exodus 25, 26, 36, 37. **“And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office”** Exodus 28:4 with Exodus 28, 39.
- **“Silver”** is a reminder of **“the Word”** 1 John 5:7 because silver is the price of redemption, Exodus 30:13-15, Numbers 3:47-49 and **“the Word”** John 1:1, 2, 14 is the Lord Jesus Christ **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins”** Colossians 1:14.
- **“Precious stones”** are a reminder of **“the Holy Ghost”** 1 John 5:7 because **“the Spirit is life because of righteousness”** Romans 8:10 and **“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ”** 1 Peter 2:5 **“And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him”** Malachi 3:17.

As indicated even unsaved idolatrous heathen (apart from **“certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks”** Acts 17:18, who may be found in various academic circles today) understood **“the Godhead”** Acts 17:29 better than those who changed **“Godhead”** into **“Deity”** etc. and those who approved of or even condoned that change.

Romans 1:20

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” Romans 1:20.

Romans 1:20 associates God’s **“eternal power”** with the Godhead. *All three Persons of the Godhead manifest this eternal power.*

“God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God” Psalm 62:11.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” Matthew 28:18.

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” Romans 15:13.

Colossians 2:9

“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” Colossians 2:9.

Colossians 2:9 associates **“fulness”** with the Godhead. *All three Persons of the Godhead manifest this fulness.* In addition to Colossians 2:9 note:

“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there” Psalm 139:7-8.

“Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD” Jeremiah 23:24.

Conclusion

The word **“Godhead”** confirms Three Persons, Acts 17:29, **“the power of God”** Luke 22:69, Romans 1:20 and **“the fulness of God”** Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 2:9 as **“a threefold cord”** Ecclesiastes 4:12 **“and these three are one”** 1 John 5:7.