**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

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**Day 78**

**1 John 5:1-5**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. Is following God’s commands burdensome to me? Why?
2. Am I overcoming the world or is the world overcoming me? Why?
3. Which of his commands is God reminding me of lately? Why?
4. How should believing that Jesus is the Christ affect my life?
5. How has loving God affected my relationships?

***Insight:***

We love the children of God by loving God and carrying out his commands. We show our love to our fellow disciples when we love God and obey him. If we love God, we won’t do anything that would hurt our fellow disciples. By loving God we also give them an example to follow.

If we love God, following his commands is not burdensome. Isn’t it true that when we love someone, we enjoy doing things for them? Is this how we feel about God? Do we obey his commands willingly and not grudgingly? Obeying his commands is also not burdensome to us because God helps us. Furthermore, it is not burdensome because we know that following God’s commands is for our good. Knowing that we benefit from our obedience should make it easier for us to follow. Finally, God’s commands are not burdensome to us because as children of God, we have overcome the world.

If we truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God, we will overcome the world. The Greek word translated as “overcome” means “to conquer”. When we were baptized we conquered the world. In fact, as disciples we are described as “more than conquerors.” Do we feel that we are conquerors? For as long as we continue to believe in Jesus we will continue to overcome. Jesus has already overcome the world (John 16:33). Jesus has defeated the world. Our victory is guaranteed for as long as we remain on the winning team.

If we believe that Jesus is the Son of God then we should also believe that Jesus is to be obeyed. If Jesus is our savior, then we should also be loyal and grateful to him. That Jesus is our savior should not be something we only know intellectually. It shouldn’t just be a fact that we know. It should also be a truth that affects us emotionally and inspires us spiritually.

Loving God is a packaged deal. When we love God, we end up loving his children as well. When we love God, we obey him. Love for God comes with all of these otherwise it is not love for God at all. Therefore, loving God affects all of our relationships and impacts every aspect of our lives. Loving God is not just having a warm fuzzy feeling for God, it is transformative. How much have we changed because of our love for God?

The pandemic has disrupted our lives and it might have caused us to forget or neglect some of God’s commands. For instance, what about the command to “go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). Are we still making disciples and being fishers of men? It begins in our hearts. Do we still have the heart to seek and save the lost? Even if we are at home we can still reach out to the lost. We can reach out to those in our homes who are not yet disciples. If we can’t study the Bible with them, at the very least we can plant seeds. We can use different forms of communication to reach those outside of our homes. For those we cannot reach personally, we can still pray for them.

There is also the command to train ourselves to be godly (1 Timothy 4:7). We have to train ourselves and fellow disciples to be godly. Are we putting into practice the things we are learning in our quiet times? Remember that to build our house on the rock, merely listening to the Word of God is not enough. Listening to messages is not enough, we need to put what we are learning into practice. Are we still seeking discipling or we are hiding from our disciplers? Are we discipling others with all God’s energy (Colossians 1:28)? Are we warning the idle, encouraging the disheartened, and helping the weak (1 Thessalonians 5:14)?

What about the command to give to God what is God’s (Matthew 22:21)? Are we giving to God what we owe him? We owe God our worship. Are we worshipping God with all our heart even if its just online? Have we become mere spectators and not participants in our worship services and devotionals? Are we still giving what we have pledged to give for our contribution? While this will be difficult for some of us who have lost income during the pandemic, not all of us are in this position. The point is, are we still giving sacrificially to the church and to our needy brothers and sisters?

Let us love God by obeying all of his commands with a willing heart.