**1 John 5:3-4 – Victories past and present**

**Main: The reality of who we are is untouched by the world, the flesh, or the devil**

**1 John 5:4 – Whatever is born of God overcomes the world**

* **A type of victory has already been won (1 Jn. 4:4).**
* **“Whatever”, not “whomever”; Whatever is born of God overcomes.**
* **“When we believe in Christ, we overcome the world which was seeking to keep us from believing in Him.” (Wilkin, GES)**
* **Faith brings victory; we have the resource of a NN**
  + **Initially for eternal life**
  + **Daily for reward**

**1 John 3:9 – All believers have a new nature that does not, and cannot, sin.**

* **Our “total person” is able to sin, however…**
* **Our inner self does not sin due to God’s seed within us (1 Pet. 1:23-25)**
* **Our inner self cannot sin because we’re born of God; like produces like.**
* **This is the “real me” that will remain when my body is out of the picture.**

**Romans 6:1-14 – All believers have a new self, an identity in Christ**

* **6:1-2 – All believers have died with Christ to sin, but cannot experience life when we live in sin**
* **6:3 – We were joined to Christ when we believed**
  + **This happens by the baptism of the Spirit**
  + **We were joined to His death and its effects.**
  + **As such, we died to sin.**
* **6:4 – We were also joined to His resurrection to live a new life**
  + **The beginning of moral change is a new ID**
  + **That new ID is given to us in Christ**
  + **Self-hated ruins the process of growth (Romans 7:24)**
* **6:5-14 – Three key ideas for a believer to grow:**
  1. **Know about our union and new ID in Christ (6:1-11)**
  2. **Consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God (6:12)**
  3. **Yield ourselves to Him (6:14)**

**However, the “monkey wrench” is Romans 7.**

**How do we overcome a “dead”, uncooperative body?**

**Romans 7:14-8:6 – Only the Spirit can bring freedom from our sinful bodies**

* **The problem: A Christian’s body is dead or uncooperative – 8:10**
* **Two forces within us: The flesh and the New Nature (both use “I”, “Me”)**
* **Inner self “delights” in God’s law, doesn’t know how to do good - 7:18, 22**
* **Our inner self is trapped in a “dead” body - 7:24**
* **Left to ourselves, the body or the flesh, wins Gal. 5:16-18**
* **If we walk in the Spirit, enslavement is not inevitable – 8:1-3**
* **It involves our mindset or the Spirit’s way of thinking 8:4-5**
* **KEY: How do I get a dead, uncooperative body alive**
  + **Prayer is one key - Eph. 3:14-21**
  + **Mindset or perspective (the Spirit’s way of thinking) is another**
  + **The value of “reprogramming” – Rom. 12:1-2 = the culmination.**
  + **Faith – Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:7; 1 Jn. 5:4; Heb. 11:6**
  + **Faith helps me to have the Spirit’s perspective - Phil. 1:12-18**

**1 John 5:18 – Neither sin nor Satan can impact the core of who we are**

**“…The one born of God doesn’t sin, but the one born of God keeps himself and the evil one does not touch him.”**

**“In saying that the regenerate person keeps himself, John is not saying, of course that our inner self can somehow prevent all sin of the Christian life (cf. 1:5-10). What John means is that God‘s seed remains in the regenerate inner self, (cf. 3:9) as the controlling element of his born-again nature and is impervious to even the slightest contamination from the wicked one. Believers’ failures are due to sinful “programming” of their earthly bodies, as Paul himself taught in Romans 7:7–25.”**

**“But try as he might Satan, cannot really touch the believer. But, if a believer lets him, Satan will use his failures to lead him to further failures. So, after every sin a believer ought rise from his confession to God, knowing that he is the same inwardly holy person he was before he failed!”**

**The Grace New Testament Commentary, Vol. 2: Romans to Revelation,**

**1 John, Zane C. Hodges, pp. 1227-1228**