

#5 What is the role of community and accountability in staying focused on loving the Lord rather than the world? How do we help each other with this?



Pastor Brandon Babcock, Ph.D.
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First John: Part 4
springfieldfaithcenter.org/sermons

BE VULNERABLE

#6 How has your journey with the Lord impacted your desires and priorities? Do you care about the same things you did when you first got saved?

#7 What steps is God asking you to take, individually, to align your desires with his will and to resist the temptations of the world? How can your Life Group help you with that?

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Commit to pray for at least 3 prayer requests from your Life Group)

✓

✓

✓

TRANSFORMED BY GOD

1 John 2:12-17

Three Affirmations:

1 John 2:12-14

1. Our **sins** have been **forgiven**.
2. We **know** the Father.
3. We have **overcome** the evil one.

Strong Exhortation:

1 John 2:15-17

- Reject **worldliness!**

Priorities — the world vs. the LORD:

- ✓ Do I choose the desires of the flesh or **self-control?**
- ✓ Do I choose the lust of the eyes or **contentment?**
- ✓ Do I choose the pride of life or **humility?**

LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of April 28, 2024

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

BE FRIENDLY

#1 If you could only watch one TV show, for the rest of your life, what would it be and why? What do you think your choice says about you, as a person?

BE OPEN

#2 John gives a series of encouragements, or affirmations, to his audience. Praise God that these affirmations are true of anyone who has faith in Jesus.

1. Their sins have been forgiven.
2. They know God.
3. They are strong.
4. The word of God lives in them.
5. They have overcome the evil one.

Which of John's encouragements spoke the most to you? Why?

How do these encouragements connect to the things that John has talked about previously, in the passages before this one?

#3 John talks about the danger of loving the world. In fact, he emphatically and deliberately urges Christians: "*Do not love the world or the things in the world!*" (1 John 2:15) In your words, what does John mean by loving the world?

How does not loving the world differ from appreciating the world that we live in?

#4 John warns Christians about the nature of the world in 1 John 2:16: "*For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.*" How is John's warning about the nature of the world, in v. 16, reflected in the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness? What parallels do you see?

Matthew 4:1-11, NIV

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Share a time when you struggled with choosing between worldly desires and following God's will. What helped you make the right decision, or what prevented you from doing so?