

Lesson 4 | June 26, 2022

Encountering Deception and Persecution

Study Text: Acts 4:34 through 5:42

Central Truth: God works to protect and perpetuate the Church.

Key Verse: Acts 5:39

If it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God (KJV).

“If it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!” (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students will recognize challenges churches can encounter as they fulfill the Great Commission.
- Students will learn to avoid discouragement when challenges arise, knowing God preserves and protects His people.
- Students should trust God’s keeping power while persevering in advancing His kingdom.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: Trouble is not something churches should see as out of the ordinary. As will be observed in this study, even the Early Church faced trials from deceptive practices within their ranks to persecution from outside entities. Knowing that God preserves and protects His people, Christians can avoid discouragement when challenges arise.

Opening Activity—The Opposition Pendulum

Ask: What examples can you give of opposition that followed times of blessing, either in your life or in a church or ministry?

Say: Just as the temptation of Jesus followed His baptism and the declaration from the Father saying, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy” (Matthew 3:17, NLT), we often face opposition when we are living and walking in the Spirit. The Early Church certainly experienced that, but the opposition also led to growth. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Early Church faced difficulties, both within the Church and from outside forces. But the disciples of Jesus were not intimidated or discouraged by these difficulties. **The power of the Holy Spirit in their lives was clear as they walk through these problems with courage and integrity.**

May God grant us both the courage and the integrity to face opposition, no matter the source, and still remain faithful to Him.

Part 1—God Judges Two Deceivers

Gracious Sharing

Acts 4:34–37

[Act 4:34-37 NKJV] 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, **35** and laid [them] at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. **36** And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, **37** having land, sold [it], and brought the money and laid [it] at the apostles' feet.

[Act 4:34-37 KJV] 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, **35** And laid [them] down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. **36** And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, [and] of the country of Cyprus, **37** Having land, sold [it], and brought the money, and laid [it] at the apostles' feet.

Say: Even when things are going well, problems never go away. In spite of what some would claim, being a believer does not necessarily lead to health and prosperity. The Early Church dealt with the issues of daily life and found them to be opportunities to see the hand of God move in their midst. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Church was growing, both spiritually and numerically. Things were going well. Believers were proclaiming the gospel in the power of the Spirit. Many people were coming to faith in Jesus. A spirit of unity prevailed among believers. Yet some among them faced financial needs. It may be that those who had traveled from far away to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost did not have the means to support themselves when they extended their stay after becoming believers in Jesus. Some of the believers stepped up as needs arose, selling property and giving the proceeds to the church so such needs could be met (Acts 4:34–35).

Luke cited the actions of Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, as an example of this gracious generosity. Apparently, Joseph was generous with more than his

money, for the apostles named him Barnabas, which means son of encouragement or consolation. He sold some property and gave the money to the apostles to distribute to those in need (verses 36–37).

Christians will face problems. When believers respond to them with a spirit of unity and love, problems become opportunities for miracles and for God to be glorified. As believers graciously share what they have, needs are met and the kingdom of God advances. Generosity—giving of oneself to benefit others—brings encouragement. Generosity goes beyond money to sharing one’s spiritual gifts, time, and care, so fellow believers know they do not face the trials of life alone. Gracious sharing is so much more than a handout; it is a hand up.

Resource Packet Item 1: Generosity Commended

Distribute the work sheet to students. After giving them time to read the Scriptures and respond to the questions, discuss their responses as a class.

Discuss

? How can you encourage others?

? What characterizes a person with a generous spirit?

Hypocritical Sharing

Acts 5:1–11

[Act 5:1-11 KJV] 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back [part] of the price, his wife also being privy [to it], and brought a certain part, and laid [it] at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back [part] of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried [him] out, and buried [him]. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband [are] at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up

the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying [her] forth, buried [her] by her husband. 11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Say: Ecclesiastes 10:1 states, “As dead flies cause even a bottle of perfume to stink, so a little foolishness spoils great wisdom and honor” (NLT). Acts 5:1–11 is an example of the results of the foolishness of a couple named Ananias and Sapphira. The text does not indicate whether their original intent was honorable or not, but if it was, they certainly took a wrong turn and paid dearly for it. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Like Barnabas, Ananias and Sapphira sold some property to give money toward the needs of fellow believers. Unlike Barnabas, they were hypocritical in their giving. They allowed greed and pride to motivate their actions (verses 1–2).

The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was not in keeping some of the money for themselves. It was theirs to do with as they saw fit. The sin was hypocrisy fueled by greed and pride. Their goal was to gain recognition while practicing deceit. Their names are forever associated with hypocrisy and its consequences. As Peter pointed out, they were lying, not to people, but to God himself (verses 3–10).

When Satan could not slow down the followers of Jesus with outside pressure, he used this couple to attempt to disrupt the Early Church from within. God dealt swiftly and severely with their sin (verses 5,9–10). The result was that all who heard about what happened greatly feared (verse 11). The loving God who sent Jesus to be the Savior is also still the holy God who judges sin. A holy fear does not hinder the work of God, but assists in building His Church.

All believers must stay alert for Satan’s schemes. He still works to disrupt the work of God by tempting believers to act out of hypocritical motives. Such actions turn hearts away from the gospel and bring dishonor to the Lord.

Discuss

? What are other biblical examples of God’s severe judgment on those who dishonored His name?

? How can believers evaluate their motives for serving the Lord?

Part 2—Holy Spirit-Empowered Ministry Brings Growth

Acts 5:12–14

[Act 5:12-14 KJV] 12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with

one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. 14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

Say: Jesus had promised His disciples that they would “do the same works I have done, and even greater works” (John 14:12, NLT), but that promise did not mean they would do those works in their own power. Jesus was going to the Father, and the Holy Spirit would come to empower them. They were seeing that promise fulfilled in the life of the Early Church. God offers that same promise, and that same power, to us. But we must always remember that He is the Source of our power, never letting pride or arrogance slip into our hearts. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Following the cautionary account of Ananias and Sapphira, Luke refocused on the progress of the Early Church. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the apostles were able to minister in the supernatural, “performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people” (Acts 5:12, NLT).

Though translated in various ways, the Greek phrase in verse 12 is “through the hands of the apostles.” The power to perform miracles came from the Holy Spirit, not the apostles themselves. Christians need to keep in mind the Holy Spirit is the One who enables them to be witnesses of Christ. The Spirit’s role is to testify of Christ, which He does through believers by displaying His power to point to the truth of the gospel and to God’s care for the needs of people. Believers must be careful to give God the glory for the miraculous as they minister, humbly confessing it is His power working through them (3:12–16).

Believers continued their previous practice of gathering to worship and receive instruction in the Word in the area of the temple known as Solomon’s porch (5:12, KJV) or Colonnade (NLT). **Recent events caused some who were not followers of Jesus to exercise caution, not willing to be identified with the believers even though they were held in high regard (verse 13). Yet others came to believe in Jesus through the ministry of the Church (verse 14).**

Growth occurred in the good soil of this young church. The gospel was being powerfully proclaimed. **Unity, love, and devotion to God characterized the believers. Holiness, a genuine following after God’s way, was evident, particularly through God’s judgment of hypocrisy in their midst. Those same conditions will lead to growth in churches in our time.**

Discuss

? How can believers be more open to the Spirit working through them?

? How does gathering with other believers to worship and receive the Word help you grow as a follower of Jesus?

Extends Outreach

Acts 5:15–16

[Act 5:15-16 KJV] 15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid [them] on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. **16** There came also a multitude [out] of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Say: The Church, which had begun in Jerusalem with 120 people who prayed as they waited for the Holy Spirit, was expanding. The crowd at Pentecost included people from many different nations. Villages near Jerusalem were also being impacted by the ministry of the disciples. **Interestingly, we see none of the selfish desire for position some of the disciples had expressed earlier when they argued about “who would be the greatest among them”** (Luke 22:24, NLT). (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Holy Spirit-empowered ministry extended the outreach of the Early Church. The Spirit’s power worked wonders through the apostles to bring healing. Even Peter’s shadow falling on people resulted in people being healed and delivered (Acts 5:15). People from outside of Jerusalem brought their sick and those tormented by evil spirits to the city for healing and deliverance (verse 16).

These incidents of healing and deliverance are likely included in Luke’s earlier statement about the apostles performing many signs and wonders. It is reasonable to conclude the apostles took advantage of the opportunities these miracles provided to proclaim the gospel, which, in turn, led to people believing in the Lord. Displays of the Spirit’s power point to the truthfulness of the gospel. People can be more open to hearing the gospel and believing in the Lord as they observe the Spirit’s power being displayed. Healing and deliverance are just two of the ways His power can flow through believers to minister to needs and reach people for Christ.

Miracles are not a guarantee that people will come to faith in Christ, for in Jesus’ own ministry this did not always happen (John 6:26–66). Yet the Lord is gracious and loving, extending relief to people in need. As believers, may we be desirous of the power of the Spirit working through us, praying that hearts will be opened to the Lord as they experience His miraculous power.

Resource Packet Item 2: The Miracle

Distribute the case study and divide your students into small groups. After giving them time read the case study and respond to the questions, discuss their responses as a class.

Discuss

? How can miracles make people more receptive to the gospel?

? Why might people who have experienced the miraculous fail to put their faith in Christ?

Part 3—Persecution and Rejoicing Faithful Witness Brings Trouble

Acts 5:17–28

[Act 5:17-28 KJV] 17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, 18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. 19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. 21 And when they heard [that], they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, 23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within. 24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow. 25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. 26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set [them] before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Say: Things were going well for the Early Church. God was moving miraculously, and the Church was growing, but then opposition came against them. **As you read the Book of Acts, watch for the number of times that a great time of success was immediately followed by opposition.** This is also true for us. When God is blessing and we are feeling especially close to Him, that's when the enemy strikes. The way we meet such opposition demonstrates the strength of our faith in God. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The followers of Jesus gathered regularly in the temple to worship and receive the apostles' teachings. Jealous of the rising popularity and increase in their numbers, the high priest had the apostles arrested and put in jail (Acts 5:17–18). Likely this was an attempt to dishearten the apostles and discourage people from becoming believers in Christ.

God, however, worked to preserve and protect the Early Church. He sent an angel who released the apostles and directed them to keep proclaiming the good news in the temple (verses 19–21). The Sanhedrin was shocked when they learned the apostles were teaching in the temple rather than languishing in prison. The high priest accused the apostles of disobedience and promoting unrest (verses 22–28).

Faithfulness to the Lord often leads to trouble. However, believers can take heart, knowing He has promised to preserve and protect them so they too can overcome the world (John 16:33).

Christians must not lose heart when persecution comes. The Lord does work to preserve and protect His followers. **We may not always see how He works toward that end as prison doors are not always opened. Yet we can trust that the Head of the Church is at work on its behalf so believers can prevail as they remain faithful witnesses of Him.**

Resource Packet Item 3: Help for the Persecuted

Distribute the information sheet. Give students time to review the information presented. Discuss ways Christians can assist their fellow believers who are being persecuted.

Discuss

? How can persecution advance the Church?

? What are some ways Christians can assist their fellow believers who are being persecuted?

Faithful Witnesses Despite Trouble

Acts 5:29–42

[Act 5:29-42 KJV] 29 Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand [to be] a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and [so is] also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard [that], they were cut [to the heart], and took counsel to slay them. 34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; 35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. 36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. 37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, [even] as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. 38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: 39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten [them], they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Say: Standing for Christ in a time of opposition calls for courage. Again, we see a side of Peter that was missing before the Day of Pentecost. **The man who had lashed out in anger and cut off the soldier's ear in the Garden of Gethsemane, the man who cowered in fear when confronted by a servant girl, was now speaking boldly and eloquently in the face of earthly authorities.** Perhaps, he and the other apostles thought of Jesus' words in Luke 12:11–12, "Don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said" (NLT). (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Rather than being intimidated by the Sanhedrin, the apostles boldly testified to the truth concerning Jesus (Acts 5:29–32). They were acting in obedience to God. God had called them to tell others what they had witnessed—the death, burial,

and resurrection of Jesus, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit promised by God in the Scriptures. What the Council wanted was secondary.

The apostles' response so incensed many in the Sanhedrin that they wanted the apostles put to death (verse 33). But **God used the wise and tempered counsel of Gamaliel to restrain their actions (verses 34–39). The apostles were flogged, threatened, and released rather than killed (verse 40).**

The apostles left the Council rejoicing rather than complaining. They felt honored to suffer for the sake of the name of Jesus (verse 41). Despite these troubles, they remained faithful to their calling of proclaiming the good news (verse 42).

How can we understand the holy boldness of the apostles without the unshakable assurance deep inside oneself of the reality of the good news of Jesus? Though believers today do not have the same experience of witnessing the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus that the apostles did, believers can have a steadfast assurance of the reality of these events. How? The work of the indwelling Holy Spirit whom believers receive when they put their faith in Jesus Christ.

While it is critical we are willing to die for what we believe about Jesus Christ, it is equally vital that we are willing to live for what we believe. The Holy Spirit not only is given to assure us of salvation, but also to empower us to live in obedience to God as witnesses of Jesus. If we suffer trouble for our faithfulness, let us rejoice that we are “counted worthy to suffer shame for his name” (verse 41, KJV).

Discuss

? Why should believers count it an honor to suffer for Christ's sake?

? How can believers remain faithful in proclaiming the gospel when they are facing adversity?

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: We can trust God's power to keep us through the things that try our faith. Trials can come from within our ranks through deceptive teachings and practices, and from outside in the form of opposition and oppression. We stand, not by our own strength, but by the power of God's Spirit. His presence gives us the conviction and courage to remain faithful to the Lord and His mission. What challenges do you face as an individual believer in living in obedience to the Lord? What has He called you to do in service to Him? What challenges do you see facing churches as they seek to fulfill the Great Commission? How can we help one another overcome these challenges?

Living It Out Ministry in Action

- Consider how you can encourage and help leaders in your church in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- Commit to praying for and supporting persecuted Christians in one country.
- Determine to grow closer to the Lord and prepare to stand when challenges come.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

God Judges Evildoers.
Numbers 16:23–33

[Num 16:23-33 KJV] 23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. 25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. 26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. 27 So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. 28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for [I have] not [done them] of mine own mind. 29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; [then] the LORD hath not sent me. 30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that [appertain] unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. 31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that [was] under them: 32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that [appertained] unto Korah, and all [their] goods. 33 They, and all that [appertained] to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Tuesday:

A Covetous Man Condemned.
Joshua 7:20–26

[Jos 7:20-26 KJV] 20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they [are] hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, [it was] hid in his tent, and the silver under it. 23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. 24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge

of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

Wednesday:

God's Vengeance on Persecutors.
Jeremiah 11:19–23

[Jer 11:19-23 KJV] 19 But I [was] like a lamb [or] an ox [that] is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, [saying], Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered. 20 But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause. 21 Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life, saying, Prophecy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand: 22 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine: 23 And there shall be no remnant of them: for I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth, [even] the year of their visitation.

Thursday:

Cruel Plot Against Jesus.
Matthew 2:16–23

[Mat 2:16-23 KJV] 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping [for] her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. 19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

Friday:

Be Prepared for Opposition.
Matthew 10:16–22

[Mat 10:16-22 KJV] 16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against [their] parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Saturday:

Victory Over the World.
1 John 5:1–5

[1Jo 5:1-5 KJV] 1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?