

FOURTH STREAM HOW IT WORKS - OR DOES NOT FINDING HOPE

Jesus' follower John speaks with such clarity. He was an *eyewitness* to the Son of God Who came near, and he had processed His amazing words over a couple of decades.

For John it was all about *heart* bottom lines. If the heart didn't change, then behavior modification would fail. This is how the disciples came to understand what they had *seen* and *heard*. God not only dwells in the *heart* and *soul*, He lives in our *conscience* as well.

Let's take a look at John's core teaching about overcoming.

This was a big deal to His followers.

1 John 5:4, Revelation 2:7,11,17, 26; 3:12,21 and 21:7 were all passed on to us by John.

How important is it that we choose to overcome?

What does this mean to you?

Check out the connections here.

From 1 John 2:15-17 we learn:

"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

We cannot love both the world and share that love with the Father. These loves are antithetical. We must *guard* ourselves from loving the world so it does not inhibit our devotion to God. This leads us to more clarity about our love for the world.

*"For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the **boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world."*

Notice the three aspects of world love God is describing through John, disciple of Jesus. How would you define each of these from your own experience? What does each look like on the *outside*? From the *inside*?

"The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

How does a person fight off what is temporary and allow it to be eclipsed by forever things?

Indeed.