

Spiritual Strength through Fellowship with God

1 John 5:18-21

- I. **Fact # 1 – We do not need to give in to the power of sin (1 John 5:18).**
 - A. **We know** that in our new nature, we do not sin (18a).
 - B. As believers we can say “no” and thus “keep” ourselves safe from Satan (18b; 1 John 4:4; James 4:7; 1 John 5:4).
 - **Note on v. 18b:** This may mean 1) It is Christ who “keeps us” or 2) We “keep ourselves.” The Greek in this verse suggests the latter (see 5:21, Jude 21). We must say “No!” to sin through God’s power.
- II. **Fact # 2 – We do not need to give in to Satan like unbelievers do (1 John 5:19).**
 - A. **We know** that our new life is empowered by God (19a).
 - B. We really are different than the world which is under Satan’s control (19b).
- III. **Fact # 3 – We can have true fellowship with God Himself through Jesus Christ [our source of spiritual strength] (1 John 5:20).**
 - A. **We know** that Christ has revealed God to us we can have fellowship with Him (5:20a; 1 John 1:3,7)
 - B. We are called to have an relationship with God through Christ who is God and the Giver of eternal life (5:20b).
- IV. **Final Warning about idols – We must never be distracted by Satan’s substitutes (1 John 5:21).**
 - **Idolatry** – We must make sure than no person, nor the pursuit of material things or success distracts us from closeness with God - 1 John 2:15-17).