

Behold What Manner of Love

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 5:9-12**

Chapter 26- The Divine Witness 248 The Divine Witness- Part 5

WAOY Friday/Monday 09/12-15/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to go over our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **1 John**, and today we are going to continue to look at what John taught about the Divine Witness- so let's read **1John 5:9-12** again together:

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have been going over just what John was talking about when he wrote verse 9- so let's read that verse again together:

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

Now we have already seen how that God the Father Personally Witnessed or testified of Who Jesus is when Jesus was Baptized- but today I want to show you another time when God the Father gave Personal Witness to God the Son by looking at **Matthew 16:28** and **Matthew 17:1- 9:**

28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, **Arise, and be not afraid.**

8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, **Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.**

Now Jesus told His Disciples in **Matthew 16:28** that some of them would not taste of death until they saw Him come in His Glory and **Matthew 17:1** tells us that just six days later- three of them- Peter, James, and John actually saw Jesus coming in His Glory as Jesus was transfigured before them.

Now the Bible says that these three men also saw Moses and Elijah, and it is not clear just how Peter, James, and John knew that the other two men with Jesus on the mountain was Moses and Elijah because both Moses and Elijah lived many hundreds of years before

these men were ever born- but somehow all three Apostles knew who these men were.

Never one to be timid- Peter spoke up and was stumbling over his words when suddenly the Bible says that a bright cloud overshadowed them and God Almighty began to speak out of the cloud, and in verse 5, Matthew recorded this moment for us:

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Now you certainly could not blame Peter and the rest for what happened next. In verse 6- the Word of God says:

And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

Now nobody was playing a tambourine and dancing when this happened. Nobody was running all over the mountain when God spoke these words. No, these three chosen Apostles fell down on their faces in the dust of that mountain and they were sore afraid- now to be "sore afraid" is 17th Century King James English is to be very afraid, extremely afraid, unbelievably afraid.

And you know I really believe that this is the only appropriate position that the sons and daughters of the Lord Christ should be in when God does things like this. Notice that as soon as God spoke- Peter got real quite. Don't you see, dear friends, that when God says something that Man needs to hush and be quite and humble himself and quit talking and get real low and listen.

Did you notice that as soon as God spoke- there was no talk about our rights in Christ on this mountain; no discussion about our authority or our liberty or our freedom. There was no discussion of great wealth or physical healing or power or greatness. No, God was speaking and men were very, very still, and listening, and humbled.

This is a concept that has been lost to the modern Church- and one that I pray we can have a revival of in our day. This moment on that mountain is a very good example of what the Bible calls- The Fear of the Lord, and it is a concept that we really need to learn much of in our day.

The Fear of the Lord- this overwhelming, all encompassing, reverential respect and awe of God as God is revealed in His Glory will always do three things:

1. It will silence all flesh
2. It will humble all human arrogance and pride
3. It will magnify Jesus Christ

The Bible says that the Fear of the Lord is the beginning of both Wisdom and Knowledge, and the Bible also says that the Fear of the Lord will cause us to hate evil. So from that we can deduce that those who do not fear God, those who do not respect and stand in awe of God with deep and overwhelming reverence have no wisdom, they have no knowledge, and they do not hate evil.

Maybe this is why we have such great sin in our lives today- because we do not fear God. Maybe this is why we love this present evil world so much and why we promote covetousness and materialism and lust and greed and call it a blessing from God. Maybe this is why we pursue after those things that make much of us- that build us up and that promote our well being rather than those things that magnify Jesus Christ and that promote His Kingdom and His Righteousness.

And I believe with all my heart that this is what we lack today, dear friends. Our problem is not a lack of money or a lack of more stuff or a lack of more power or even physical healing or emotional ecstasy- no we have a lack of this kind of awe inspiring, overwhelming, all encompassing reverential fear of the God Who created the Universe, and the God Who Owns our souls, and the God Who holds our heartbeat, and we need to be sore afraid again.

If we really feared God- if we could just see Jesus high and lifted up and once again become sore afraid of this Glory- we would not do what we do; we would not think like we think; we would not say what we say. If we really feared God- we would not sin with impunity, we would not rob God of what is entitled to Him, we would not be so quick to promote flesh, and we would not love the world. If we really feared God like Peter and James and John did on that mountain- we would pray without ceasing, we would be quick to forgive those who have wronged us, men would love their wives, women would be under subjection to their husbands, and children would obey their parents.

It must be said and we must know that we are not spiritual unless we fear God. Our lack of fear is not because we have grown in Christ and matured in the Spirit to a place where we don't need that fear- no, our lack of fear is nothing more than a sign of our backsliding, a testimony to our lukewarmness, and a witness to our unbelievable shallowness.

And our lack of fear is directly proportional to our inability to actually see Jesus exalted in His Glory. We must realize that worship is not about us. Worship didn't originate from Man, and it isn't about Man, and it isn't for Man. Worship was God' idea and God's Word tells us how we are to worship God. Worship is about exalting and magnifying and lifting up Jesus Christ- Who is the very Center and Core of the Glory of God.

So by definition then- worship is that which will bring honor and glory to God, and take honor and glory away from Man. It is impossible to lift up Jesus while we are lifting ourselves up. It is impossible for us to honor God while we honor ourselves, and it is impossible for us to give glory to God while we are taking Glory for ourselves. For us to promote any teaching or any doctrine that exalts Man or that promotes Man or that honors Man or that builds up Man is by default to rob and to steal worship away from God and give it to Man. Now look very closely at God's Own Witness about Who Jesus is by reading again **Matthew 17:5**:

... This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

God said that we are to hear Jesus- that we are to listen to Jesus, That we are to obey Jesus, That we are to know what Jesus says, and we are to follow what Jesus says. And there is only one location in all the world where we can hear Jesus today, and that one single location is in the pages of the 66 Books of the Holy Bible that was written by the Spirit of Jesus. **Hebrews 1:1& 2** tells us very clearly that God *used* to speak to Man in various ways and in different methods in days gone by. God used to speak to Man by signs and wonders and through prophets and by various ways. But verse 2 tells us that in these last days- God speaks to Man solely through His Son.

And what God says to us through Jesus today is more important than anything that any prophet might say; it is more valuable than

anything that any sign or any wonder or any dream or any vision would ever tell us precisely because Jesus is so vastly superior to any of those other methods. Before the final, full, and completed Revelation of God was given to Man through the Apostles- the best that we had was the partial and incomplete revelation given through the mouths of prophets. And by their own testimony- that partial Revelation was incomplete and very lacking.

But once Jesus fulfilled his Prophecy of **John 16**, and the Apostles were guided into all Truth by the Comforter that they received on the day of Pentecost, and the *superior* Revelation of the New Covenant was written down and recorded- now we can hear directly from Jesus through the pages of the 21 Epistles, and now we can have the correct and full interpretation of the four Gospel accounts and the 39 Books of the Old Covenant.

So the question is this: Why would *anyone* in these last days want to go *down* the mountain when we can go *up* the mountain? Why would *anyone* in these last days want to hear from *Man* when they can hear from God? Why would anyone in these last days want to hear *anything* from a prophet who at best is a frail, sinful human being, and whose words may or may not always be true- when we can hear Words that are inspired, Words that are always true, Words that are never wrong, Words that are eternal, and Words that come from the very Mind and Heart and Mouth of a superior High Priest- Who never sinned?

God's Own greater Witness to us about Jesus is that He Alone was sinless, He alone fulfilled God's Plan, and He alone fully pleased the Father. And God's command to us because all that is true is that we should hear Jesus.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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