

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
BELIEVING THE WITNESSES
1 JOHN 5:6-12

Introduction

How do we come to have an assured confidence in our confession that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of Sinners?

How do we come to have an assured confidence in the person of Christ—in Who He is?

Well, John tells us here that **God does not require of us a blind faith**, but rather that **He has indeed given us various testimonies as to exactly Who Jesus is so that we may have confidence in having believed on Christ!**

In this passage John points to **some of these testimonies to the person of Christ which God has given so that folks may confidently believe on Jesus Christ as their Savior and so that all true Believers might have a confident assurance in this One Who is the object of our faith!**

Much of this book has been asking us to gauge the reality of our faith. However, this passage points us to the Person Who is the object of our faith and gives us some testimonies to bolster our faith in that Person—Jesus Christ, the very Son of God.

There are two parts to the passage before us: In verses 6-9, we see the testimonies to the Person of Christ described and explained by John.

Then in verses 10-12 John speaks to us about what our response needs to be to Jesus and to these testimonies about Jesus.

Let's look then at this passage in those two parts.

**I. THE TESTIMONIES OF THE WATER, THE BLOOD, AND THE SPIRIT. (Verses 6, 8)
The WATER Speaks of Jesus' BAPTISM!**

The BLOOD Speaks Of Jesus' DEATH On The CROSS!

The SPIRIT Speaks Of The HOLY SPIRIT—THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

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These all testify to the unity of Jesus as both Divine and a human Person!

Now John's words here in *verse 6* are very challenging, and some have struggled to understand the precise significance of his argument, although the general sense of his argument is very clear.

Now I want to suggest to you that in that sentence, John is saying something basically simple. **John is saying that the Holy Spirit testifies to us that this Jesus of the Bible was and is Jesus the Messiah (the Christ), the very Son of God, and the Spirit testifies that He is Who He claimed to be by pointing us to both Jesus' BAPTISM and Jesus' BLOOD as testimonies to His Person.**

In other words, John is saying that **if you will consider what was revealed about Jesus Christ in both His BAPTISM and on the Cross with His BLOOD objectively, you will realize that the HOLY SPIRIT is testifying to you personally about Who Jesus is in those historical events!**

Understand that some see in the reference to **WATER** and **BLOOD** a mention of **Christian baptism** and **the Lord's Supper**, and we could certainly see how Christian baptism and the Lord's Supper might testify to the person of Jesus Christ.

But John seems to be speaking of something that is directly in Jesus' own experience and time and history which points to His Person.

Others suggest that the **WATER** and the **BLOOD** here refer to that passage in *John 19:34*, when the spear was thrust into Jesus' side, **and "...forthwith came there out blood and water."**

And so since John is writing this letter it is suggested that John is pointing back to the mingled **water** and **blood** as a testimony to the person of Christ in His death.

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And the verse following that verse says,
John 19:35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

But most, including myself, have understood the **WATER** and the **BLOOD** as a reference to Jesus' own **baptism** and to Jesus' **death on the Cross**.

The WATER—Jesus' baptism points to His DEITY;

Matthew 3:16-17 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Remember what John the Baptist said in:

John 1:32-33 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

The BLOOD—Jesus' blood shed in His death points to His HUMANITY!

His sacrificial death on our behalf required **blood** to be shed (*Hebrews 9:22*), and His **blood** was shed! A spirit doesn't bleed!

In all of this, whatever interpretation you take of this phrase "*the water and the blood,*" it is clear that John is pressing home one important truth: **If Jesus Christ, the Son of God did not take on Himself our nature in His birth and bear our sins in His death in the fullness of His Person as both the Son of God and Son of Man, then He cannot reconcile us to God.**

The objective testimony of Jesus' **baptism** and shed **blood** concurs and coheres, with the testimony of **the Holy Spirit!** The Spirit of Truth Who convicts us and convinces us through His testimony in the Word!

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So **THE WATER, THE BLOOD, AND THE SPIRIT TESTIFY OR BEAR WITNESS TO WHO JESUS IS!**

II. THE TESTIMONIES OF THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY GHOST! (Vs 7)

Most of the perversions of Scripture don't even have this verse in it! They split *verse 6* into two verses and leave this verse out! Yet it is one of the clearest Scriptures that shows the Trinity!

The Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost "are one!"

A. Consider The Testimony Of The Father!

1. The Testimony At Jesus Christ's Baptism!
(Matthew 3:16-17)

2. The Testimony At Jesus Christ's Transfiguration!
Matthew 17:5 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.

B. Consider The Testimony Of The Son!

1. The Testimony In His Teaching And Preaching!
(Consider the content of the four Gospels!)

2. The Testimony In His Miracles!

3. The Testimony In His Death, Burial, And Resurrection!

Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

C. Consider The Testimony Of The Spirit!

1. The Testimony In His Word!

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

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Jesus said:

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

All the Prophecies spoken and recorded and then fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ!

2. The Testimony In His Conviction! (John 16:8-11)

He is the One Who takes the Word and shows us Who Jesus is!

III. THE WITNESS OF GOD IS GREATER THAN THE WITNESS OF MEN—BELIEVE WHAT GOD TESTIFIES OF HIS SON!

(Vs 9)

John's point in *verse 9* is simply this:

The testimony that the Holy Spirit gives to us—that Jesus is the Divine Messiah, the Son of God—is God's testimony about Jesus!

When **the Holy Spirit testifies** to us of the **Person** of Christ Jesus being the Divine Messiah, the Son of God—That is God's **testimony!**

And if we are convinced by human **testimony** in a court of law, John says in *verse 9*, how much more should we be convinced by the Divine **testimony**?

And what is the purpose of this **testimony**? To evoke faith in Jesus as the Divine Messiah, the Son of the living God.

John is pressing home that truth in this passage and evoking faith in Jesus Christ Who is the Son of God, the divine Messiah, the Savior of sinners; because Jesus, the Divine Messiah, came in the flesh—the second person of the Trinity came in the flesh for our salvation!

And that is absolutely essential for our redemption! And so John is pressing home that truth because it was being denied by some false teachers of his day just as it is being denied by some in our day!

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You cannot say “yes” to Jesus and reject the Bible's claims about Who Jesus is. Jesus defines Himself for us in the Scriptures. The Scriptures give us God's **testimony** as to Who Jesus is.

Jesus is not ours to invent as we go along! We may either believe in the Jesus Who is offered in the Gospel, the Jesus of the Scriptures, the Jesus of Biblical and Apostolic testimony, or we may reject Him!

But we cannot say, “*I accept You, Jesus, and I'll define You like I want.*” John is making it clear that the Jesus Who is the object of saving faith, in fact the only Jesus Who saves, is the Jesus Christ presented to us by revelation of God in Scripture, testified to by His life on earth and testified to by **the Holy Spirit** working in our hearts!

So John is making it clear to us that to be saved we must believe in the Christ of the Bible!

IV. FAITH IS AN INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT IN RECEIVING THE LIFE OF GOD'S SON, JESUS CHRIST! (Vs 10-12)
[i.e. Faith Is One's Proper Response to the Testimony Of The Person And Work Of Jesus Christ!]

And John drives that point home in the second half of this passage. **Look at verses 10 through 12.** Here he's talking about our response to this testimony.

John's point is to make it clear that faith is an indispensable instrument, or we might say a necessary instrument in receiving the life of the Son.

John very boldly here says that “**he that believeth not God hath made him a liar!**” **To reject God's RECORD—i.e the TESTIMONY given in God's Word by the Spirit of God about Who Jesus is, the TESTIMONY that we receive from the Holy Spirit, the TESTIMONY that was corroborated at Jesus' baptism and at the Cross— is to reject GOD'S TESTIMONY and call God a liar!**

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We live in a world that calls for us to back off from our faith and to be “*tolerant*” of other faiths. And listen, **people have a right in our country to believe what they want to believe** and we don’t dispute that!

In fact, **we strongly believe that the government should not dictate what our beliefs should be and we strongly believe that the government should not interfere with our rights to assemble and worship according to the dictates of our conscience and faith!**

But listen, **when we preach or say that God says or the Bible says that repenting of one’s sin and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is THE ONLY WAY to heaven as God has said, we run afoul of this politically correct society!**

Soon, if our country continues in the direction it is now going, **our ability to stand for truth and for right will soon be criminalized!** And don’t kid yourself, there is a great push in that direction in many places in our country! *(If you don’t believe it just ask the Christian Law Association, Alliance Defending Freedom, or some of the other organizations that are representing Churches and Believers in our land!)*

For the life of me I cannot understand how our society has gotten to the point where it will protect and defend Islam which is more than just a religion! It is also a **political ideology** that looks to institute its Sharia Law under the Koran on a worldwide basis!

i.e. Islam wants to FORCE its beliefs and its laws on our nation and the entire world, yet our government protects them, embraces them, and wants to repudiate us just for our preaching that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is necessary for one to enter Heaven!

We don’t twist any arms to try to make people believe...we don’t put people under the threat of any physical harm for not believing what we preach! Yet we, as Believers, do not get a pass as the Muslims do!

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So, John says if you deny God’s testimony about Jesus you’re calling God a liar because God has already said what He thinks about Jesus Christ. And you can’t be neutral about that. You either accept it or you reject it.

And trying to be neutral about it is not actually being neutral; it’s rejecting God’s own testimony, which, John said, is calling God a liar.

Not something you want to do...because you will stand before the LORD at the Great White Throne Judgment having made that decision!

So John is pressing home again this very important fact that we cannot be neutral about the Gospel. We can’t be neutral about the claims of Christ.

We must either embrace Him and bow the knee and worship Him and believe in Him as He is offered in the Gospel for salvation, or we must reject Him and forego Him and be judged by Him in the last day.

Look at what John goes on to say in **verse 11!** John is telling us that the life, the eternal life, the life of the age to come, the life of the new heavens and the new earth is in Jesus Christ.

It is in faith-union with Him. It comes only when a person has been united to Christ by the Holy Spirit because that life is in the Son. That’s why you cannot reject the claims of Christ and have life, because in Him is life.

And if we are going to participate, if we are going to share in that life, we must be in Him. We must be trusting in Him, believing on Him, believing what the Scriptures say about Him.

And so, consequently, John says what he says in **verse 12!**

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Notice we are told three things here about eternal life:

First of all, we are told in this passage that eternal life is not something we earn or deserve. Eternal life is a gift given not something we have earned! (Vs 11a; Cf. Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Secondly, we are told that eternal life is found in God's Son, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, and so in order to give it God sent His Son. (Vs 11b; Cf. John 3:16)

And then, thirdly, notice in this passage that this eternal life is not just something reserved for the future, but eternal life is something that is in our possession of believers presently. (Vs 12)

*John 3:18 He that believeth on him **is not condemned**: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son **hath** everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

*John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, **hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.***

But John's point in this passage is that trusting or believing on the Christ of Scripture is absolutely essential to salvation. One cannot be a Christian and reject Jesus' Person. One cannot be a Christian and reject what the Bible teaches about His Person.

We live in a day and time when folks say they are Believers, but the Jesus they have believed in is different than the One the Scripture reveals. They have a Jesus that they have made up into their own image.

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Conclusion

Have you believed on the Jesus of the Bible?

If so, be confident of your Salvation!

If you haven't believed on the Jesus of the Bible, ditch what you have believed on and trust Him alone!