

## ~ 1 John ~

## Lesson 35- The Witness of God (part 2)

We are continuing our study about the Witness of God. And we are looking at a section of 1 John that spans, **1 John 5:6-13**.

Last week we began looking at verses 6-8 and we learned in verse 6 that John is describing Jesus as coming in the flesh. John says, “*this is He who came by water and blood- Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood.*” This is the Word made flesh. Jesus who came by means of the flesh, but He isn’t just flesh, He is a flesh and blood a human being in blood relation to Adam. Therefore making Him a Kinsman to Adam, our Kinsman Redeemer. And it is through the precious blood of Jesus that we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, Col 1:14.

And this is the Witness of God: that God has given us Eternal Life and this Life is in His Son, 1 John 5:11. That He has sent His Son so that we might have Eternal Fellowship with Him. And when we believe in Jesus as the Christ sent from Heaven, the Word of God, God’s love has been perfected with us. Remember those two amazing words in 4:17- WITH US. God wants to spend eternity WITH US. And this is made possible because the blood of Jesus has reconciled us with the Father, Romans 5:1-2, 9; Col 1:13-14; Eph 2:13-18.

And John says we can know and have this Fellowship because of the Spirit whom He has given us, 3:24. Because the Spirit of Truth is bearing witness that Jesus has come as Savior of the world. That’s a summary of what we learned last week in verse 6.

That brings us to verses 7 and 8. Which, as we said last week, these two verses are the most debated verses in the Bible. Because the majority of the whole world believes that these verses should not be in the Bible. All modern translations except the KJV and the NKJV do not include this section of Scripture. But I spent the latter part of the lesson last week proving to you that verses 7 and 8, specifically the Johannine Comma, which is what they call this removed part of the verse, is the True Word of God. The Latin word “comma” comes from the Greek word, komma, *κόμμα*, meaning “a piece which is cut off”. And that is exactly what the Gnostics did to this part of the verse, they cut it out of the Bible. But now that we know these verses truly belong in the Bible, today we are going to dive a little deeper into what these verses mean.

Let’s read these two verses again...

**7** For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

**8** And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

*7 ὅτι τρεῖς εἰσιν οἱ μαρτυροῦντες ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ, ὁ πατήρ, ὁ λόγος, καὶ τὸ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα· καὶ οὗτοι οἱ τρεῖς ἓν εἰσι.*

*8 καὶ τρεῖς εἰσιν οἱ μαρτυροῦντες ἐν τῇ γῆ, τὸ Πνεῦμα, καὶ τὸ ὕδωρ, καὶ τὸ αἷμα· καὶ οἱ τρεῖς εἰς τὸ ἓν εἰσιν*

John is speaking of the Heavenly and earthly witnesses. The Witnesses that are testifying that God has given us Eternal Life and this Life is in His Son. Notice this word that keeps coming up... witness, *martureo*, *μαρτυρέω*, meaning to bear witness or to testify. John uses this word 11 times in these 8 verses making it the main subject of this text: The Witness of God.

In verse 7, John describes the Heavenly Witnesses, **1 John 5:7**. This is the Trinity in Heaven before the foundation of the world, existent from eternity past, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit working as One for our reconciliation. This is why John calls Jesus, “Logos” instead of the Son because we know from John 1:1 that the Word was existing, *imperfect tense*, from the beginning. The Word has always been existing with the Father. And our redemption was established before the foundation of the world in Christ Jesus. That the Word would become flesh and die for our sins. The cross wasn’t an afterthought. It was established in eternity past that Jesus would be our Savior. This is how the Father would have His eternal family who would freely love Him, **1 Peter 1:18-20**; Revelation 13:8; Ephesians 1:4; Matthew 25:34.

The Heavenly Witnesses are the Trinity in Heaven working together as One for our salvation. That's what Trinity means, tri-une, three in one. And that is what John says in 1 Jn 5:7, "**these Three are One.**" The Trinity is three separate Persons who are One God, Three Beings, One God, and they all Three agree as One. And they are bearing witness of our Eternal Life in Jesus Christ. This word "bear witness" is a present participle. The Trinity is presently and continually bearing witness that God has given us Eternal Life and this Life is in His Son. This is the meaning of Romans 8:28. It is not "all things" that work for our good. It is the "all of God", the Trinity, that is working for our good, to those who love God and have been called according to His purpose. These are the Heavenly Witnesses and these Three are One. Jesus describes the Heavenly Witnesses in **John 3:11-15**. The "We" is the Trinity: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, We, the Trinity, speak of what we know from eternity past, and we testify, μαρτυρέω, *martureo*, we bear witness what We have seen from eternity past. This is what a witness does. When you are a witness to something, you are testifying of things that you know and have seen. This is the case with the Heavenly Witnesses. They have known and seen Eternal Life for us through the Son, because the Son has been sent to the earth as Savior of the world.

Then in verse 8 John describes the One sent from heaven to bear witness on the earth...

**8** And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. <sup>8</sup> καὶ τρεῖς εἰσὶν οἱ μαρτυροῦντες ἐν τῇ γῆ, τὸ Πνεῦμα, καὶ τὸ ὕδωρ, καὶ τὸ αἷμα· καὶ οἱ τρεῖς εἰς τὸ ἓν εἰσιν.

This is Jesus, who is God incarnate in human flesh, who has come down from Heaven to the earth as our Savior. The discourse in John chapter 6 is directly related to 1 John 5:6-8. Jesus is the Bread of Life that came down from Heaven to give us Eterna Life, **John 6:35, 38, 40, 47-48**. We know from 1 John 5:6-8 that Jesus came by water and blood, by flesh and blood. And it is by his flesh and by His blood that we are saved, **John 6:51-58**. Jesus isn't telling us to physically eat His flesh and drink His blood. He is telling us to partake of Him and His work on the cross by receiving Him by faith. We partake of Him and we abide in Him by faith, specifically by feeding on His Word, **John 6:63, 68**. The Bread of Life is His Words of Life. Notice how Jesus ties in the Spirit in John 6:63 with the flesh and the blood. These are the three witnesses on the earth, the Spirit, the water (flesh), and the blood.

Let's go back to 1 John 5:8 and look at these earthly witnesses. He says, "...**there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.**" In 1 John 5:6, John said Jesus came by water and blood, but notice in verse 8 John adds one more element to Jesus coming in the flesh. This third element is the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is active both in the Heavenly witness and in the earthly witness. The Spirit is the third person in the Godhead, and He is actively and presently bearing witness that Jesus is the Christ who was sent from the Father to give us Eternal Life. This is what learned in verses 6 and 7, and in addition to this, the Spirit had an active role in the Word becoming flesh because it was out from the Spirit that Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb. Remember what the angel said to Joseph in Matthew 1:20- ...*for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit*. The three witnesses on earth are how the Word became flesh... 1) He came out from the Spirit... 2) He came by water... and 3) He came by blood, and these three agree as one because this is God incarnate in human flesh, Jesus Christ.

Notice this last phrase, "...**these three agree as One.**" In the Greek it is even a little more specific. It says...

καὶ οἱ τρεῖς εἰς τὸ ἓν εἰσιν  
And these three into the One they exist. Or we could say... And these three exist into the One.

This is the Spirit, the water, and the blood existing perfectly without sin into the human form prepared by the Father to take away the sin of the world. This is the Heavenly Witness come down incarnate in human flesh to bear witness of Eternal Life in Him.

Listen to how Paul describes this in **Hebrews 10:5-14**. But Jesus becoming a Man does not mean that He was created. He is not a created being. His body was created, but Jesus, the Word, the second person of the Godhead has existed forever. Jesus is the protokos, πρωτότοκος, the Preeminent One. He is the One who holds first place in everything. and all things were created through Him and for Him and by Him all things exist. Turn to **Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9-10**. Jesus is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form, and He is the exact representation of God in the earth, Hebrews

1:3. And it is God in human form- Jesus Christ, who has come to proclaim Eternal Life to all who would believe in the Son. This is why Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus only says what He hears the Father speak, John 5:19, 30; 8:26, 28; 12:49-50; 14:10, 24.

This is the witness of God. Look at verse 9...

**9** If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

**8** εἰ τὴν μαρτυρίαν τῶν ἀνθρώπων λαμβάνομεν, ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ Θεοῦ μείζων ἐστίν· ὅτι αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἣν μεμαρτύρηκε περὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ.

**If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater...** John again makes a comparison between the Truth of God and the lies of the Gnostics. The Gnostics were liars and they bore false witness against the Truth. Many times, in this letter John calls these men liars, **1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 22; 4:20**, but God, who is Truth, cannot lie. Therefore, the testimony of God is much greater than men because God's testimony is Truth.

**...for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.** God sent His testimony through His Word, through His Son. And God's Witness testifies of His Son, specifically Eternal Life through His Son. Because God sent forth His Word and it will and has accomplished its purpose, **Isaiah 55:11**. God's purpose of His Word is that it bring Eternal Life to all who believe in His Son.

This is what John goes on to say in verse 10...

**10** He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

**10** ὁ πιστεύων εἰς τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἔχει τὴν μαρτυρίαν ἐν ἑαυτῷ· ὁ μὴ πιστεύων τῷ Θεῷ, ψεύστην πεποίηκεν αὐτόν, ὅτι οὐ πεπίστευκεν εἰς τὴν μαρτυρίαν, ἣν μεμαρτύρηκεν ὁ Θεὸς περὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ.

John links receiving the witness with believing in Jesus Christ. **He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself.** It all comes back to faith. *This is the victory that has overcome the world- our faith*, 1 John 5:4-5. He who believes in the Son, believes the Witness that God has sent. And he who believes has the witness in himself. This is just another way for John to describe the Fellowship we have with God. When we believe in Jesus, we are born of God, He abides in us and we in Him. His Word is abiding in us. This is Fellowship.

In verse 10, John contrasts the believer with the unbeliever. He who believes has the witness in himself, he knows and believes the Truth, but... **he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given testified of His Son.**

Those who do not believe in the Son are making God a liar in their heart because they do not receive the True Witness of the Son. They deny and reject the Truth because they themselves are deceived.

And then to make sure there is no ambiguity, John states very clearly what the witness of God is in verse 11...

**11** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

**11** καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ μαρτυρία, ὅτι ζωὴν αἰώνιον ἔδωκεν ἡμῖν ὁ Θεός, καὶ αὕτη ἡ ζωὴ ἐν τῷ υἱῷ αὐτοῦ ἐστίν.

I want you to think about those words... "in **H**is Son." This is Fellowship. This is abiding in **H**im and His Word abiding in you, **1 John 2:24-25; 28**. I love how Paul continually reminds us of our Life in **H**im, **2 Cor 5:17-21**. Before the foundation of the world, the Father placed our Eternal Life in **J**esus, Eph 1:3-23. Our redemption, every spiritual blessing, our inheritance, our adoption as sons, our Eternal Life... it was all placed in **C**hrist before the foundation of the world. And the testimony of God is this... that it is finished, the work is done, we have redemption through His blood, and He has given us Eternal Life in **H**is Son.

John continues into verse 12 describing this Life we have in Christ...

**12** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. | <sup>12</sup> ὁ ἔχων τὸν υἱὸν, ἔχει τὴν ζωὴν· ὁ μὴ ἔχων τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ τὴν ζωὴν οὐκ ἔχει.

If you have the Son, then you have the Life. If you are connected to Jesus, you are connected to the Life because He is the Life. John 14:6- *I AM the Way, the Truth, and The Life, no one comes to the Father except by Me.* When Jesus was speaking to Martha, He said to her, *I AM the Resurrection and The Life... He who believes in Me shall never die... do you believe this?*, **John 11:25-27**. It is our faith, our believing in Jesus that He is the Christ sent from the Father that gives us Eternal Life. This is believing the Witness of God from Heaven, **John 3:31-36**.

Then John wraps up this entire section and summarizes why he is writing this letter in verse 13...

**13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. | <sup>13</sup> Ταῦτα ἔγραψα ὑμῖν, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἵνα εἰδῆτε ὅτι ζωὴν ἔχετε αἰώνιον, καὶ ἵνα πιστεύητε εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ.

This letter is written to believers: to those who believe in the name of the Son of God. To those who have the witness in themselves. To those who are abiding in Him. And throughout this letter, John has been giving us reasons why he is writing to us: 1:4... so that our joy might be full; 2:1... so that we might not sin; 2:26... so that we will not be deceived. But 5:13 summarizes the entire reason for the letter... **so that we might know that we have Eternal Life...** This is the greatest assurance one could ever have. That we know that we know we will be spending eternity with our Heavenly Father. And the way we continue this assurance is by continuing to believe in Jesus... **and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.** Christians believe. This is why we say we are "Believers". We are actively and continually believing in Jesus unto Everlasting Life. This is our continual manner of life. Remember what Paul said three times...

The just shall live by faith

It is living and abiding daily in Him, continually in dependance and Fellowship with our Savior,  
knowing that we have Eternal Life  
**in Him.**

It is believing that God has given us Eternal Life and this Life is in His Son