

1 John 5:6-13 (NKJV)

6 This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

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.

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.

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.

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

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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.

Isn't it interesting how many lies people believe things without ever investigating the proof? It is easy for us to see something on tv or on the web or in a paper and, because it aligns well with how we see life, we believe it.

Our seemers say it seems true. And we buy it.

Our world is preaching the message that the Bible is not a **reliable historical document**. But all the evidence proves that it **is** reliable.

Our world says it is **full of contradictions**. But when we look at it like you would look at any normal human communication, it isn't.

Our world says that science proves that we have evolved from **single cell life** to **human beings** by random chance. But science **does not** prove that. One must take a leap of faith to believe that.

We could go on and on. I have watched many videos of apologists as they invite questions. And it is very interesting to see what the questioners just **assume** without ever checking the facts. They assume what they believe is true because of the propaganda they are **seeing** and **listening to** and **reading**.

The wonderful thing about Christianity is that we are never required to take some mystical **leap of faith**, accepting things that have no proof or validity.

The Bible appeals to reality. It appeals to actual **time and space** proof. It appeals to **fact-based** arguments. And our documents are couched in historical narratives with historical **time stamps**. It is not some mystic in a cave coming down to the ignorant to reveal to us stuff that we are supposed to believe just because he says it is true.

Our text this morning is an appeal to believing truth. It is an appeal to evidence. It is an appeal to **the rational**. But it is not devoid of our subjective experience either.

John has just been speaking about overcoming the world. And the only way to overcome the world is to believe that **Jesus is the Son of God**. This is foundational. It is vital. It is impossible for us to overcome the world if we do not have an accurate faith about who Christ is. A belief in just the existence of **some historical figure called Jesus** will grant us no spiritual power. The demons are certain Christ exists. Many people like the idea of this human, Jesus Christ. But we need more than that.

You and I need to know that this Jesus was born on this planet as the **Son of God**. We must have that. But John transitions here to **more** clarity about who this "Jesus the Son of God" **really is**.

Our understanding cannot be limited by just seeing Jesus as being born of God. We must understand the full picture. We must see Him as Jesus **THE CHRIST**.
(vs 6)

We must see Him as the Messiah, and that, with a full understanding of what Messiah **really is**.

We can understand our text this way:

John is trying to hammer down proper theology about the person of Christ because it is foundational to living an overcoming life.

Verses 6 -8 The testimony of Jesus Christ and His person

Verses 9,10 Reasons why we should accept the testimony

Verses 11,12 The consequences of accepting the testimony

Now the first thing we need to look at is the reliability of the text. Most of the older texts do not contain the words from verse 7 after the words **bear witness** to verse 8 where it begins **The SPIRIT**.

It looks like it was added by Roman Catholic scribes who wanted to emphasize their understanding of the trinity. Like in the end of the book of Mark, it does not violate my conscience to **skip those texts** because they do not appear to be authentic. I do not say that because I think I have any right to **pick and choose** what scripture to believe. I do it because sincere scholars who are greatly concerned about the accuracy of scripture, **themselves**, believe these are later additions to the original text.

This is how the English Standard Version, which a very accurate translation reads these passages.

1 John 5:6-8 (ESV)

6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

So we are going to limit our study of this passage to the parts that are not suspect.

Here are 6-8 in the NKJV with the questionable text removed.

6 This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

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.

Now when we look at the text we see a reference to **bearing witness** twice and the **oneness of that witness** once. What we are looking at is **proof**. In Jewish law it required **two witnesses** to **verify** any fact. So the Jewish mind would understand the importance of this. John is essentially making a **legal bonified proof** of the **Christ-ness of Jesus**. He is proving that Jesus was not just a man whom God had visited. Jesus was the **God/Man** the Jesus and Christ at the same time.

Now, what does this mean **water and blood**?

I looked at several explanations but I believe the best one is keeping with what John is trying to do. John is seeking to provide proof that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah. So **what** would have to do with **water and blood** that would **best prove** that He was this God/Man?

First, water is probably a reference to Christ's baptism.

Let's look at that.

Matthew 3:13-17 (NKJV)

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Now the million dollar question is, "Why did Jesus see the need to be baptized?" Now we need to keep in mind that **John's** was a baptism of **repentance**. It was not the same baptism as a **believer in Christ's** baptism. This was a baptism to show the repentance of sin.

So Christ was sinless. Why did he not only **allow** Himself to be baptized, but He **demand**ed it?

The only clue we have in the passage is what Jesus said.

"Permit *it to be so now*, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

The question then becomes, how is a sinless man being baptized as a symbol for repentance of sin fulfilling righteousness?

Well, Isaiah might give us a clue.

Isaiah 53:12 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

We see in Isaiah that Christ was **numbered with transgressors**. Was His baptism by John one of the ways that Christ was identifying with the sinners that He was destined to save. That is how most scholars understand it. Jesus was **taking upon Himself our likeness**. He was **identifying** with us. And He was **BEING identified** as **one of us**. We need to repent. And He was joining in that with us, even though He **did not** need to repent.

This identification with us was the beginning of His ministry to us. And look what this water symbolism was **greeted with** by His Father.

A voice from Heaven said "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**" And the Spirit of God descended upon Him. Can you think of a better evidence, a better testimony, a better witness?

So this is probably the **water** being referred to in the text.

⁶ This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

So what is the blood? Most everyone agrees that this is the crucifixion. This is where Christ not only **identified** with us but He **took upon Himself** the full weight of our human condition.

Now we need to keep in mind all of the prophecies that were fulfilled in that event. There are lots in the Old Testament that foretold what Christ, the **Messiah** would do. It foretold that He had to suffer. It foretold **that** He would die, **how** He would die, and **where** He would die. This is proof of the highest degree. Things **happened** to Christ, and **did not happen** to Christ that were out of the power of a human to **cause** or to **prevent**. For instance, his garments were bet on. He could not have caused that. And His legs were not broken. He could not have prevented that if He were a mere human.

The evidence is very overwhelming. The blood is a powerful evidence of Jesus being the Christ. The Spirit empowered the words being written that prophesied the death of the Messiah. And He fulfilled every one. Can you imagine a better witness?

But then look at the **power of God** that accompanied this event. The curtain in the temple was ripped from top to bottom. Can you imagine what the people who were responsible for fixing that tear must have thought as they assessed the damage? There was an earthquake. Dead people came back to life. There was darkness. And then, wonder of wonders, Christ rose from the dead, just like the prophecy said would happen.

And none of this happened in a vacuum. All of it was **witnessed** by human beings. This was all the kind of proof that **holds up in courts**. It was verifiable. It was a witness of the first degree.

Sometime take the time to read about the Islam religion. It has nothing like this. Yet millions of people believe it with no evidence. We are not expected to do something like that. The most logical and inquiring minds can come to Christ and find a full verification of the facts.

So we go back to verse 6 and we will paraphrase. If you ever want to see if you understand a scripture, try paraphrasing it. Put it in your own words. If you can't, you probably don't understand it. If you can, that does not mean that you are understanding it correctly. But it does mean you have a firm grasp on what you at least **think** it means. Here is my paraphrase.

This is Jesus, who is the Christ, who displayed His Messiahship through His baptism and through His crucifixion. And the Spirit testified both, by the way that both of these events **fulfilled prophecy** (prophecy that was authored by the Holy Spirit) and by the **power of the Spirit portrayed at** both of these events. If we had nothing but these two events it should be enough proof. And it is the Spirit who bears witness of these things because **truth** is what

the **Spirit** is all about. So at the end of the day, **the Holy Spirit**, the **baptism of Christ**, and the **crucifixion of Christ** are all telling the same story. They are all verifying the fact that Jesus is the Christ.

Now, why should we believe all this?

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.

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.

Why believe? Well in legal matters we believe 2 people when their witness agrees. But here we have **three ways** in which **God's witness** agrees. And no God believer really thinks that God is capable of lying. So if God witnesses **three times three ways**, that is far better than three **human** witnesses.

And John is saying, the **Baptism** of Jesus accompanied by **God's confirmation** that He is the Christ, and then the **Crucifixion** of Christ accompanied by **God's confirmation** that Jesus is the Christ beats any other kind of witness. This is the supreme proof.

But this is all external proof. This external proof must come first. We must know that there is verifiable evidence before we go further. Christianity is not a suckers religion. It is not like all the other world religions and cults. It is not like the cult of humanism or evolutionism. It is verifiable with evidence. But this is quickly followed by another kind of evidence to those who believe. The **external** evidence is followed by **internal** evidence.

10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself;

This has not always been a strong suit in my life. The **external** evidence was far more comforting to me at first than the **internal** evidence. But even now I cannot deny the fact that many times when I quietly sit before the Word of God that something spiritual happens. The printed words on that page come alive with meaning to my soul. They become relevant to the world I live in. They convict me of sin. They direct my path. I often come away with an idea of that which I should do that I did not have before I read God's Word. Yes. As I act in belief that Jesus is my Savior, Jesus is my all in all, things happen that I cannot explain rationally. I **experience** them. I would think this is true for all believers. We have the witness **in us**. There is something about us that is supernatural. We are being moved upon from something that is **not us**. There are probably a million ways of describing it, but we know that God is at work in our hearts. Isn't that an amazing encouragement? An amazing affirmation? Does that not give us an **internal evidence** that is very different than the **external** evidence. It relies upon the external objective evidence to

affirm that we are **sane** and **not delusional**. But it comforts us because we know and feel that it is different than who **we would have been** if Christ had not come in our lives.

Now with all this comfort comes an opposite harsh truth.

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.

Do we get this? When God goes out of His way to **provide proof** of His work in our world, when He verifies the work that His Son has done, when He provides **expert witnesses** and the witness is **proclaimed clearly**, what is the logical conclusion of a person who hears the witness and does not believe it?

That person must, by logic, be proclaiming the witness **a liar**.

I was in a conversation with an associate of mine recently. I proclaimed something that I am convinced of. He told me that frankly he did not believe me. This was not difficult for me to parse out. I did not have to consider what he said and ponder what it logically must mean. His lack of belief of something that I **proclaimed clearly** declared that **I was a liar**. I may be deceiving **myself** or I may be knowingly deceiving **him**, but his statement concluded that I was **deceiving**, one way or the other.

Here is a truth that should stop us in our tracks.

When we oppose acting **in belief** upon the promises of God, we are actively **calling God a liar**.

We don't like to see it that way do we? We want to say, this is just a weakness of mine. It is a proclivity. It is a quirk of mine.

Let's use an example here. This example could be replaced by a thousand others. I just pick this one because it is a sin that Christians tend to accept as normal.

We might say, Christ says **not to worry** because **He has me covered**. But we may think that this really does not apply to me because of various reasons. Maybe we think we can imagine the things that can go wrong a little more vividly than other people. Maybe we think we are more realistic than other people.

Do you see what I mean?

When we refuse to orient our beliefs to the promises of God, we are actively calling God a liar. In this instance, our psychological make up is irrelevant. Either He has us covered or He does not. God is telling the truth, or He is lying. And how we respond exhibits what we believe about God.

In our text, God is talking about His **affirmation of His Son**. But this principle is logically applicable to everything **to which God has testified**.

Where in your life do you call God a liar? It is not hard to spot. Where do you fret? Where do you get angry at your circumstances? Where do you refuse to submit your decisions to God's commands? Where do you buck His authority in your life? God has testified. God has witnessed. But frankly, sometimes we think we know better. Logically that is the most **absurd** state to be in. But just as in the appeal of that **forbidden fruit** that Adam and Eve were drawn to, what does **reason** have to do with it? The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life rarely have their foundation in **solid reasoning**. It is just flesh. And flesh always calls God a liar, or it remakes God in our own image. Where are you calling God a liar in your life?

Now what happens when we trust God's testimony? What is the outcome?

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

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

This is what happens when we believe that Jesus is the Christ. And that is not just an intellectual belief. This is like believing that **the ice is thick enough to hold you** to the degree where you confidently **walk out on the ice** with no fear of falling through. That is what true belief in the God/Man Christ is like. It is a complete confidence in His ability to carry through with His promises. When we believe in Jesus Christ with real belief, we **experience** this new life. It is more than intellectual. We know that we are different. We know that there is a life in us that we were not born with.

I like how our brother Jones puts it.

"Do you know God? I do not ask you if you say your prayers. Do you know that He has loved you with an everlasting love? Do you know that He is yours? Can you say, "My God"? Do you know He is your Father? If you know Christ, you know God, for you know Jesus whom He has sent. You are full of a new life. "Christ liveth in me". Can you say that?

To be a Christian is not merely to hold certain Christian philosophies. It is more than that. You are able to say, "I am a new man or woman. I am not what I was. I, yet not I. God is dwelling in me."

Can you see how this is more than a set of beliefs? It is certainly more than a new set of chosen behaviors. It is a miracle of God in a fallen human being. It is a miracle of life that draws us into a new life pursuit. We now find ourselves wanting one thing more than anything else. We want to please our Savior.

And we look forward to **being with Him** in such a way that it **releases us** from all the other draws that would have previously owned us.

¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.