

Behold What Manner of Love

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

Chapter 26- The Divine Witness

251 The Divine Witness- Part 8

WAOY Friday- Monday 09/19-22/08

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 on the last Broadcast- we were going over just what the third witness that John wrote here in verse 10 really is. The first witness about Who Jesus is- is Man- the 40 writers who wrote 66 authoritative and inspired Books that make up what we call The Holy Bible. Everything that is true about Jesus is found somewhere in those Books and our understanding of Who Jesus is, and What Jesus does and does not do, and what Jesus loves and hates should come from that record.

The second witness is that of God the father Who spoke from Heaven twice concerning Jesus and Who raised Jesus from the dead. And John tells us in verse 9 that the witness of God is ever greater than the first witness of Man. Both the witness of God and the witness of Man are external objective witnesses.

But then in verse 10- John says that there is a third witness about Who Jesus is that is also true and this third witness is an internal witness that believers have in themselves. This third witness is more subjective than the other two but is true nonetheless.

Now last time- we were going over why it is wrong to teach that people are filled with God's Spirit at some point after Salvation because of the fact that if the Spirit of God does not do a Sovereign supernatural Work inside the lost man first- no one would ever be saved.

And I want to dwell on this issue more on today's broadcast. You see, dear friends, as we discovered last time- lost people are not just separated from God by their lostness- they are also blind, deaf, and have a heart of stone- precisely because as far as God is concerned- they are dead. And this deadness of lost people is a very important point in our discussion- so listen up. First- let's read **Ephesians 2:1**:

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Now the Bible says here that something supernatural and miraculous happened to those of us who have been saved. The Apostle Paul writes here that we were "quickenened". Now the word "quickenened" is a 17th century English word that is a translation of the Greek word that means: *to make alive that which was dead or to give life*.

So Paul is saying that God has Sovereignly made us alive. But now why did God have to make us alive? Because the Bible teaches that in our lost condition- we were not just sinful- but we were in fact- dead.

Now like I said- please pay close attention to what this means and what it does not mean. The Bible says clearly here in **Ephesians 2:1** that we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Now notice that this word means dead- not sick, dead- not unconscious, dead not without opportunity or unhappy.

So what was the first thing that this verse says that God has to do to those who were dead before they could be saved? God had to quicken us, or in other words- God had to give us life, God had to make us alive.

Now notice that it isn't that God had to give us medicine and a spiritual exercise program whereby we could cooperate with God- our spiritual doctor- so that we could be made well- because we were spiritually sick. The Bible doesn't say that does it? No, the Bible says

that God had to Sovereignly give us life because we had no life in us because we were spiritually stone cold dead.

Now you may not realize this- but this is huge theological point that the Bible is making here and one that will affect how you look at everything else- so please pay close attention to this.

Now I pray that the fact that lost people are spiritually dead has been firmly planted in your mind. Lost people are dead- they are not sick and they are certainly not fine- the Bible says that all lost people are dead.

What two things do all dead people lack? Dead people lack the *ability* to do anything, and dead people lack the *will* or the *desire* to do anything.

Now I hope not- but there may be some who are listening who may doubt what I just said. And if you doubt that all dead people have absolutely no will and no power to do anything- there is a sure way you can test this out to see if it is true. Go to the nearest grave yard and stand at the foot of the grave of someone you once knew. As you stand at the foot of his grave tell him you would like to give him your house- free of charge. Tell him that you want to give him your salary for the next fifty years. Tell him that you want to give him something that is very valuable to you.

What is the result? Nothing. Why? Why wouldn't this person see the value of what you're offering him and take you up on your free gift? Because that person is dead. He cannot appreciate the free gift, he cannot comprehend the value of your offer, and he cannot respond to your gracious gift because he does not possess either the will or the power to take you up on your gift. That is the deadness of death.

But if you were to miraculously resurrect that person from the dead first- and then offer him your gift- in his now alive condition he would have the power to see and hear, and he would have the will to make that free choice, and in that alive condition- he could make that choice and he could respond to your free gift.

So by being made alive or quickened- those who do not have either the will or the power now have both. So, now I ask you which one comes first- spiritual resurrection or salvation?

Unless and until the Spirit of God Sovereignly goes inside the body of that dead lost person *first* and supernaturally quickens him or gives him life- that lost person does not have the will and he does not

have the power to love or serve God. Both the will to love God and the power to love God were lost to man when Adam fell.

And so there is a Sovereign Work that must be done to every single lost person first to restore to him the will or the desire to love God that was lost in the Fall, and to restore the power or the ability to serve God that was lost in the Fall before anyone could ever be saved.

Now to prove this point- let's read **Philippians 2:13**:

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Now Paul teaches here that it is God that does something inside us. So what does this verse say that God does inside us? This verse says that God works in us to give to us two things. Now the tense of the verb "work" here is a type of tense that actually means "alone"; God alone works. So when we read this verse- we should keep in mind that Paul is saying here that God works in us alone- without any help or cooperation from us. God works in us alone.

Now when God works alone- we call that Sovereignty. For example- God made all of Creation alone. Jesus paid for all of our sins alone. When God makes a decision- He doesn't counsel with any Man- He makes that decision alone or Sovereignly.

So Paul says here that God works inside of us Sovereignly, or alone, to give to us two things that we do not otherwise have. So what are those two things that God works in us Sovereignly to give to us that we do not normally have unless God actually does work in us?

1. The will to do of God's good pleasure
2. The power to do of God's good pleasure

So we can see that the Bible says in **Philippians 2:13** that God alone or God Sovereignly- has to work inside of us to give to us both the will and the ability to do of God's good pleasure- without any cooperation from us at all.

Now why does God have to give us both of these things if we already have them? He wouldn't. The only reason why God has to give us these two things is precisely because we do not already have them. But why don't we already have the will and the power to do of God's good pleasure? Because we are fallen and we are dead.

So we can see then that part of what it means to be quickened or to be made alive is that God works inside of us to give us both the will and the power to do of God's good pleasure.

Now where is this work done? Inside us. Who does it- God alone. When does God do this work inside us- before we are saved. Why does God do this? Because if He didn't nobody could ever be saved. Why is that? Because we are dead. Why are we dead? Because of Adam's sin in the Garden.

Now listen, what this means is that unless and until God does this Sovereign work inside of us first- nobody can ever get saved because the Bible says that nobody has the will to love God in his fallen condition, and nobody has the power to obey God in his fallen condition. And that is what I mean when I say that Salvation is a Sovereign work of God alone.

Now here's the kicker. If what the Bible says about this is true- which it is- then what many of us were taught about how all this works is wrong because if God is the One Who has to Sovereignly give us the will to do God's good pleasure then that means that lost man doesn't already have that will doesn't it?

So until God Sovereignly works inside that man to give him that will – that lost person will never in a thousand years desire to be saved. He can't desire it- he's dead. And that also means that until God does that Sovereign work inside that lost person first- that lost soul doesn't have the ability or the power to serve God and therefore he won't.

So what John is teaching is that because Salvation is Sovereign work of God and not the result of mere human choice- therefore those who are saved have this living witness of Who Jesus is inside of them. The very fact that we- who at one time were just as sinful as they are because we were just as dead as they are- the fact that we are now saved and joyfully serving God is irrefutable proof of Who Jesus is because we would be just like them except God did that Sovereign Work in us before we could ever be saved. So the fact that we are saved proves that God has done that Sovereign work in us.

And this Sovereign Work of God's Spirit going inside the body of lost unworthy sinners to give them the desire and the power to do of God's good pleasure is what is called regeneration or being born again. It is also likened in the Bible to being Resurrected. And although most of us were taught that we must first believe in order to be born again-

the Bible actually teaches just the opposite. Because of our lost dead condition- we have neither the desire nor the ability to believe. So the Holy Spirit must go inside our bodies first- before we are saved- in order to quicken us and make us alive. And in that new resurrected state- God Sovereignly and graciously works in us so that we will have both the desire and the power to believe. So the Bible teaches that in order for us to believe we must first be Sovereignly born again.

So not only does the Holy Spirit seal us after we are saved- God the Holy Spirit Sovereignly works in us way before- in fact – it is because the Holy Ghost works inside our bodies first that caused us to ever be saved in the first place.

The net effect of all that the Bible teaches about this is that God gets all the Glory for our Salvation because He has Graciously and Sovereignly and wondrously saved us with no help or assistance from Man in any way.

So that is what John meant when he told us about this third testimony that those who were dead are now alive; those who were blind can now see; those who were deaf can now hear and those who had stony heart now have been given a heart of flesh; those who had no desire and who looked at the things of God as being foolish now have a passionate desire for God and the things of God; those who had no power have now been endued with power from on high; those who were separated from God as enemies of the Cross have now been adopted into the family of God by the magnificence of God's Grace and by that Grace alone apart from any human works.

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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