

“By My Spirit!”
The Witness Of The Holy Spirit!

Introduction:

1. Return To Our Study On The Holy Spirit!
 - Looked At His General Works – Now, Continue To Look At His Specific Work In Christians!
 - One Important, But Often Overlooked, Aspect – The Witness Of The Holy Spirit!
2. Throughout The New Testament The Holy Spirit Is:
 - Called A Witness!
 - Performs Witness!
 - Is The Witness / Evidence!
 - Why Is This So Important?
 - Without His Witness, We Could Never Be Confident About Anything As A Christian!
 - About The Word Of God!
 - About The Work Of God! Christ!
 - About The Will Of God!
 - About Our Walk With God! Personally!
 - Because, The World, The Flesh & The Devil Is Constantly Working Against Our Faith – To Disprove It / To Cause Us To Doubt It / To Make Us Deny It!
3. We Need A Witness!
 - And The Holy Spirit Is The Witness We Need!
 - Because He Is The Only Truly Reliable Witness We Have!

1. *The Reliability Of The Holy Spirit’s Witness!*

- Reliability / Credibility Is Important For Any Witness!
 - Witness On A Stand - If It Is Not Eyewitness Testimony / Or If Testimony & Character Could Be Called Into Question - Case Falls Apart!
 - We Need A Reliable Witness To Know The Truth About God & Our Walk With Him!
 - John 15:26-27 - “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: / And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning!”
 - The Witness Of The Holy Spirit Is Reliable!
 - Because He Is Qualified To Be A Witness Of Spiritual & Heavenly Things!
 - An “Expert Witness!”
 - Because Of His Knowledge!
 - “From The Father!”
 - He Alone Knows The Heart & Mind Of God & Can Give Expert Testimony About Him!
 - An “Eye-Witness” - He Is God, After All!
 - 1 Corinthians 2:9-12 - “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God!”
 - Because Of His Truthfulness!
 - He Is The “Spirit Of Truth!”
 - This Is His Character!
 - Unquestionable!
 - What He Testifies Is Truth!
 - Because Of His Testimony!
 - “He Shall Testify Of Me!”
 - Concerning Christ!
 - It Is Not Self-Serving, But Christ-Glorifying!
 - The Holy Spirit Is Our Most Reliable Witness!

- Without Him & His Witness, We Could Have No Confidence / Assurance Of Our Faith Or Our Future!

2. ***The Reasons For The Holy Spirit's Witness!***

- Why Do We Need A Witness Like The Holy Spirit?

- To Be Our Guide!

- A Leader / "Travel Guide"

- A Guide Into Truth!

- John 16:13 - "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come!"

- "By Opening Our Understanding, Making Things Plain And Clear!"

- We Need This, Because Our Understanding Is Darkened! This Is Our Natural State! Ephesians 4:18 - "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart!"

- Acts 8:30-31 - Ethiopian Eunuch - "And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him!"

- To Be Our Gift!

- Acts 15:8 - "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us!"

- Here, God Is Witness / The Holy Spirit Is The Testimony!

- Of God's True Knowledge Of His People!

- To Confirm On Our Hearts That We Are His!

- That We Are His People!

- That We Are His Children!

- Romans 8:16 - "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God!"

- "The Holy Spirit Furnishes Evidence To Our Minds That We Are Adopted Into The Family Of God!"

- To Be Our Goad!

- Stick Used To Prod Animals!

- Romans 9:1 - "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost!"

- The Holy Spirit Will Convince Our Conscience Of Error Coming To Us!

- The Holy Spirit Will Convict Our Conscience Of Error Coming Out Of Us!

- We Either Need To Then:

- Search It Out!

- Or Clear It Up!

3. ***Our Response To The Holy Spirit's Witness!***

- Because Of The Holy Spirit's Witness, We Can Witness!

- He Gives Us The Courage To Witness!

- Acts 5:32 - "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him!"

- Peter - Explaining As To Why They Did Not Stop Preaching God's Word & The Gospel When Told Not To!

- He Gives Us The Content To Witness!

- John 15:26-27 - "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning!"

- The Spirit's Reliable Testimony Is The Basis For Our Own Testimony About Christ!

- He & His Word Is Our Most Reliable Source!

- Unlike Sources For Many News Stories! (Dan Rather)
- He Gives Us The Credibility To Witness!
 - 1 John 5:6-12 - "This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. 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!"
 - The Witness Of God Is Greater!
 - Look At The Location Of Our Witness!
- He Gives Us The Command To Witness!
 - Acts 1:8 - "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth!"

Conclusion:

1. The Witness Of The Holy Spirit Affects Our Witness!
 - Without His Witness, We Cannot Be Confident About Our Faith!
 - It Is "Spiritually Discerned!" (1 Corinthians 2:14)
 - Without His Witness, We Cannot Be Confident In Our Witness!
 - We Won't Be Able "To give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear!" (1 Peter 3:15)
2. But Because Of His Witness, We Can Be Confident!
 - Because As A Witness, He Is Reliable!
 - Because As Our Witness, He Is Our Guide, Our Gift & Our Goad!
 - Because Of His Witness, We Can Respond With Our Witness To Others!

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