

So That You May Know

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

Chapter 27- The Divine Witness

253 The Divine Witness- Part 7

WAOY Thursday 09/18/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today we're going to continue look at what the Apostle John taught about "the Divine Witness"- so let's read **1John 5:9-12** again together:

9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.

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

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

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

Now over the last several broadcasts- we have been looking at the three testimonies that the Apostle John teaches in this passage. And we have already looked at verse 9 which gives us the first two testimonies- the testimony of Man and the testimony of God. Now today I want to look at verse 10 very closely to see what John teaches about the third testimony- so let's read verse 10 again together:

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.

Now keep in mind just what these three testimonies are saying. These three testimonies are not simply talking about anything- but these three are testifying about Who Jesus is. The testimony of Man- mostly the Apostles and Prophets who wrote the 66 inspired Books of

the Holy Bible and God the Father both testified about Jesus- externally- that is they taught external, objective, propositional Truth about Who Jesus is.

But the Holy Spirit- Who dwells internally in every believer- also testifies about Jesus- and this internal testimony is much more *subjective* than the testimony of either Man or God the Father.

Now before we can get into this teaching about the internal testimony of God the Holy Spirit- we need to establish certain Biblical facts that have been distorted over the last hundred years or so.

Much has been written and said about the Holy Spirit since the Azusa Street Revival of 1906 and those teachings have become the foundational teaching of many Churches today. And because we live in a day where genuine Bible Study and Bible Knowledge is at an all- time low- there is much that is believed today about the workings of the Holy Spirit that the Bible simply doesn't teach.

When I was saved back in June of 1971- I was taught that it was good that I was saved- but it was incomplete. I was taught that Jesus had washed away my sins to be sure but now I need to be filled with Power that comes only *after* Salvation. And that sounded good to me since I was all of 16 years old and didn't know anything about Church or the Bible or Christianity and I was full of zeal and excitement over being saved and since I certainly wanted everything that Jesus wanted to give to me.

The problem with me being taught that- is that this foundational teaching that says that saved people need to be filled with the Holy Spirit at some point *after* Salvation is simply not taught in the Bible. And- even worse- this teaching ignores what God the Holy Spirit had to do in me in order for me to ever be saved in the first place.

First of all- we need to remember that Salvation is a Sovereign Work of God alone. The Bible says that God Sovereignly chooses those who will be saved from before the foundation of the world and then goes about to make sure that those elected people are saved. Now you may not like that or that may make you uncomfortable- but that is exactly what the Bible teaches and what the Bible has *always* taught- way before I was ever born. Please turn with me and read **Ephesians 1:3-6:**

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Now these are the inspired Words of the Apostle Paul that came right out of the Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God. And Paul says here in verse 4 that God:

... chose us in Him before the foundation of the world ...

Now what did God choose us *for*? Read the last part of verse 4:

... that we would be holy and blameless before Him:

Now the only way that any of us human sinners can ever be holy and without blame before God is by being saved and by having the Blood of Jesus Christ wash us and the Righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to us. And just in case you don't get it- Paul then said the very same thing but using different words in the very next verse:

In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will

So we see that the reason that God chose us for Salvation was because it pleased Him to do so- not because we were good or because God needed us or because God was lonely and wanted a family- or because we bring something to the table that God didn't already have- but simply and only because choosing us for Salvation- pleased Him. And if you stop and think about it- that is what Grace is all about.

Now the fact that God saves us and we don't save ourselves; the fact that God doesn't need us even though He wants us; the fact that we don't have anything at all to do with our own Salvation is a very humbling thing to ponder because in our fallen condition- we want to be in charge; we want to be the catalyst for our own moral improvement

and we want to be the source of our own ability.

But Grace says that not only do we *not* earn Salvation- but that we cannot earn Salvation- no matter what we do. We can't earn it; we don't deserve it and we are not entitled to it. And God is not obligated to save us.

So we must understand that Salvation is not about "bad" people exercising their own free will and discipline to make some moral changes in their lives so that they can become "good" people. That isn't Christianity. Christianity doesn't teach that lost sinners can put forth will power or try harder or in some other way improve their own spiritual condition with God by keeping laws or by keeping church rules or by partaking of Sacraments or by making moral adjustments in their lives- that's not Christianity.

That's Humanism; that's Mormonism; that's New Age pagan philosophy- but it isn't Christianity. Christianity says that lost people cannot do anything to come near to God; they cannot improve their condition by applying themselves or by doing anything.

The Bible says that God Sovereignly and Graciously saves unworthy sinners based on nothing except the fact that from before the foundation of the world- it pleased God to set His Love upon those lost people- period.

Now some will say- "*Wait just a minute, Brother Blair- I know when I got saved and I got saved because I heard the Gospel and I believed it and I was convicted of my sins and I voluntarily chose to give my heart to Jesus!*" And my response to that is that I absolutely agree with you. That is exactly what happened to me too- and everyone else who is saved. All that I am saying is that our ability to hear the Gospel and believe the Gospel and our ability to be convicted of our sins and our ability to repent and trust in Jesus for Forgiveness and Salvation is not the first thing that happens to us. It is the *second* thing that happened to us.

What? What do you mean the *second* thing? Here is what I mean. Before you were saved- what condition were you in? You were lost- right? Well, what does it mean to be lost? Well, it means to be separated from God- right? Yes, but it means a whole lot more. Being lost absolutely means that we are separated from God but it also means that we are spiritually dead; and it also means that we are spiritually blind; and spiritually deaf; and spiritually unable and unwilling to love

and serve God. Read with me **1Corinthians 2:14**:

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Now the Apostle Paul says here that the natural man or the lost unsaved man “does not” accept the things of the Spirit. What things? Well, things like Salvation. But *why* doesn’t the lost man accept the things of the Spirit of God? The very next part of this verse tells you:

... for they are foolishness unto him:...

So what is foolishness to this lost man? The things of the Spirit of God. Now the word that was translated here into English as “foolishness” comes from the Greek word that means: *to hold something to be utterly ridiculous to the point of scorn*. So the Bible says that every single lost person on earth holds the things of the Spirit of God to be so utterly ridiculous that it doesn’t deserve his admiration- but only his scorn. Now why do lost people look at the things of the Spirit of God like this? The next part of the verse tells us:

... he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

The Bible says that not only does lost man reject and disdain the things of the Spirit of God- including Salvation- but the Bible also says in this same verse that lost people “cannot” know the things of the Spirit of God. Now the word that was translated here into English as “cannot” is the Greek word, *dunamai*- which means: *to have the ability or the power*. And the word that was translated into English here as “know” is the Greek word which means: *to become acquainted with; to perceive; to understand; or to comprehend*.

So if you put all this together- **1Corinthians 2;14** says that lost people hold Salvation and everything else that pertains to God in utter contempt and they “do not” have the ability or the power to become acquainted with the things of God or comprehend them or to understand them or to even perceive of them. Now that is a better definition of what it means to be lost than merely being separated from

God.

So we realize that lost people then are dead to God; they are blind, deaf, and unable and unwilling to love and serve God. And they are like this- not because they are bad or because they are mass murderers or homosexuals because they are in jail or on drugs- but the Bible says that *all* lost people are like this by virtue of the fact that they are all fallen- even those that who are clean and prosperous and smart and those we would call humanly good.

So, the \$64,000 question is this. If this is the condition of every single lost person- and it is- then how do these blind people suddenly begin to see? How do these lost deaf people suddenly hear the Gospel? How do separated sinners, who hold Salvation in utter contempt- suddenly begin to love it?

Truly we can begin to see that this is way beyond a human choice or a decision. This miracle whereby blind people see, and deaf people hear and people with a heart of stone receive a heart of flesh is a Sovereign Work of God that must happen inside this dead unworthy sinner *before* he could ever hope to choose to repent and be saved. And that is the Sovereign regenerative Work of the Holy Spirit that goes inside the body of people *before* they repent that gives them both the desire and the will to be saved. Which is why it is so wrong to teach that the Holy Spirit doesn't come inside us until *after* we are saved. Because unless the Holy Spirit does this supernatural miraculous work in us *before* Salvation- no one would ever be saved in the first place.

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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.