

# TEST 1: BEING BORN AGAIN

## 1 JOHN 05:01–05

### *Introduction*

The great majority of people believe in God. By contrast, a small percentage claim to be atheistic or agnostic. But while most people claim to believe in God, their beliefs and ideas about God differ significantly. Think about the range of viewpoints and attitudes toward God across the world, the positions held by Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Hindus, Christians and so on. In reality, there are nearly as many ideas about God as there are people upon the earth, for every individual has his or her own mind, and his or her own idea about God. This fact brings about a critical question: Who is right? Whose beliefs about God are true? Whose concepts are correct? One thing is certain: if God really does exist, then it is of the utmost importance that we be accurate in what we believe and think about Him. One day we will all stand before Him to give an account of ourselves to Him.

How can we tell if we believe in God, if our beliefs and concepts of God are accurate? How can we tell if we really believe in the only living and true God? This is the discussion of this last chapter of First John. There are four tests that will show us. The first test is basic: Have we been born of God? If we have been born of God, then we definitely believe in God. God would not have given His divine nature to a person who does not believe in Him. Therefore, if we have the divine nature of God, if we have been truly born again, then we believe in God, in the living and true God. But how can we tell if we have been born of God? There are three proofs.

- I. Proof 1: believing Jesus is the Christ (v. 1).
- II. Proof 2: Loving God and obeying His commandments (vv. 2-3).
- III. Proof 3: conquering the world (vv. 4-5).

### 1 JOHN 05:01–05

#### NEW BIRTH, BORN AGAIN, NEW CREATION, REGENERATION

Being born of God means a spiritual birth, a rebirth of one's spirit, a new life, a renewed soul, a regenerated spirit. It is the regeneration and renewal of one's spirit and behaviour (2 Cor. 5:17). It is the endowment of a new life, of a godly nature (2 Pet. 1:4). The new birth is so radical a change in a person's life that it can be described only as being *born again*. Something so wonderful happens to the soul that it is just like a *new birth*. It is a spiritual birth, a birth beyond the grasp of man's hands and efforts.

It is so radical, so life-changing, and so wonderful that it can be wrought only by the love and power of God Himself.

The New Testament teaching on the new birth is rich and full.

1. The new birth is a necessity. A person will never see (Jn. 3:3) nor ever enter (Jn. 3:5) the Kingdom of God unless he is born again (Jn. 3:7).
2. The new birth is a spiritual birth, the birth of a new power and spirit in life. It is not reformation of the old nature (Rom. 6:6). It is the actual creation of a new birth within — spiritually (Jn. 3:5-6; cp. Jn. 1:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; 4:24). (See notes, Eph. 1:3; 4:17; *New Person, Self*, Eph. 4:24.) A person is spiritually born again:
  - a. By water, even the Spirit (see *Water and Spirit*, Jn. 3:5).
  - b. By the will of God (Jas. 1:18).
  - c. By imperishable, incorruptible seed, even through the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23).
  - d. By God from above (1 Pet. 1:3). The words new birth (*anagennao*) in the phrase “given us new birth” can mean given a new birth *from above*. (Cp. Jn. 1:12-13.)
  - e. By Christ, who gives both the *power and right* to be born again (Jn. 1:12-13).
2. The new birth is a definite experience, a real experience. A person experiences the new birth:
  - a. By believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (1 Jn. 5:1; cp. Jn. 3:14-15).
  - b. By the gospel as it is shared by believers (1 Cor. 4:15; Phile. 10).
  - c. By the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23), or by the Word of Truth (Jas. 1:18).
3. The new birth is a changed life, a totally new life. A person proves that he is born again:
  - a. By doing righteous acts (1 Jn. 2:29; cp. Eph. 2:10; 4:24).
  - b. By not practicing sin (1 Jn. 3:9; 5:18).
  - c. By loving other believers (1 Jn. 4:7).
  - d. By overcoming the world (1 Jn. 5:4).
  - e. By keeping himself (1 Jn. 5:18).
  - f. By possessing the divine seed or nature (1 Jn. 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:23; 2 Pet. 1:14; cp. Col. 1:27). □

### **I. 1 John 05:01 New Birth: Belief in Jesus Christ**

The first proof of the new birth is this: believing that Jesus is the *Christ*. The word *Christ* means *Messiah* or *Anointed One*. Jesus Christ is the Son of God anointed to be the Saviour of the world. He was anointed by God for a very special mission, the mission of coming to earth to save man and to give man eternal life (see notes, 1 Jn. 2:1-2; *Atoning Sacrifice, Propitiation*, 1 Jn. 2:2; notes, 1 Jn. 3:23; 4:2-3; 4:9-11). The person who believes that Jesus is the *Anointed One* of God, that He was sent into the world to save man, that person is given a new birth by God.

=> He is “born of God.”

**1 John 5:1** *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

=> He is “born again.”

**John 3:3-5** *In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”*

=> He is made into “a new creation.”

**2 Cor 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

=> He is made into “a new person, a new self.”

**Eph 4:24** *And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

**Col 3:10** *And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

Note two significant facts.

1. A person who is “born of God” loves God. He cannot help loving God, for God does this most wonderful thing for him. God recreates him into a new creature who will live forever in God’s presence. When we really think about what God has done for us in Christ, that God sacrificed His Son to save us, our hearts just flood with love for God.

**Thought 1.** We should often get alone and meditate on the great love of God. The very thought that God sacrificed His Son to bear our sins is enough to break us in humble adoration. But we must take time to get alone and study the Scriptures that cover God’s love and sacrifice. We must take time to meditate upon the great truth in order to see and understand it in all its depth and meaning.

**John 15:9** *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”*

**John 16:27** *“No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.”*

**2 Cor 5:14** *For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.*

**Gal 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**Eph 6:24** *Grace [God’s salvation] to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.*

**1 Pet 1:8** *Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.*

**Jude 1:21** *Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

**Deu 6:5** *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

2. A person who loves God will love other believers as well. Note why: because God has given other believers a spiritual birth as well. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ. They too have been born of God and made into new creatures. We are all of the family of God; God is our Father who has given birth to us all. Therefore, we are brothers and sisters of one another. We share...

- the same God
- the same Father
- the same rebirth
- the same divine nature
- the same adoption

The point is that we love one another. If we have truly been “born of God” and love God, then we love the whole family of God. We love all those who have been *born of God* we love all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Thought 1.** True believers love one another. There are no believers who do not love their brothers and sisters in Christ. How can we say this? Because a true believer has the nature of God, and God is love. If a person has the nature of God (been born of God), then he loves: he loves the family of God. Differences do not matter, differences of...

- opinion
- position
- colour
- race
- class
- denomination
- neighbourhood
- social status

Nothing keeps us from loving one another if we have truly been born of God. The person who is born of God loves God, and he loves all those who love God. He loves his brothers and sisters in the Lord.

**John 13:34-35** *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

**John 15:12** *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”*

**1 Th 3:12** *May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.*

**1 Pet 1:22** *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*

**1 John 3:16** *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

## II. 1 John 05:02–03 *Obeying God's Commandments: Love*

The second proof of the new birth is obedience. The person who is born of God loves God and obeys His commandments.

=> Do we really believe God? Yes, if we obey His commandments. No, if we do not obey His commandments. The person who *really believes* God, who *really casts himself* upon God and relies upon God, does what God says. He depends upon God's Word; he believes that God's Word works. Therefore, he obeys God.

=> Do we really love God (v. 2)? Yes, if we obey His commandments. No, if we do not obey His commandments. If we really love God, really care for Him, then we want to please Him. We want to do what He says. Therefore, the person who really loves God is the person who obeys His commandments.

Now note what these two verses say:

1. Our obedience and love for God prove that we love the children of God. God commands us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ; therefore, if we obey God, we *must* love them. If we love God, then we obey Him and love one another.

**Thought 1.** A person has no choice; this is not an optional commandment. If a person is going to love God...

- he must obey God.
  - he must obey by loving the other children of God — all of them no matter who they are.
2. Our obedience to God proves our love for God (v. 3). In fact, this is the love of God, that we obey His commandment. Obeying God's commandment proves...
    - that we *love* God
    - that we *are loving* God
    - that we *possess love* for God
    - that we lift up our hearts in love to God

There is no other way to show God that we love Him except by doing what He says. Note: some people feel that God's commandments are grievous, a real burden. They feel that the commandments of Scripture restrict them too much, and keep a person from the pleasures and possessions of the world. They feel that to be a Christian disallows a person from having fun and enjoying life. To them the demands of God are just too large a price to pay, that demanding all one is and has is too much to ask of a person. But the exact opposite is true: Scripture declares that God's commandments are not grievous. They are not too large a burden for men to carry. How could this be, for there is no question: God demands the total allegiance of all one is and has.

=> Jesus Christ gives rest to the soul. All the restlessness, disturbance, distress, pain and suffering that man experiences in this world is replaced by peace when a person turns his life over to God and begins to love and obey God.

**Mat 11:28-30** *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

⇒ Jesus Christ never allows a trial or temptation to come upon a person beyond what the person can bear. Christ always provides the strength or the way to escape.

**1 Cor 10:13** *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

**2 Cor 2:12** *Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me.*

**Eph 3:20** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.*

**2 Tim 1:7** *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

⇒ Jesus Christ gives a person the greatest hope in all the world; He gives us the greatest promises of reward. Therefore, when a person keeps his eyes upon the hope, the commandments of God become light and easy to bear.

**John 14:2-3** *“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

**Titus 2:12-13** *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**Titus 3:7** *So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

⇒ God gives all true believers His Spirit, and the Spirit gives all the assurance, confidence and security, and all the love, joy and peace that one could ever need or want. The believer is filled with life and all the real and meaningful things of life. Therefore, the believer never thinks of God’s commandments as being burdensome. They are a joy to him, for they bring abundant life to him.

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self—control. Against such things there is no law.*

**1 Cor 2:12** *We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.*

**John 14:15-18** *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.*



*But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

**John 14:26-27** *“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

=> God gives the true believer fellowship with Himself and with Christ, then He floods the heart of the believer with joy.

**John 15:11** *“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”*

**1 John 1:4** *We write this to make our joy complete.*

### III. **1 John 05:04–5 Faith, Victory Over the World**

The third proof of the new birth is this — we are overcoming the world. These two verses are two of the great verses of Scripture, verses that should be memorized and lived by every believer. Note that the same point is being made in every statement; the very same thing is being said three times. What emphasis! The point is to be understood and followed.

=> The person who is *born of God* overcomes the world.

=> The victory that overcomes the world is our *faith*.

=> The person who overcomes the world is the person who *believes* that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Who is it that is *born of God*? It is the person who *believes* that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The world is overcome by faith. Victory is gained over the world by faith in Jesus Christ, by believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Now note: the one thing that man needs is victory over the world. Why? Because the world is full of...

- suffering
- murder
- disease
- war
- accidents
- arguments
- corruption
- backbiters
- hate
- pride
- bitterness
- arrogance
- immorality
- hunger
- destroyed families
- homelessness
- wickedness
- pain
- drugs
- hurt
- drunkenness
- selfishness
- envy
- greed

Then there is the most fatal blow of all: corruption and death. Without exception we are all corrupt and we all die. The one thing that man needs above all else is victory over the world with all its corruption and death. How then can he triumph and conquer the world? How can he overcome the world? By believing that Jesus Christ

is the Son of God, God gives him a new heart. He is “born of God”—*spiritually born of God*. It is his faith that overcomes the world. What does this mean?

⇒ It means that God gives the believer victory over all the trials and temptations of life.

**John 16:33** *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

**1 Cor 10:13** *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

**2 Tim 4:18** *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**2 Pet 2:9** *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

⇒ It means that God gives the believer victory over all the forces and difficulties of life.

**Rom 8:35, 37-39** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**2 Cor 2:14** *But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.*

**Psa 28:7** *The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.*

**Isa 41:10** *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

**Isa 43:1-2** *But now, this is what the Lord says — he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

⇒ It means that God gives the believer victory over sin.

**Rom 6:6-8** *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

**Rom 6:11-14** *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil*



*desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*

**Rom 6:22** *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.*

**1 Pet 2:24** *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

⇒ It means that God gives the believer victory over death.

**John 5:24** *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

**Heb 2:14-15** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

⇒ It means that God gives the believer victory over judgment.

**John 3:16-18** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”*

**Rom 5:8-10** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

⇒ It means that God gives the believer victory over fear and despair and fills him with love, joy and peace.

**John 14:27** *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

**John 16:33** *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

**Rom 5:10-11** *For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

**1 Pet 5:8-10** *Be self— controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

=> It means that God gives the believer victory over Satan and all other spiritual forces.

**Eph 6:11-13** *Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

**Col 2:15** *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. ■*

# TEST 2: BELIEVING THE TESTIMONY ABOUT CHRIST: THAT HE IS THE SON OF GOD (PART I) 1 JOHN 05:06–08

## *Introduction*

Do we really believe in God? There are four tests that will show us. The second test is striking: Do we believe the witness about Christ? There are several witnesses to Christ, strong witnesses.

The question arises: Is Jesus *the Christ*, the true Messiah, the promised Messiah of the Old Testament prophecies? Is Jesus Christ really the Saviour of men, the One sent by God to earth to save men and to give them life? Is Jesus Christ really, beyond any question, the Son of God? There are very strong witnesses that emphatically declare, “Yes!” If a person believes these witnesses, then he believes in God. If he does not accept the witnesses to Jesus Christ, then he does not believe in God, not in the true and living God. Whatever *god* the person believes in, that *god* is a *god* of his own imagination. Why do we say this? Because God, the true and living God, loves man — loves him so much that He has sent His Son into the world to save man. And in addition to this glorious demonstration of love, God has given witness after witness that His Son has come into the world. All men are, therefore, without excuse if they reject the witnesses to Jesus Christ. The task of man is to receive the testimony of the witnesses, to believe the testimony about His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I. There is the mission of Jesus Christ (v. 6).
- II. There is the testimony of the Holy Spirit (v. 6).
- III. There are the witnesses (v. 7-8).

### **I. 1 John 05:06 Mission of Jesus Christ**

There is the mission of Jesus Christ. Note how John declares the mission of Christ:

*“This is the one who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood” (v. 6).*

This may seem like a strange way to state the mission of Christ, to say that Jesus “came by water [His baptism] and blood [His death].” But remember what has just been said in verse 5: a person must “believe that Jesus is the Son of God.” Here in verse 6 John is declaring that beyond any question Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was declared to be the Son of God...

- by His baptism, by the water.
- by His death, by the blood.

Both the water (His baptism) and the blood (His death) declare Him to be the Son of God. Both are extremely important.

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1. The baptism of Jesus Christ is a great witness to Jesus Christ. It launched His mission upon earth. Two things happened at the baptism that were most unusual.

a. The Spirit of God came upon Christ in the form of a dove. Remember that John the Baptist was to be the forerunner of the Messiah. In order to point to the Messiah, John had to know who the Messiah was and to know beyond any question. Therefore, God told John that He would give him a sign, the sign of a dove. God would cause the Spirit of God to come upon His Son in the form of a dove. By this sign John would know the Messiah.

***John 1:32-34** Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."*

Note how emphatic John is. He states the glorious truth as forcefully as he can: "I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." The water, the baptism of Jesus Christ, declares emphatically that Jesus is the Son of God.

b. The *voice of God* proclaimed Jesus Christ to be the Son of God.

=> Mathew testifies that God's voice called Jesus Christ His Son.

***Mat 3:17** And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

=> Mark testifies that God's voice called Jesus Christ His Son.

***Mark 1:11** And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

=> Luke testifies that God's voice called Jesus Christ His Son.

***Luke 3:22** And the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

2. The blood of Jesus Christ, His death and cross, declares Him to be the Son of God. It is by His death and cross that our sins are forgiven. He bore our sins upon the cross, took our judgment and suffered the punishment for us. This is what He was doing upon the cross. And this is the glorious gospel. Since Jesus Christ took our sins and died for them, sin is removed from us. Christ has taken them off of us. We are free of sin; therefore, we become acceptable to God. Through the death of Jesus Christ, we are able to stand righteous and perfect before God. We are able to stand before God being free of sin, free because Jesus Christ took our sins and bore the judgment for them.

Now note: only the Son of God could do this; only the Son of God could die for man's sins. Why? Because God is perfect; He can accept only perfection. He can accept only the Ideal and Perfect Man. This is the reason God's Son had to come to

earth and live as a Man. He had to come and live a sinless life; He had to secure the perfect and ideal righteousness; He had to become the Ideal and Perfect Man. By becoming such, He could then offer Himself as the perfect Sacrifice for man's sins. God would accept His sacrifice because it was the sacrifice of the Perfect and Ideal Man. It was the ideal that could cover and stand for every man.

This is the point: the blood of Jesus Christ, His cross and death, declare Him to be the Son of God who takes away the sins of the world. This is exactly what witness after witness declares.

**Mat 26:28** *"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*

**Acts 20:28** *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

**Rom 5:9** *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!*

**Heb 9:14** *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

**1 Pet 1:18-19** *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

**1 John 1:7** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

**Rev 1:5** *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.*

**Rev 7:14** *I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

**Rom 3:24-25** *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.*

**Rom 5:6** *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

**1 Cor 15:3** *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.*



**2 Cor 5:15** *And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

**Gal 3:13** *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”*

**Eph 1:7** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.*

**Col 1:14** *In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**Titus 2:14** *Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

**Heb 9:12-14** *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

**Rev 5:9** *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”*

## **II. 1 John 05:06 Testimony of the Holy Spirit**

There is the testimony of the Holy Spirit that declares Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. This is what the gospel is — what has happened upon the world scene of human history:

=> God Himself has sent His Son into the world to save man from sin and death and condemnation.

=> Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth, is actually the Son of God. He lived a sinless life — was the Perfect and Ideal Man who could die as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of men. And this He did when He died on the cross. He freed us from sin; therefore, we are now acceptable to God.

=> But note: we have to do something. We have to believe in God’s Son. Unless we honour Him by believing in Him, God does not accept us. We still carry our sins and their guilt and condemnation ourselves. This means we stand condemned by God and shall never be allowed to live with Him.

This is the glorious gospel. But how can God get men to listen? How can He stir men to believe in Christ? There is only one way. He must put His Spirit upon earth to work within the hearts of men. This is the point of what is now said:

*It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (v. 6)*

Note: the Spirit of God is truth. He testifies because He is the truth. He can do nothing else but declare the truth. Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent into the world to save men; therefore, the Spirit of God must declare the truth. This is exactly what Jesus Christ promised.

**John 14:17** *“The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

**John 15:26** *“When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”*

**John 16:12-15** *“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”*

**1 John 4:6** *We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.*

How does the Spirit testify and bear witness in the world? Scripture says several ways.

=> The Holy Spirit testifies and bears witness by *convicting* the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.

**John 16:7-11** *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”*

=> The Holy Spirit testifies by quickening, giving life to men when they are willing to believe in Christ.

**John 6:63** *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”*

**2 Cor 3:6** *He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

=> The Holy Spirit testifies and bears witness by giving the believer assurance and guaranteeing his salvation.

**2 Cor 1:22** *Set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

**Eph 1:13-14** *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.*

**Eph 4:30** *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

**1 John 3:24** *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

⇒ The Holy Spirit testifies by bearing witness with the heart of believers, assuring them that they are children of God.

**Rom 8:16** *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

**Gal 4:6** *Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*

**1 John 3:24** *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

**1 John 4:13** *We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*

**1 John 5:6** *This is the one who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.*

⇒ The Holy Spirit testifies by teaching the believer about Christ.

**John 14:26** *"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

**1 Cor 2:13** *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*

⇒ The Holy Spirit testifies by living within the believer and making his body a holy temple for God.

**1 Cor 3:16** *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*

**1 Cor 6:19-20** *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.*

**2 Tim 1:14** *Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

⇒ The Holy Spirit testifies by showing believers things to come.

**John 16:13** “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

⇒ The Holy Spirit testifies by giving believers the power to witness.

**Luke 24:49** “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

**Acts 1:8** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**2 Tim 1:7-8** For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

⇒ The Holy Spirit testifies by proclaiming the things of God through believers.

**1 Cor 2:12-13** We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

**Luke 12:12** “For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

**1 John 2:27** As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him.

⇒ The Holy Spirit testifies by leading and guiding the believer.

**John 16:13** “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

**Rom 8:14** Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

**Psa 48:14** For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

**Psa 73:24** You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

**Isa 30:21** Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

⇒ The Holy Spirit testifies by choosing believers for special ministry and gifting them for that ministry.

**John 15:16** “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

**Acts 13:2** While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

*1 Cor 12:4-11* There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

=> The Holy Spirit testifies by making alive the mortal bodies of believers at death.

*Rom 8:11* And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

### III. *1 John 05:08 Witnesses of Jesus Christ*

There are the witnesses that declare Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. Note that all three of these witnesses agree; they have only one message that they declare — Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Therefore, man must believe that “Jesus is the Son of God” (1 Jn. 5:5). This is the only way that we can overcome and conquer the sin and death and condemnation of this world. Belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is the only way man can dwell forever with God.

1. There is the agreement of the Spirit (see note 2, *Holy Spirit*, 1 Jn. 5:6).
2. There is the agreement of the water or baptism of Jesus Christ (see note 1, *Jesus Christ, Mission*, pt. 1, 1 Jn. 5:6).
3. There is the agreement of the blood or cross and death of Jesus Christ (see note above, pt. 2, 1 Jn. 5:6). ■

1 JOHN 05:07  
WITNESSING, TESTIFYING, THE WORD, GOD

*For there are three that testify: 1 John 05: 07*

Most scholars and most translations, almost without exception, agree that verse 7 was added by some copyist long after John wrote this epistle. Checking almost any translation of the Scripture will show that most Bibles omit the verse. The verse does not seem to be in any of the authentic Greek manuscripts before the sixteenth century. William Barclay gives an excellent discussion for the position that omits the verse. Mathew Henry gives an excellent discussion for the position that maintains the



verse. (Referring to these two commentators will give the two varying positions.) We are including commentary for those who follow the position of Mathew Henry, that the verse should read as follows:

*(v. 7) “For there are three that testify in heaven: The Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one.”*

*(v. 8) “And there are three that testify on earth, the Spirit, the water and the blood: and these three agree in one.”*

There are three witnesses in heaven. There are three Persons who testify that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Note what the scripture says: “for there are three that testify”

1. There is the Father. How does the Father bear witness that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? There are primarily two ways.

a. The Father is behind everything: the whole plan of redemption is His plan and work. It is His Son who came to earth to make salvation possible. It is also His Spirit who is working upon earth convicting and trying to get men to repent and to trust the Son of God for salvation. The Father is bearing witness to His Son through everything that is happening in the hearts and lives of believers and in the life of the church.

b. The Father bore dynamic witness to Christ when Christ was upon the earth.

=> He proclaimed Christ to be His Son at the baptism of Christ.

*Mat 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

=> He proclaimed Christ to be His Son by giving Him the Holy Spirit without measure so that Christ could *speaks the Word of God*.

*John 3:34 “For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.”*

=> He proclaimed Christ to be His Son by enabling Him to do the very *miracles of God*.

*John 10:37-38 “Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*

He proclaimed Christ to be His Son by causing the very glory of God to shine through His person at the transfiguration.

*Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”*

=> He proclaimed Christ to be His Son by raising Him from the dead.

**John 16:10** “In regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer.”

**Rom 1:4** And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. There is the witness of the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. The Word, of course, refers to Jesus Christ. John declares this in both his Gospel and Epistle.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**1 John 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

How does Christ as the Word testify? What does it mean to say that the Word testifies in heaven? Remember what a word is: the expression of an idea, a thought, an image in the mind of a person. God had an idea, a thought, an image; that is, He had a message, a word that He wanted to say to the world. But He wanted to say it in person. Therefore, He sent His Son into the world to speak the Word of God. As the Son of God, Jesus Christ had the very nature of God. By nature He was perfect even as God the Father is perfect. He was God the Son sent to earth by God the Father. This means that everything Jesus Christ did was perfect. He was the very embodiment of God Himself. He was the very revelation of God. Jesus Christ was everything that God wanted to say to man; He was the very Word of God.

This glorious fact means the most wonderful thing: it means that the Word of God has come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. Everything that Jesus Christ said and did is the very thought and idea of God. Jesus Christ is the very Word that God wanted to say to man. Jesus Christ, the Word of God, bears witness to Himself. We can look at His words and deeds and see that He is the Son of God. We can look at the picture of God — the image, the idea, the expression of God — that Jesus Christ painted, and we can tell that He is the Son of God. All that He said, did and was is the *perfect picture of God. It is the perfect description, the perfect Word* of God. The Word, Jesus Christ Himself, testifies that He is the Son of God.

3. There is the Holy Spirit (see note 2, *Holy Spirit*, 1 Jn. 5:6). □