

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.

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). □