



May 17, 2026
Series: Week 6
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Reliable Testimonies - 1 John 5:1-12

Our passage today will call on us, once again, to explore the depth of our faith. Do we truly believe that Jesus is the “Christ”, the promised Savior that the Scriptures have been pointing towards? What voices might speak to the legitimacy of this claim?

1.) The Testimony of the Water - (Matt. 3:1-17, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22, John 1:6-34)

-It is Corroborated by Many Witnesses.

-All four of the Gospels share the story of Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist and make note of the large crowds.

-It Depicts Prophecies Fulfilled.

- John the Baptist had been foretold by Isaiah, “A voice crying in the wilderness.” (Isaiah 40:3, fulfilled in Matt. 3:3)
- He then prophesied that his role was to make the way clear for the true Messiah who would come, and then publicly recognized Jesus to be the One. (John 1:19-31)

-It Revealed Jesus’ Identity and Mission.

- Jesus, The Second Person of the Triune God, humbly chose to serve humanity in their sinful state and would become their atoning sacrifice, dying in their place so that their sins could be forgiven. (John 1:29, 3:16)

2.) The Testimony of the Blood - (Matt. 27:11-61, Mark 14:53-15:47, Luke 22:63-23:56, John 18:12-19:42)

-It is Corroborated by Many Witnesses.

-Jerusalem was crowded on the week of Jesus’ arrest, trial, scourging, crucifixion, death, and burial.
-Jesus’ crucifixion was public on purpose, used by the religious leaders as a way of getting rid of a dissenting voice, and by the Romans to make a display of their might and authority over their ruled people.

-It Depicts Prophecies Fulfilled.

-Scholars have linked at least 27 prophecies from the Old Testament to their fulfillment in the events of Jesus’ final 24 hours, culminating in His death and burial. (On the back page, you can find the QR Code link to Chosen People Ministries’ resource “27 Prophecies Fulfilled in One Day”.)

-It Revealed Jesus’ Identity and Mission.

- Jesus was not only fully God, by whom and through whom all things were created (John 1:1-4), He also “took on flesh” (John 1:14), becoming fully human. This allowed Him to be the perfect substitute for all of sinful humanity.

3.) The Testimony of the Spirit - (John 14:15-31, 16:5-15, Acts 1:1-11, 2:1-41)

-It is Corroborated by Many Witnesses.

-Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit’s coming when He was with His disciples the night before His death. He said to them that the Spirit would:

-Be an ever-present, in-dwelling “Advocate” - an Adviser, Counselor, Defender, who leads towards truth, and affirms the ministry of Jesus. (John 14:15-17, 26)

-He will bring conviction of sin, point towards God’s righteousness, and towards Jesus as the only way to achieve salvation. (John 16:5-15)

-John the Baptist told crowds of people that the Holy Spirit would come, with “fire” (Matt. 3:11), and Jesus told the apostles that He would come with “power”. (Acts 1:8)

-It Depicts Prophecies Fulfilled.

- A few days after Jesus’ ascension, “All the believers” met together on Pentecost, and experienced the “fire” and “power” of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4)

-They went out into Jerusalem, and through the in-dwelling leading of their “Advocate”, spoke the Good News of Jesus in many languages, and 3,000 people were convicted of their sin, repented and were baptized! (Acts 2:5-41)

-This move of the Spirit was also noted by Peter to be a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel, made hundreds of years earlier. (Joel 2:28-32 fulfilled in Acts 2:16-21)

-It Revealed Jesus' Identity and Mission.

-The ongoing testimony of the Holy Spirit tells us that Jesus did not only die for the salvation of those who were alive at the time of His earthly ministry. This salvation is an offer made to all people, for all time, who receive the convicting, illuminating work of the Holy Spirit, and see Jesus as their Savior. (1 Peter 3:18, Heb. 7:27)

*So the question for us today is, "Do we believe that Jesus is who these testimonies say that He is?"
If so, then John is going to tell us what a life transformed by placing our faith in Jesus should look like.*

1.) We can live as beloved children of God, loving Him in return, as well as our brothers and sisters. (5:1)

Consider: John has repeated this idea many times in his letter so far. What influential voices around you, or hurts and fears within you, might continually make it difficult for you to receive God's love, and love Him and others around you?

2.) We can live by, and find freedom in, His commandments. (5:2-3)

Consider: Which commandments of God have you found to bring you peace? Are there certain ones that you find yourself struggling to understand, or not wanting to obey?

3.) We can live victorious lives through His ongoing ministry in us. (5:4-5)

Consider: Have you experienced soul-level freedom? Do you believe that Jesus has won the victory over sin that is now ours to claim? What is the next "hill to conquer" through the ongoing work of the Spirit? What practical steps is He calling you to take?

4.) We can live with an eternal perspective. (5:11-12)

Consider: Do you believe that eternal life with God awaits for "Whoever has the Son"? Do you believe that eternal death and separation from God awaits those who have rejected Jesus' free gift of salvation? If so, how do these beliefs impact your daily life?

1 John 5:1-12

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. ²We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. ³Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. ⁵And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. And the Spirit, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony. ⁷So we have these three witnesses—⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and all three agree. ⁹Since we believe human testimony, surely we can believe the greater testimony that comes from God. And God has testified about his Son. ¹⁰All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about his Son.

¹¹And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life."

