

# Session 6:

## The Simple Fact—Christianity Is Based on: Faith and Actions in Response to Our Love for the Truth

**1 John 5:1-2**, *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.”*

As John wrote this passage, there were two (2) things (facts) in the back of his mind:

1. The love of God and love of others are inseparable parts of the same experience.

*Two great commandments:*

- Love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength;
- Love our neighbor as ourselves.

*(No greater commandments than these).....Mark 12:28-31*

2. The natural law of human life.

*Family love is a part of nature. Children love parents; parents love children; siblings love each other.*

*Now....John transfers this thought to Christian thought and experience...*

The Christians undergo the experience of being reborn (God is their Father...loving Him for all that He has done for them)

The birth, however, is into a family...and the rebirth must characterize the family experience....loving father, mother, brother and sister. (Mark 3:35).

It has been said: “Man is not only born to love, he is also born to be loved.”

**1 John 5:3-5**, *“In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

**Obedience is the only proof of love.**

We cannot prove our love to anyone other than by seeking to please and bring joy to that person.

What other scripture speaks about “proving” our love for God?

**When John states that God's commandments are not heavy...he tells us why they do not have to be heavy.**

*(John does not mean that obedience to God's commandments is easy to achieve.)*

**Christian love is no easy matter.**

*It is not easy to love people whom we do not like...or those that hurt our feelings...or injure us.*

**How is it that John can explain this passage...(that His commandments are easy...not heavy)?**

*Here is how.....Matthew 11:30, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

- **God never will lay a commandment on anyone without also giving strength to carry it out.**  
*With the vision comes the power; with the need for it comes the strength.*  
*What is impossible for us becomes possible with God...Luke 18:27*  
*Luke 1:37, "For nothing is impossible with God."*
- **Our response to God must be the response of love; and, for love, no duty is too hard and no task too great.**
- **There is something in Christians which makes us able to conquer the world (worldly thoughts, worldly actions, and worldly passions)....that is FAITH.**  
*Faith...comes from hearing—and hearing by the Word of God.*  
*Faith...Power to overcome.*  
*Faith...in the incarnation (Jesus as God's Son)...and the conviction that God shares and God cares.*

**Once we possess that faith...certain things follow:**

1. **We have a defense to resist the infections of the world.**  
*The pressures of worldly standards and motives; fascinations of the wrong things. From within and from outside come the temptations which are part of the human situation in a world and a society not interested in and sometimes hostile to God.*
2. **We have a strength to stand up to the attacks of the world.**  
*The human situation (life) is full of things which seek to take our faith away (sorrows; perplexities of life; disappointments and frustrations of life; failures and discouragements of life).*  
*But....There is a God...and there is His Spirit living within us to give us strength to fight the battle!*
3. **We have the indestructible hope of final victory.**  
*The world did its worst to Jesus. After the cross came the resurrection and.....After the shame came the glory!*  
*Jesus....is with us...for us...and He offers us a share in that victory which was His...*  
***If we believe that Jesus is the Son of God....and was the first resurrection....we can count us in on the victory through the cross...and into heaven to be with Him.....forever!***

**1 John 5:6-8**, “*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. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the<sup>[u]</sup> Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.*”

## **Water and the Blood...**

**Could mean:**

- **(Baptism of Jesus.....and the Crucifixion of Jesus)**
- **Born of woman....water breaks and the baby comes forth...  
Born of God...blood of Jesus...His DNA.**

**John 19:34-35**, “*One of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified—so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)*”

**John was very much a part of Jesus’ ministry. It is pretty plain that John was the only one that could testify that he saw water and blood flow from Jesus’ side.**

## **The Triple Witness....**

**The Holy Spirit....and the water and the blood make it a fact....that Jesus was the Messiah.**

**Why do you know that you are saved?**

**The Holy Spirit testifies...**

**Remember....the Holy Spirit was the one that convicted you and convinced you that Jesus...died for you and is living today making intercession for you today at the right hand of God.**

**The Spirit descended upon Jesus in a special way at His baptism...**

**While John came to baptize with water, Jesus came to baptize with the Spirit (Mark 1:8; Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5, 2:33).**

**He came to bring the Spirit with a power previously unknown.**

**The history of the early Church is the proof that this was no idle claim. It began at Pentecost (Acts 2:4) and repeated itself over and over again in history and experience of the Church (Acts 8:17; Acts 10:44)**

**Jesus had the Spirit, and He could give the Spirit to men and women; and the continuing evidence of the Spirit in the Church was – and is – an undeniable witness to the continuing power of Jesus Christ.**

**The act of baptism (water baptism) and the observance of the Lord’s Supper depict and testify to our rebirth....and the blood that was spilled out for our sins.**

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**1 John 5:9-10**, “*We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. <sup>10</sup> Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.*”

**The law was quite clear...A single witness shall not suffice to convict a person of any crime or wrongdoing in connection with any offence that may be committed. Only on the evidence of two or three witnesses shall a charge be sustained (Deut. 19:15).**

***If a triple human witness is enough to establish any fact, how much more should a triple divine witness (Spirit, water and blood) be regarded as convincing?***

***Believing about Jesus....Is not enough!***

***Believing in Jesus....Is a Must!***

***To believe in Jesus Christ is not simply to accept what He says as truth; it is to commit ourselves into His hands, for time and for eternity.***

***The idea of witness is an integral part of John's thought.***

***Different witnesses all converging on Jesus Christ:***

- ***John the Baptist is a witness to Jesus (John 1:15; 1:32-34;5:33)***
- ***Jesus' deeds are a witness to Himself (John 5:36)***
- ***The Scriptures are a witness to Him (John 5:39)***
- ***The Father who sent Him is a witness to Him (John 5:30-32; 5:37; 8:18)***
- ***The Spirit is a witness to Him. "When the Advocate (Counselor) comes...the Spirit of Truth...he will testify on my behalf." John 15:26***

***If people refuse to accept the evidence of those who have experienced what Christ can do, the evidence of the actions of Christ, the evidence of the Scriptures, the evidence of God's Holy Spirit, the evidence of God Himself, in effect, they are calling God a liar—and that is the very limit of blasphemy.***

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***1 John 5:11-13, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."***

***With this paragraph, the letter proper comes to an end. What follows is in the nature of a postscript.***

***The end is a statement that the essence of the Christian life....is eternal life.***

***Eternal is more than simply "lasting forever." It is the life of God...in Him there is no darkness, just peace and serenity, power (defeat of frustration), holiness (the defeat of sin), a time wherein we are clothes with the purity of God and armed against the contamination of the world, love (the end of bitterness and hatred).***

***Such a life...can come through Jesus...there is no other way.***

***The Son knows the Father....and only He can fully reveal to us what God is like.***

***If we wish to meet someone whom we do not know and who moves in a completely different circle from our own, we can achieve that meeting only by finding someone who knows the other person and is willing to introduce us.***

***Jesus does that for us in regard to God....***

***One thing I know about the passage above....Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. John firmly and sincerely with fervor....taught it, and lived it.***

***We must do likewise....***