

Jesus

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. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the 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.

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. ¹⁰ 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.

1 John 5:11-13, “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever

does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ 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 clothed 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....

THE PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE OF PRAYER

1 John 5:14-15, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

Do we really understand the provisions God has made for us in opening lines of communication to Him?

In Fellowship...In Friendship...In Time of Need....In Time of Rejoicing???

- The basis of prayer—God listens attentively to our prayers.**

Greek word for “confidence”—Parresia (originally meant freedom of speech).

In God we have “freedom of speech.” He is always listening, more ready to hear than we are to pray.

- ❖ We never need to force our way into His presence or compel Him to pay attention.**
- ❖ He is waiting for us to come.**

- The Principle of Prayer—To be answered, it must be in accordance with the will of God.**

In John's writings, he laid down the "conditions" of prayer:

✓ **"Obedience" is a condition of prayer.**

We receive whatever we ask because we keep His commandments (1 John 3:22)

✓ **"Remaining in Christ" is a condition of prayer.**

If we abide in Him and His words abide in us, we will ask for anything and it will be done for us (John 15:7).

✓ **"To pray in His (Jesus') name" is a condition of prayer.**

If we ask anything in His name, He will do it (John 14:14).

Prayer must be in accordance with the will of God.

Jesus teaches us to pray:

'Your will be done,' NOT 'Your will be changed.'

The very essence of prayer:

Jesus himself, in the moment of His greatest agony and crisis, prayed: 'Not what I want but what you want... Your will be done' (Matthew 26:39).

C.H. Dodd writes: "Prayer rightly considered is not a device for employing the resources of omnipotence to fulfill our own desires, but a means by which our desires may be redirected according to the mind of God, and made into channels for the forces of His will."

Even the Greek philosopher and thinker, Epictetus wrote: "Have courage to look up to God and say, deal with me as you will from now on. I am as one with you; I am yours; I flinch from nothing as long as you think that it is good. Lead me where you will; put on me what clothing you will. Would you have me hold office or refuse it, stay or flee, be rich or poor? For all this I will defend you before men."

A revelation thought: We are so apt to think that prayer is asking God for what we want, whereas true prayer is asking God for what He wants.

Prayer is not only talking to God even more, it is listening to Him.