

**1 John 5:6-21**  
**Raising Our Level of Assurance**

Outline:

- v6-13 Six witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God
- v14-15 Confidence in Prayer
- v18-21 Three Final Affirmations

**Six Witnesses that Jesus is the Son of God (v6-13)**

<sup>6</sup> This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. <sup>9</sup> If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. <sup>10</sup> Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony, that God gave 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, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Six Witnesses	
<p><b>1. Father's Declaration at Jesus' Baptism (v6-8)</b></p> <p><sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was <b>baptized</b>, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matt 3:16-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Water" refers to Jesus' baptism.</li><li>• Jesus doesn't belong at a baptism for repentance, but shows up to identify with sinners He came to save</li></ul>	<p><b>2. Witness of Jesus' Crucifixion (v6-8)</b></p> <p>But they shouted all the more, "Let him be <b>crucified!</b>"</p> <p>Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.</p> <p>...the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.</p> <p>When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" Matt 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Blood" refers to Jesus' crucifixion.</li><li>• The cross says, "the King of Heaven <i>has</i> come down."</li></ul>

## Six Witnesses

### 3. Witness of the Holy Spirit (v6-8)

...for that which is conceived in her is from the **Holy Spirit**. (Matt 1:20)

immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the **Spirit** of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; Matt 3:16

And Jesus, full of the **Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness <sup>2</sup> for forty days, being tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the **Holy Spirit** and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38

- The Holy Spirit was involved at Jesus' conception...baptism...temptation...throughout His ministry.
- Function: To manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.
- Just as the arrow on a compass always points North, the Spirit of God always points to Jesus.
- God supplied the three-fold witness of the "Spirit, Water, and Blood."

### 5. Witness of the Our Conversion (v10)

...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Rom 10:9-10

- This internal witness of God's Spirit confirms the external & historical witness of Jesus' baptism and crucifixion—all witnessed by the Holy Spirit
- We're given an internal assurance that what we believe is trustworthy
- One person hears of Christ and is moved & convicted by the Spirit. Another hears the same message and is unmoved.

### 4. Witness of the Father (9-10)

There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that **he** bears about me is true. John 5:32

And the **Father** who sent me has himself borne witness about me. John 5:37

- If we accept human testimony, then we should certainly accept God's testimony.
- The Father's testimony is singular & unique. Neutrality or a non-response to the One True God is calling God a liar—as if God is promising falsehoods.

### 6. Witness of Eternal Life (v11-12)

For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. John 5:21

- Having Jesus ...equals....eternal life. This is God's testimony
- To "have the Son" means to be indwelt by the Son. Jesus gives eternal life to those whom He caused to believe in Him.
- Those without Christ will prove it by enduring everlasting death.
- But we, when we die, will awake in eternal life. We'll have the great satisfaction of being where we never want to leave.



The Bible teaches that we can KNOW we have eternal life (not HOPE we have eternal life)

JUSTIFICATION OBTAINED BY		
	INFUSION (Roman Catholic, Eastern Orth View)	IMPUTATION (Protestant View)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grace is gradually added over time</li> <li>A pouring into the soul</li> <li>Grace is almost a substance; a thing</li> <li>Must wait for righteousness to be accomplished within us before God counts us righteous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instantaneous</li> <li>Grace is an activity; generous treatment</li> <li>We are never righteous in ourselves</li> <li>God declares us righteous               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>backed by hard assets: blood (Rev 5:9-10)</li> <li>Christ's propitiation &amp; redemption</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	The basis for God calling someone just? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Becoming personally righteous</li> <li>Inherently righteous</li> <li>If he/she dies with impurity (mortal sin)—will not go to heaven</li> <li>Can never be sure of justification/salvation</li> </ul>	The basis for God calling someone just? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christ's righteousness; we never became inherently righteous</li> <li>Our righteousness is not our own</li> <li>Justification cannot be lost (it was not earned)</li> <li>Justification/salvation is assured</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believer must cooperate with grace to become righteous.</li> <li>God recognizes true righteousness in the person and justifies him/her.</li> </ul>	Requires Christ's righteousness imputed to him/her thru faith (not works)
4	Justification = FAITH + WORKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith is necessary, but not sufficient</li> </ul>	Justification = FAITH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christ's righteousness, by faith alone, is sufficient</li> <li>Christ's work alone</li> </ul>
6	Instrumental cause of justification: BAPTISM (penance is the secondary, restorative cause)	Instrumental cause of justification: FAITH
7	Righteousness is obtained by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith plus God's grace</li> <li>Keeping commands of Christ</li> <li>Keeping regular confession</li> <li>Offering penance (works of satisfaction)</li> <li>Keeping sacraments</li> <li>Righteousness in the flesh (good works) becoming subsumed into God's righteousness</li> </ul>	Righteousness obtained by faith alone
8	Propitiation requires intervention of a priest/bishop. Repeatedly performed	Propitiation was accomplished once and for all by Christ

**Confidence in Prayer**

**v14-15**

**That You May Know**

**<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.**

When we ask, we often don't know if our request aligns with God's good and perfect will.  
How do we pray?

NOT ASKING	GOOD ASKING	ASKING SELFISHLY
Despair (God does nothing)  Separated from God	God has the power God is in control	Demanding of God (God does my will)  I have the power. I am in control
<b>Focus:</b> how my circumstances cannot change	<b>Focus:</b> on God. I live in His presence with my disappointment.  I begin with my own need to change.	<b>Focus:</b> how my circumstances need & must change
<b>Role of Prayer:</b> None. I've given up	<b>Role of Prayer:</b> Central. I pray to a personal God, so I am simultaneously asking & surrendering.  Pray because: - I am weak - He is powerful - He loves me - He 100% accurate  Not trying to control God.	<b>Role of Prayer:</b> "Name it & Claim it."  My will & faith trumps God's will.  Another weapon in my battle

Based on *A Praying Life* by Paul E. Miller

### Three Final Affirmations (v18-21)

**#1** <sup>18</sup> **We know** that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

**#2** <sup>19</sup> **We know** that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

**#3** <sup>20</sup> **And we know** that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Principle: Idolatry is under every sin

# List of Potential Idols

## **Self/Pride**

My ability to determine what is wrong and right  
My ability to be in charge or in control  
My opinion of me  
The praise and worship of others  
My personal success or financial worth  
Being right  
My personal time  
Power  
Fame

## **Family/Relationships**

Marriage or an "ideal" marriage  
Spouse's love or certain behavior from spouse  
Children  
A child's love or certain behavior from child  
Friends' affirmation  
Identity in a certain social group  
This one particular person with me

## **Approval/Affirmation**

A high opinion from others  
Attention from others  
Approval from \_\_\_\_\_  
Recognition  
My uniqueness  
Desired by \_\_\_\_\_ (person or men or women)  
Not being noticed or desired (shame-based)  
Invisible, not being known

## **Behavior/Doing**

Following certain rules/standards  
Highly productive  
A future goal or achievement  
A position in my career or society  
Being the best or better than \_\_\_\_\_

## **Materialism**

Money (certain level – "not wealthy" / wealthy)  
Financial security or prosperity  
A certain neighborhood, house, clothing or car  
Overly frugal  
Possessions  
Being or becoming a benefactor

## **Physical**

A certain physical look  
Body image/ideal weight  
Youthfulness  
Strength, stature, and stamina

## **Emotional**

Understood by others  
Needed by others  
Keep everyone happy  
Love from \_\_\_\_\_  
Ability to fix someone else  
Revenge

## **Religious**

Religious or spiritual respect  
Ministry success  
Vocational ministry position  
Certain level of disciplines or service  
A certain spiritual gift

## **Achievement**

Certain career for significance  
Success, "A self made man."  
Always go above and beyond  
Academic achievement for my children or me  
My child's success in \_\_\_\_\_  
Retirement age, prestige or ease.  
Fear of failure

## **Protection**

Safety  
Health  
Security  
Life (fear of death)  
Control over \_\_\_\_\_  
Justice

## **Pleasure**

Fun  
Pain avoidance or relief (through food  
drug, vacations, sex, etc.)  
Sex  
Vacations

Watermark Community Church  
Re: generation  
Recovery in Christ