



**“Assurance through Christ”**  
**Wk.13 of Light and Love - 1 John 5:6-12**  
**By Pastor Jody May**

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**1 John 5:6-12 ESV**

**Testimony Concerning the Son of God**

<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.

**REVIEW:**

**LIGHT & LOVE**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Light** – Truth that stems from Christ and is sustained in Fellowship with each other.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Love** - Treasuring God and how we value each other.

**Introduction:**

We said for three weeks we will be talking about the reason that John wrote this letter, the clue comes in his summary:

**That You May Know**

<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**.

1 John was written to give the church then and now **ASSURANCE of their SALVATION**. To be assured means, “That for the believer they can withstand whatever the enemy throws against them, because they are assured that what



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Christ did for them will PRESEVE them all the way to and through final judgment.” - PJ

John is going to summarize and spell it out for us, why he was repeating himself, why he was continually reemphasizing over the last four chapters, and he will do it covering three different ways that we gain assurance.

- 1- Assurance through Obedience 5:1-5
- 2- Assurance through Christ 5:6-12
- 3- Assurance through Fellowship 5:13-21

Last week in our pursuit to be assured of our Salvation we discussed what it looks like to be assured through obedience and not just assured but John’s favorite word last week was **overcomer**; to be victorious in this life as in to make it to the next. He taught us those overcomers are faithful, love God and others, and are zealous in their obedience. That is what Assurance **looks like** in the life of the believer.

This week we look at the “**WHO**” we are supposed to put out Faith in. John opens up on why you should trust his best friend Jesus Christ. To do this, again he uses a word to emphasize what he wants you to *focus* on - last week it was **overcomer** and this week it is **Testimony/Testify**. - μαρτυρέω (*martyreō*) vb. **bear witness, testify**. *Refers to giving accurate information about which a person has direct knowledge*. John wants you to put trust in Jesus based on the witness of two or more people.

### **Opening Illustration/Intro.:**

That’s still an useful practice, that **before you put your trust in someone you do it after a thorough investigation**. There are several people in my life right now that I have gone to for help, and they were referred to me by friends of mine. Two of them are in this body one is my barber Clay and the other is my tax man Jared Chambers, both referred to me by people in and outside this church. Another example is my medical doctor, Dr. Raghavan, which over time now we have developed a cult like following of him because it is so hard to find that practices family medicine. The last one is my AC/emergency plumber guy Eugene McBrayer, which several of you have used. All those guys I still do business with and will continue to do so, and **it all started with**



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**the witness of two or more people.** And because I trusted those people, I was rewarded with good help, hopefully for as long as I live here.

John is saying, in our text today, you can put your trust in Christ, he has been testified about, someone vouches for Him, because in Jewish culture you can't just vouch for yourself and be taken seriously. This was a part of Jewish culture that dates to the beginning of the Jewish nation. It first shows up in their process for **capital punishment**.

**Deuteronomy 17:6 ESV**

**<sup>6</sup>On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.**

That grew into practice for most crimes:

**Deuteronomy 19:5 ESV**

**“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.”**

Then Jesus took this and made it practice for people in the Kingdom, the church, to handle conflict:

**Matthew 18:16 ESV**

**But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.**

John thought so much of this practice that he spent a great deal of time and explanation on who he believed Jesus to be, not based on his recording of events alone but based on the testimony of other sources:

Jesus alone cannot bear witness about himself for his testimony to be true (John 5:31). Thus, at least eight figures bear witness to the truth about him: John the Baptist (e.g., John 1:7; 5:32); God the Father (John 5:37); the Scriptures (John 5:39, 46); the works and words of Christ (e.g., John 5:36; 8:14); the crowd (John 12:17); the Holy Spirit (John 15:26); the disciples as a group (John 15:27); and, in particular,



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John the evangelist himself (John 19:35; 21:24). The rest of the NT uses the verb similarly (e.g., Acts 10:43; Gal 4:5; Heb 11:4; 1 John 1:2).<sup>1</sup>

So right now, John is saying if you want to rest assured about your Salvation, you are **not going to find** that in how well you think you are living life, are you being good enough, but you are going to have to find that **outside yourself**. **John**, in his letter, is the **first one** to testify to you who you can trust, Jesus, and now he’s going to supply you other testimonies. As I said earlier if you will trust the evidence of these multiple testimonies, you have found a friend for life that will go with you wherever you go.

Today we are covering the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this summation by talking about what it looks like to **gain assurance through Christ**.

**What we are learning today in our second reason for Assurance of Salvation:**

**Assurance of Salvation is based on a Tested, True,  
and Tangible Testimony.**

**1. The Spirit Testifies of Jesus’ Divinity. (vs. 6-8).**

<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.

The Spirit Testifies to significant eye-witness events. You may ask yourself how can a Spirit testify to the physical world? I mean this is Halloween, but we all know that ghosts don’t walk around telling you secrets of the past. But the Spirit has been at work in the world since the beginning and He told the story of God and His people through men that recorded the events of that interaction.

You and I have never been asked to believe a myth or a legend but instead we have been asked to believe man’s interactions that were witnessed to and

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<sup>1</sup> Taylor, G. D. (2014). [Testimony](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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recorded in Israel’s history. You know it still amazes me that people want to question the validity of the Bible. There is a whole separate race of people on the other side of the world that fight over a sliver of land in the midst of multiple nations that seek to destroy them because they believe the OT is true.

What we actually see over time is that the Spirit, John says, is **Truth** itself. All that it has recorded man seeks to silent as John states in John 1 the darkness seeks to overcome the light, but the light has overcome the darkness. You may want to argue that the world wants to know the truth, look at science, and I would point out global warming and COVID fears are used to manipulate people because all the science is hidden, and we know that. What about our current political situation, turning our back on terrorism, working with political enemies that seek to infiltrate our land and I ask you does it look like we live among a people that desire TRUTH!? Truth is the enemy of the world because ultimately enlightenment reveals that there is a God, and He has been actively seeking His people since the beginning.

BTW you have been reading this past week **TESTED Truth** or Testimony as you have read **Exodus** an over 3,000-year-old document that still stands as the basis for westernized law. There is also another tested truth the Spirit points out:

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. - .<sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

The Spirit of Truth also declares the significance of baptism and crucifixion.

We must remember that John is still combatting an early Gnostic sect in Ephesus that has come against the church. Historians and theologians alike believe it had to do with the belief that Jesus of Nazareth was not fully Divine, not fully God. That in no way did God through the horrific act of crucifixion. That most likely Jesus was possessed again by the Spirit of God at Baptism and then ascended before His scourging, torture, and death. What a horrific lie!

**Apostle’s Creed:**



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I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

There is no line in there about Jesus the Man not being fully God, but as God in the flesh fulfilled all the requirements of Adam and David so that HE has the right to judge the living and the dead as victorious King. All the Apostles believed this, multiple eyewitness accounts and they all suffered a martyr's death because they believed in it. Yes, I believe we can say it is a **Tested Testimony.**

Assurances of Salvation comes 1<sup>st</sup> in rightly believing in the person and work of the Christ, who was Jesus. **IT has been tested for over 2,000 by the church to be shown He is who the Bible says He is.** I think we will also discover the second testimony to be in agreement.

## **2. The Father Testifies of Jesus as Family. (vs. 9-10).**

<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.

1<sup>st</sup> off, God's testimony is to override man's every time! Anytime we adhere to what critics say of God, and if it goes against what is in scripture you are to shut that out, turn it off, and burn it if possible. God being the ultimate authority in all situations overrides man's opinions, reasonings, and feelings.



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We’re not going to spend a lot of time belaboring this point because we just discussed it in point 1. The Spirit is eternally sent by the Father and the Son, whatever the Spirit has revealed He has done so by the Father’s desire.

The big point we need to point out here is what did the Father think about Jesus, did He believe in who Jesus said He was? That is the testimony that John is saying you need to pay attention to.

First, the OT has in it over 300 prophecies concerning the Messiah, who He would be, his roots, and what He would do, and that plan was given to us by the Father.

Second, three times in scripture it was recorded that the voice of God was heard, and it was always about Jesus, pointing to the Father/Son relationship.

**Matthew 3: 16-17 ESV**

<sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, 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**.”

**Matthew 17:5 ESV**

<sup>5</sup> He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my **beloved** Son, with whom I am well **pleased**; listen to him.”

**John 12: 27-30 ESV**

<sup>27</sup> “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have **glorified** it, and I will **glorify it again**.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, “This voice has come **for your sake**, not mine.

The Father has testified to us that Jesus was indeed His beloved Son, He was pleased with Him, and that He is the one that glorifies Him because that’s how He wants to show the world God exists. This is a **True Testimony** because



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**God said it and that settles it...** And the scripture says if you believe this then you are going to find the third testimony inside yourself.

**3. Eternal Life Testifies of Jesus’ Ministry (vs. 11-12).**

**<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.**

Eternal life, it is getting to have and enjoy your eternal relationship with God through Jesus right now! Jesus came to give us this life, **a way of living**, and give it abundantly.

**John 10:10 ESV**

**<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

It is very clear, if anyone promises you anything other than fealty to God, if anyone says that you can have happiness outside of experiencing Salvation through the works of Christ, if someone says all ways lead to good karma just pick one, that person is a thief, a liar and they seek to destroy. Remember the wise saying “**Misery Loves Company**” if they can get everyone to live unfulfilled lives then that becomes the new normal (sounds a lot like the world would be trying to promote equality of outcomes to me).

**What is abundant life/life eternal?**

**Mat. 6:31-33 ESV**

**<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

Eternal life is a life that does not pursue worldly desires first and decisions you make for life are focused on living for God. In this way we allow God to supply us what we need for **living on mission** in our lives, so worldly necessities for mission will be always supplied.





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**2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV**

**<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.**

Paul is paraphrasing what Jesus taught us in Mat. 6. Paul has experienced this firsthand as he has relied on God to fund his missions, and in this way, Paul sees that all that work has been for the good.

Then Paul is like guess what? It’s going to work the same way for you:

**Philippians 4:19 ESV**

**<sup>19</sup> And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Christian living in the community of the church, the elect, is now taking the place of the Jewish nation as it reflects what Israel should have been to the world.

**Deut. 28:12 ESV**

**<sup>12</sup> The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.**

Christians that have eternal life not only have enough for themselves to complete mission, but they are a blessing to the world as well. In that we must also remember to honor God with the first fruits of all we have showing the world from whom all blessings flow.

**Proverbs 3:9-10 ESV**

**<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;  
<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty,  
and your vats will be bursting with wine.**

Eternal life is experiencing a surplus in your life when you are doing the work of God! Obedience personified. The testimony of eternal life, having life in



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Jesus Christ, is a life of joy and peace, it is a **tangible example**, a **physical evidence**, to the world of the Gospel. We live with assurance of Salvation by witnessing the Eternal lives around us, as we in turn practice living out of an abundance in our lives. Testimony is found in the church living among other Christians, it's a **Tangible Testimony**, so if you lack assurance you might want to look at where you hang your hat.

**Closing and Challenge:**

Stop listening to external voices that try to give you a path to joy that does not believe in Christ's Divinity. Better yet read a biography this October of a past father and see how God was enough even in the midst of the collapse of the church as they knew it. Better yet read something that teaches you about Jesus' person and work.

If you lack joy in your life today, if you are suffering by the news blues perhaps today it is time to reassess where you are going to find joy. Because today family you can be assured of your Salvation because it is based in Christ not in you.

**Assurance of Salvation is based on a Tested, True,  
and Tangible Testimony.**

You can go home today and stop worrying about your Salvation, whether it is based on a credible story. You can know it is, based on multiple witnesses, some of them divine, and you can rest in that this week. If you hear these words this week and you have believed in the name of Jesus, who He was, then that is God calling you to Him, would you not spurn that call. Accept Him as Lord of your life and you too can know Eternal Life.

**Prayer**

**Communion**



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**Benediction**

Go in the name of the Father, that testified to us His good pleasure in His Son, offering to us no other way in which we gain eternal life but by Him.

Go in the name of the Son, that testified to us through Baptism and Crucifixion that He was fully God and fully man and fully able to deliver eternal life now.

Go in the name and power of the HS, that testifies to us our assurance of Salvation that helps us to see eternal life in others so that we know what it looks like in ourselves.