

GOD'S TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST -- PART 3

Sunday, February 6, 2022 -- 1st JOHN series -- Msg 24 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1st JOHN 5:6-12

English Standard Version (ESV)

6 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. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 **the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.** 9 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. 10 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. 11 **And this is the testimony, that God gave 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.**

OVERVIEW OF 1st JOHN:

JOHN WRITES TO CLARIFY and AFFIRM TRUE FAITH in JESUS AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.

SEE THE TESTS OF SALVATION THAT SURFACE OVER AND OVER AGAIN:

- 1) The test of belief in Jesus as Messiah. vs 1
- 2) The test of love for the saints (those 'born of him', the 'children of God'). vs 1
- 3) The test of love for God vs 2-3
- 4) The test of obedience. vs 2-3

Important Reminder:

We must remember the fierce rejection of Jesus as Messiah when he came.

John 1:11 *"He came to His own and those who were His own did not receive Him."*

CHAPTER 5:6-12 -- GOD'S TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST (see vs 5 as the opening)

A correct view of who Jesus is is absolutely essential to salvation.

(see 1:1-4; 2:22; 3:23; 4:1-2, 9-10)

He is not just 'a Savior', but He is 'God's Savior'.

God gives testimony/witness of who Jesus is THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE:

- From Genesis to Jesus's birth we see constant reference to the coming Messiah.
- The extensive prophecies regarding the precise details of Jesus's birth, life and death.
- See Jesus's own explanation of Himself the evening of Resurrection Sunday.

God gives testimony/witness of who Jesus is THROUGH JOHN.

Notice the three elements of confirming testimony:

- the Water, -- referring to Jesus's baptism (His willing identification with sinners.)
- the Blood, -- referring to Jesus's crucifixion/death (His payment for sinners.)
- the Spirit, -- referring to the Spirit of Truth -- the Holy Spirit

God's Holy Spirit, though often ignored or distorted, is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL to the salvation and daily life of every true Christian.

PART 1

PART 2

PART 3
(TODAY)

WHY do we often ignore God's Spirit?

- Imagery of God the Father and God the Son are more familiar to us.
- Our ignorance of God's Word is often a great part of the problem.
- Our sinful, fallen flesh is often resistant to God's Spirit and spirit (mindset).

Charles Haddon Spurgeon Pastor in London, England 1834-1892

Dear Brother, honor the Spirit of God as you would honor Jesus Christ if he were present. If Jesus Christ were dwelling in your house you would not ignore him, you would not go about your business as if he were not there. Do not ignore the presence of the Holy Spirit in your soul. I beseech you, do not live as if you had not heard whether there were any Holy Spirit. To him pay your constant adorations. Reverence the respected guest who has been pleased to make your body his sacred abode. Love him, obey him, worship him.

HOW is God's Holy Spirit often distorted?

- impersonalizing the person of the Spirit -- the Spirit is a HE, not an IT!
- underestimating His presence, power and purpose
- dramatizing and profiteering His presence and power
see Acts 8:9-24 Simon the Magician
- pursuit of sensational experiences: feelings, chills, euphoria, dream-filling,
- imagining a private genie, spell casting, miracle working

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF THE SPIRIT IN SALVATION:

See the harmonious work of the TRINITY: Salvation is...

- purposed by the **Father**,
- accomplished by the **Son**,
- applied by the **Spirit**.

The Spirit APPLIES **to** the church what Christ has ACCOMPLISHED **for** the church.

Just as our salvation is IN Christ alone, it is also BY the Spirit alone.

John 16:13-15 (at the Last Supper: Jesus explains what is about to happen.)

*13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 **He will glorify me**, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

1) See the Trinitarian framework of redemption in Jesus's words above.

(also see Ephesians 1:3-14)

2) Notice **the Spirit's role** in the work of the God-head (Trinity).

A -- The Spirit promotes and illumines the Son of God as the Mediator between God and man. (see 2 Timothy 2:5)

B -- The Spirit is always Christ-enhancing and Christ-empowering.
The Spirit is Christ-centered!

C -- The Spirit's words and works are for and in deference to the Son.

Romans 8:11 *'The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.'*

The Spirit is the Agent of Salvation who gives Christ and His redemption to God's people.

SO HOW IS THE HOLY SPIRIT THE AGENT OF OUR SALVATION?

1) The Holy Spirit CONVICTS unbelievers of sin.

John 16:8-11 (Jesus speaking about the Holy Spirit)

8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

His convicting work begins the convincing work of the need for salvation.

A -- conviction of one's own sin.

vs 8-9 (the greatest sin is unbelief)

B -- conviction of Christ's own righteousness

vs 10

C -- conviction of coming judgment

vs 8 & 11

2) The Holy Spirit REGENERATES sinful hearts.

(*'regenerate'* to begin again -- to be born again)

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

No passage in the Bible suggests that a person can regenerate themselves. All of Scripture reveals that salvation comes only from God-- **'salvation belongs to the Lord'** (Jonah 2:9).

3) The Holy Spirit brings sinners to REPENTANCE.

(*'repentance'* -- to turn around)

There is no repentance without a recreated heart.

At the moment of regeneration, the Holy Spirit gives the gift of repentant faith to sinners -- this enables them to turn away from sin.

Romans 8:1-4

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

4) The Holy Spirit ENABLES true and intimate fellowship with God.

Romans 8:14-17 (Paul writes on the impact of salvation)

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

5) The Holy Spirit INDWELLS every true Believer.

(‘indwells’ to live within)

Romans 8:9

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (Paul writes that they must flee sexual immorality because...)

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

6) The Holy Spirit SEALS the salvation of His people FOREVER.

God’s salvation of His people never fails. (Romans 8:30-39; John 10:27-29)

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:29-32

*29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.** 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

KEY QUESTIONS:

- 1) God testifies to Jesus as the saving Son of God (by water, blood & Spirit) -- DO YOU?
- 2) Is their clear evidence of God’s indwelling Spirit in your life?
Why/why not? **If yes, what is it?** Discuss with a pastor or bible-centered Christian.