

Sermon Series in 1 John

From The Incarnation to The Spirit Testimony

1 John 5:5-13

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We shall not forget who John is. We shall not forget how the Lord transformed or regenerated John. John, the son of Zebedee, was the fourth disciple chosen (by the account in Matthew). John was the disciple that Jesus loved and is referenced being with Jesus at the Last Supper (John 13:25) and during the Resurrection time (John 21:7, 20). These events took place about 60 years prior to John writing five letters that are part of the New Testament (Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation).

In addition, during John's lifetime, he witnessed the Ministry of the Incarnation, The Cross, the Resurrection time and the Ascension. John was additionally empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and was with Peter as the first sermons were preached where thousands responded to the conviction of the Holy Spirit working through the apostles. It was John with Peter who went to the Temple on the ninth hour (Acts 3:1) and healed the lame man. Remember, the lame man was looking for money, but Peter and John fixed their gaze on the lame man and told him, "Look at us", and Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene – walk!" (Acts 3:6) John was with Peter when they were arrested and thrown-in jail, then released and threatened not to speak in the name of Jesus (*Acts 4*).

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;

²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

John also saw the Jewish revolt of 66 A.D. and the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. John most likely was aware of the martyred deaths of the other apostles like Peter (64 A.D.) and Paul (68 A.D.)

NAMES OF GOD

John identifies the Spirit of God as the one who testifies or bears witness of the Gospel Message that includes God incarnate, Jesus the Christ. It is in order here to take note of the many names of God throughout the Bible.

These are names or descriptions of God. Depending on God's purpose and function, He has different titles. Hence, when God is addressed or described as Holy Spirit, it is for the purpose of transforming man and working in man's heart. God is often referenced as the "Triune God" meaning that God is the Father, the Son and the Spirit. But then, God is the Creator, God is the Lord, God is the Provider and so on. Are we proclaiming many Gods? NO. There is only ONE God with many faces and functions that He chooses. John writes of God as Spirit. When we witness to others, we must be clear that we are talking about ONE God who is not limited by human descriptions or names.

Moses knew that the Hebrew people would ask this question: who is the god that sent you? In the land of Egypt, the Hebrew people sought many gods. Remember, Moses had been gone for forty years. However, God, knowing the

heart of the Hebrew people, instructed Moses to say that the “I Am Who I Am” sent you. (Exodus 3:13,14). The God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the God of your Fathers has sent me. Here are some of the names of God in the Bible.

- **Elohim** = "God" (plural) as in the Creator: *In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heaven and the earth* ([Genesis 1:1](#)).
- **El Elyon** = "God (singular) Most High" ([Genesis 14:18-20](#)).
- **El Roi** = "God Who Sees": ([Genesis 16:13-14](#)).
- **El Shaddai** = "God Almighty" or "God the All-Sufficient One" ([Genesis 17:2-3](#)).
- **Yahweh** = found in Scripture as the consonants YHWH, known as the "Tetragrammaton" is God's Holy Covenant name. The letters form a word or words from the verb "to be" and most scholars translate it as "I AM who I AM" or "I will be who I will be", or "the Self-Existent One: *Moses said to God, 'Look, if I go to the Israelites and say to them* ([Exodus 3:13-14](#)).
- **Adonai** = "Lord" (Note: LORD, all in capital letters is a substitution out of reverence for God's covenant name "Yahweh" ([Exodus 4:10-12](#))).
- **Yahweh-jireh** = "Yahweh will provide" or "I AM will provide" ([Genesis 22:11-14](#)).
- **Yahweh-rapha** = "Yahweh who heals" ([Exodus 15:26](#)).
- **Yahweh-nissi** = "Yahweh My Banner": (after winning a battle with God's assistance) *Moses built an named it Yahweh is My Banner [Yahweh-nissi] ...*([Exodus 17:16](#)).
- **Yahweh-mekoddishkem** = "Yahweh Who Sanctifies You": ([Exodus 31:12](#)).
- **Yahweh-shalom** = "Yahweh is Peace": ([Judges 6:22-24](#)).
- **Yahweh-sabaoth** = "Yahweh of Hosts" (the "hosts" are the army of angels who serve God):
([Psalm 46:7](#), [Psalms 22:10](#))
- **Yahweh-raah** = "Yahweh My Shepherd": *The LORD [Yahweh raah] is my shepherd; I shall not want* ([Psalms 23:1](#)).
- **Yahweh-tsidkenu** = "Yahweh Our Saving Justice": ([Jeremiah 23:5-6](#)).

The Names of Jesus in the Book of Revelation:[1:5](#) The First-born from the dead

- [1:5](#) The highest of earthly kings
- [1:8](#) The Alpha and Omega (also [22:13](#))
- [1:8](#) Lord God
- [1:8](#) The Almighty
- [1:13](#) Son of Man

- [1:17](#) The First and the Last (also [1:11](#);[21:6](#);[22:13](#))
- [1:18](#) The Living One
- [2:18](#) Son of God
- [3:14](#) Witness (also "faithful witness" in [1:5](#))
- [4:11](#) Creator
- [5:5](#) Lion of the Tribe of Judah
- [5:5](#) Root of David
- [5:6](#) The Lamb
- [7:17](#) The Shepherd
- [12:10](#) Christ (Anointed)
- [19:11](#) Faithful and True
- [19:13](#) Word of God
- [19:16](#) King of Kings
- [19:16](#) Lord of Lords

<http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/documents/The%20Many%20Names%20of%20God.htm>

A Note About the Triune God:

It is challenging to define God in terms of Spirit. The idea that God has many names creates difficulty for some to accept that the Bible is proclaiming One God. God is the Creator, our Lord and our Shepherd. There are many names of God as noted previously. Spirit is God's function inside of people's hearts. God is often addressed as three persons. God is not divided by person. God is one Being with innumerable functions and faces but the same mono-God. There is not one God the Father and another God the Spirit and another God the Son. God is indivisible in all His forms and names.

Prior to Jesus' water-baptism, God's Spirit is very active throughout the Bible. Examples can be seen with David in Psalm 51, praying for God's Spirit not to leave him.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Thy presence, And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. (Psalm 51:11)

Some additional passages.

³⁰ Thou dost send forth Thy Spirit, they are created; And Thou dost renew the face of the ground. (Psalm. 104:30)

²⁷ "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances (Ezekiel. 36:27).

JOHN'S TESTIMONY . . . JESUS-SPIRIT-DRIVEN

John witnesses the incarnation and then Jesus, during the Resurrection time, told him and the rest of the apostles to wait for the **Holy Spirit/Helper**.

Strong's 3875 παράκλητος (parakletos)

Meaning: called to one's aid **Origin:** from 3870

Usage: Advocate(1), Helper(4).

Notes: ¹ Gr., *Parakletos*, one called alongside to help; or, *Intercessor* John 14:16; John 14:26

Acts 1:4 And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me;

John 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Acts 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My **witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

JESUS-SPIRIT-COMMISSIONING

We know the commission that Jesus gave John and the disciples in John 20:19 and in Matthew 28: 19-20. After Pentecost, we see Peter and John binding and loosing sin. Under the Spirit, they declared the sins of the people (bound sin). When the people's hearts were cut, they told them about repentance, and, therefore, their sins were forgiven (loosed).

The Commissioning John 20:19-23

¹⁹ So when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace *be* with you."

²⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ "If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained."

The statement Jesus made and actions to the apostles are truly remarkable in the history of man. Jesus is God incarnate. In His Resurrected state, He is the visible in-the-flesh being that has defeated sin and death. Therefore, what Greek philosophy and Gnostic teachings refuted was

happening to the apostles. God was not a shadow; He was in His Resurrected state embodied in the midst of the apostles. God ascends man (the apostles) to a higher understanding and ability. God gives man the ability to overcome this fallen world.

The Prince of Peace imparts peace into the apostles. This is their power and authority. By this action, Jesus prepared the apostles to receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus breathed on them and the Spirit indwelt them. This is the time in human history where God stood physically with people and indwelt them with His being. God as Jesus was no longer going to be physically with the apostles. So, He imparted His Spirit into them thus making a permanent Spirit-bond. They were now full Spirit-instruments of God. This event will never be repeated. There is only one incarnation in history. This commissioning event highlights God's intent to indwell people with His being. Jesus taught this truth to Nicodemus (John 3) with the teaching that he must be born again. Thus, rebirth of Spirit is by the Spirit. It is God coming into the heart and minds, into the being of man; this re-orders man. This re-ordering or re-birth re-structures man to have the power and ability to live life as God designed. The apostle Paul knew this as he wrote . . . **But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you** (Romans 8:11). And in Galatians 2:20 **"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.**

Believe it or not, the Law (First five books – Tora) also taught re-birth, re-ordering of man.

Deuteronomy 30:6, 8

⁶ "Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live.

Because the Lord circumcises hearts, the people then possessed the ability to observe the Lord's commandments.

⁸ "And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today.

We see the Lord projecting His heart-changing-ways in Ezekiel 36:26-28 also.

²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷ "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

²⁸ "And you will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

Clarity - Old to New Testament

To be clear. . . circumcision of the heart, giving a new heart, putting My Spirit within you, reborn of Spirit are all the same thing. They all achieve the same purpose. We, as sinful people, now have the ability to follow the commands of the Lord and walk in His ways once the transformation takes place. Note that we will have the ability to follow God. We still live in a fallen world and, frail as we are, stumble from time-to-time like all the people in the Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11). John addressed this in 1 John 1. If we say we have no sin then we lie. Christ is faithful to forgive us.

1 John 5 continued

⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world,
but he who believes that **Jesus is the Son of God?**

^{6a} This is the One who **came by water and blood,**
Jesus Christ;
not with the water only,
but with the water and with the blood.

^{6b} It is the Spirit 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 the three are in agreement.

TESTIFY

There is a change of focus in verse six. John goes from how Jesus came to us (The Incarnation-verse 6a) to how the Spirit testifies (witness-verse 6b) the truth about Jesus. Including verse six, John uses the word “**testify/witness**” in one form or another nine times to verse eleven.

1 John 5:6b And it is the Spirit who bears **witness**, because the Spirit is the truth.

Prior to verse six, in chapter five, the Spirit is not mentioned. In Chapter four, we are charged to test the spirits to see if they are from God. We are charged to know the Spirit of God. In 1 John 4:13, Believers are given His Spirit, because we and God abide in each other. In chapter five, John announces the testimony of the Spirit which in-turn means our testimony. The Spirit of God is the voice of God that moves through men.

Looking back over the activity of the Spirit, (Matthew 3:16, 17), we see the Spirit after Jesus was water-baptized. The Heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descending as a dove came upon Jesus. A voice from Heaven spoke, saying, “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” This is prophecy fulfilled from Isaiah 42:1. **Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.**

With this shift from how Jesus came (The Incarnation) to the Spirit’s testimony (witness) through the lives of the apostles, we see the fruit today. It is the Spirit who is constantly testifying through the lives of Believers.

John addresses the Incarnation first, in verse 1-6, and then shifts to what took place after the Ascension, “the testimony of the Spirit” in verses 7 – 11.

This testimony of God's Spirit grew assemblies around the world. The book of Acts chronicles this expansion.

As stated, during the Resurrection time, Jesus asked the apostles to wait to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is the Acts of the Holy Spirit that the book we call Acts is named. It is the Acts of the Holy Spirit (*conviction* of the Holy Spirit) (John 16:8) that affords people to change their hearts.

1 John 5 continued . . .

⁷ For there are **three** that **testify**:

⁸ the **Spirit and the water and the blood**;
and the three are in agreement.

The Spirit constantly testifies through Believers about Jesus.

The water in the context of verse 6a is connected with how Jesus came to us. There is a focus shift in verse 6b to the witness of the Spirit. Jesus came to us initially by water through the virgin birth. In verse 7, the reference is connecting the Spirit witnessing at Jesus' water-baptism. We, too, undergo water-baptism as a witness to what the Holy Spirit has accomplished and is accomplishing in our lives (that being transformation or regeneration). Jesus did not go through regeneration for He is God and has no need of regeneration. Again, the Spirit testimony after Jesus' water-baptism was to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 42:1, and to demonstrate to all of us how to witness our own salvation.

The blood testifies continually of the Cross. The Resurrection is the continuum in human history. The Cross never stops testifying/witnessing.

⁹ If we receive the testimony of men,
the testimony of God is greater;
for the testimony of God is this,
that He has testified concerning His Son.

¹⁰ The one who believes in the Son of God
has the testimony in himself;
the one who does not believe God
has made Him a liar,
because he has not believed in the testimony
that God has given concerning His Son.

¹¹ And the testimony is this,
that God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son.

¹² He who has the Son has the life;
he who does not have the Son of God
does not have the life.

¹³ These things I have written to you
who believe in the name of the Son of God,
so that you may know that you have eternal life.

AMEN ... end of sermon July 30, 2017