

That You May Know; 1 John 5:6-13

I. Do You Know?

- A. Do you know where you stand with God?
- B. Can you firmly say to yourself, "I belong to God; I am one of His children, and I will hear the words 'well done my good and faithful servant, enter into your rest' when He comes to claim His own."
- C. Too many times we harbor doubts about our salvation
- D. We question whether or not we belong to Him; and it is normally based on our perception of how good (or not good) we have been
- E. Basically this questioning of our salvation comes from our lack of understanding, or belief in God's promise to us
- F. These are Jesus' words to His apostles
 - 1. Mark 16:15–16; 15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."
- G. These are the apostles' words to us
 - 1. Acts 2:38; And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- H. This is God's promise to us based on testimony by God, the Spirit, and Jesus

II. Testimony

- A. This word is used six times in three verses (9-11)
- B. A different form of the word is used twice in verses 6 and 7
- C. Testify (testifies) - to solemnly assert something, offering first hand authentication of the fact; often concerning grave or important matters
- D. Testimony - The verbal evidence of a witness by which something is affirmed to be true

III. Testimony of the Spirit

- A. Matthew 3:16–17; 16 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; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- B. Matthew 17:5; 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."
- C. Matthew 12:25–28; 25 Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. 26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

IV. Testimony of the water

- A. Some scholars equate water with his physical birth and blood with his physical death, linking the two by the physical
- B. But John is not talking about physical life and death here, he is talking about spiritual life and death
- C. Jesus' ministry began with His immersion in the Jordan
- D. I am reminded of the story of Naaman, the commander of the army of Syria

1. 2 Kings 5:10–14; 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.”
11 But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. 13 But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” 14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

E. But just how does immersion witness to anything?

1. Romans 6:3–4; 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

F. It is the likeness of His death, burial, and resurrection!

G. Immersion testifies (the solemn assertion, first hand authentication) that Jesus crucified, buried, and was raised by the father for the remission (forgiveness) of our sins!

V. Testimony of the blood

A. Again, the physical death is not what the blood is testifying to

1. Leviticus 17:11; For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

B. Blood is used for atonement (forgiveness) by God

C. On the Day of Atonement, blood was sprinkled on the altar for the forgiveness of the sins of the High Priest as well as the nation of Israel

D. So it is with Jesus blood

1. Matthew 26:27–28; 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

2. Hebrews 9:11–12; 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

3. Hebrews 9:18–22; 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

4. Hebrews 10:19–22; 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- E. Here is our confidence, our assurance of faith; that Jesus' blood cleanses us from sin and that we contact that blood through immersion in water... the testimony of the blood and water

VI. Testimony of God

- A. John tells us that to not believe in the Son, is to refuse the testimony of the Spirit and water; which makes God a liar
- B. Can you imagine, calling God a liar?
- C. God has given us eternal life in His Son, Jesus Christ
- D. God has given us proof (testimony) through His Spirit, and through immersion representing Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection
- E. These three agree (Spirit, water, and blood) This is how we know

VII. That You May Know

- A. Two Greek words for "know"
- B. One means a general knowledge, *Ginosko*
- C. One means a deep understanding, *Oida*
- D. We don't have to be doubtful, without knowledge
- E. We can have a deep understanding that we have eternal life through the witness of the Spirit, the water, and the blood

VIII. Do You Know?

- A. Are you assured of your salvation
- B. John wants you to be, and gives us testimony, witness
- C. The Spirit, the water, and the Blood