

1st John Lesson 18 – He That Hath The Son Hath Life

1 John 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

We receive the witness of men not only in judicial courtrooms, but also in every aspect of life. We daily make decisions by acting on the belief that what others say is true; our neighbors, friends, relatives, business associates, and so forth. Without accepting the witness of men as being true, we could not function in society ... even though often what men say is not true. It might not be true because they deliberately lied, or it might not be true because they were mistaken. But even knowing that to be the case, we act on the witness of men being true every single day.

How much more should we rely on the witness of God? God who cannot lie. God is never mistaken about anything. God who is love and would never tell us anything false. God is never deceived, never wrong about anything. That's why we are instructed to not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. When we have the witness of God ... we have the truth!

In the preceding lessons we studied the witness of God as revealed in scripture. We studied the witness of how Jesus came by water and by blood. We saw the witness of God when He spoke from heaven at the baptism of Jesus and on the Mount of Transfiguration. John was there at both of those events. John is being the faithful witness some fifty years later that He was an eyewitness to hearing the voice of God who spoke from heaven concerning Jesus being His Son.

John was also the only apostle who was at the crucifixion of Jesus. He saw all of the same events as the Roman Centurion. After seeing the witness of God by all the events that occurred when Jesus was crucified had to agree that, *"Truly this was the son of God."*

John 8:12-18 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.* (13) The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. (14) Jesus answered and said unto them, *Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.* (15) *Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.* (16) *And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.* (17) *It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.* (18) *I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

Record G3141 marturia – evidence given; record, report, testimony, witness.

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

The Pharisees are accusing Jesus of only testifying about himself, and therefore, they cannot accept his testimony as being true. What testimony? He had just told them **"I am the light of the world."** They are rejecting that testimony because they think the man, Jesus of Nazareth, is alone. They are judging by what they see. They only see Jesus ... not the Father. But Jesus is sayin, *"I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. My record is true because, just as the law requires, there are two of us. I am one witness. My Father is the second witness."*

John 8:19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, **Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.**

I almost laugh out loud as I meditate this. The Pharisees go, *"Your Father is with you? Where? Where is He? We don't see your Father with you."* They were judging by the flesh and they could not "see" the Father. Later in John chapter ten, Jesus says,

John 10:37-38 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. (38) **But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.**

Jesus is telling them that it is the Father within Him who is doing the works. Each time that happens the Father is validating that Jesus is the light of the world, just as He said. The apostle John is stacking evidence on top of evidence in this segment of his epistle that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ, the Savior of the world. There is the testimony of the water and the blood, the Father, the Word, the Holy Spirit, and the works which the Father did through Jesus. I remind you again that even the Roman Centurion, after beholding all that he saw during the crucifixion had to conclude, *"Truly, this was the Son of God."*

1 John 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Now the apostle John moves from all of the external evidence such as the water, the blood, the voice from heaven, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, the miracles worked by the Father ... now John moves to the internal evidence every true believer has. If you are born again, you have the witness in yourself.

I remember those first weeks in 1980 after I bowed the knee to the Lord Jesus Christ. From within me came all sorts of preaching. It was like there was "a new sheriff in town." Talk about a witness! The new man within me started telling me this had to go, and that had to go, and I had to stop doing this, and I had to start doing that ... and it was all coming from the inside. No preacher from the outside was telling me to do it. It was the witness from the inside. That new man has the law of God written in his mind and heart and he goes to work immediately to work righteousness from the inside to the outside where it can appear as fruit on your limbs.

Remember what it means to "believe" [**From lesson 15 – Overcoming the World**] ... believe means to "trust in, cling to, and rely on." That is the attitude of heart you have to take with the inner witness. That inner witness is the first level of the Lordship of Christ in your life. It is Lord ... you are not. A renewed mind is a mind that yields to the witness of the new nature every time. The mature Christian so treasures the inner witness, he would sacrifice anything rather than live without it.

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John has given many evidences in this short letter of all the ways that the Father has testified and born witness that Jesus is His Son, the Christ, the Messiah, sent by the Father to be the Savior of the world. After all of these evidences, if you choose not to believe ... understand this ... you are calling God a liar to His face because it is God who has been the "witness" by all these things. Over the years one of the more common objections I have heard from unbelievers is, *"Oh, I believe that Jesus was a good man who did many good things. But I just don't believe that he was the son of God or that he was the Savior of the world."* I learned early to tell them ... you don't have that option. Here are your options:

1. Jesus is who He says He is or He was a bold faced liar.
2. Jesus is who He says He is or He was crazy and belonged in an asylum.
3. Jesus is who He says He is or God the Father is a liar, because the Father spoke from heaven twice bearing witness, "This is my beloved Son."

So, Mr. Unbeliever, every time you say your nice little platitude, "*Jesus was a good man, but he was not the son of God*" ... what you are really doing is calling Jesus, and God the Father ... liars! You will stand before Him one day and your defense will be ... "*I did not believe the record you gave of your Son.*" You will certainly believe then ... but it will be too late. Repent and believe the gospel ... TODAY!

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

John's entire epistle has been building toward this truth. Remember the wonder of how John described when they first beheld that eternal life that was with the Father and was manifested unto them. You can almost feel how they marveled as they beheld this man who had LIFE like no other man on earth. He lived like no other man, He spoke like no other man, and He did what no other man had ever done. There is delight in John's words and awesome wonder as he says ... we heard, we saw with our eyes, we looked upon, and our hands have handled that ... WORD OF LIFE ... that ETERNAL LIFE ... which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.

But now ... wonder of wonders ... miracle of miracles ... God has given ... to US ... that same ETERNAL LIFE ... and that LIFE is in his Son. If you have the Son within you ... you have the ETERNAL LIFE within you. If you have not the Son, you have not the LIFE. THIS IS THE GOSPEL! This was God's purpose all along; to populate the earth with sons of God who have been conformed to the image of Christ. That is why Christ is called the firstborn of many brethren. I have to say it again ... AS HE IS, SO ARE WE, IN THIS WORLD!

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Jesus, the last Adam, is the quickening ... life giving ... Spirit. When you believe, He quickens your spirit from death to LIFE. Remember all the earlier lessons. He paid for your sin with His own blood, took away your sin and became the door through which you could die as a son of the first Adam, and then be resurrected by the last Adam (Jesus) as a child of God so you can walk in newness of life. What newness of life? It is the same eternal life that is in the firstborn. It is the same Eternal Life that John and the apostles beheld in awesome wonder ... and now the same eternal life is in all who have the Son.

John 5:24-25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation;

but is passed from death unto life. (25) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: (26) And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 17:2-3 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. (3) And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

To what purpose did the Father give us this eternal life? That we might know Him as our Father. That we might know Jesus as our Savior and our Lord. To save us from our sins by quickening us from spiritual death to spiritual life. To change our nature from being sinners to being righteous sons of God. To empower us with that same ETERNAL LIFE that is in Jesus the Son. That life empowers us to walk above sin and to always say NO to our flesh, NO to the world, and NO to the devil.

Being saved from sin, we are saved from hell. God saved us from sin and empowered us to walk righteously in this present world, even though we are still wearing fallen flesh and living in a fallen world. So did our prototype, Jesus. He had this ETERNAL LIFE in Him, was wearing fallen flesh like us, and was faced with every temptation in the world just like we are. YET WITHOUT SIN! How did He do it? By the power of the Holy Spirit? NO! He walked sin free for thirty years by the power of that ETERNAL LIFE alone, before He was baptized in the Holy Spirit. If you have the Son, you have that same ETERNAL LIFE in you. He is the MARK we are to strive toward. Even Paul did not account Himself as having fully arrived at that MARK, but that did not keep him from pressing toward it,

Philippians 3:12-14 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (13) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

We have the Son. We have that ETERNAL LIFE. Now let us also press toward the MARK! Never lower the MARK to some lower standard. Keep the MARK right where Jesus left it. John says,

1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.