

# Rock Solid Testimony to Eternal Life in the Son – 1 John 5:6-12

**Introduction** – In the kindness of God, we have been given objective and subjective testimonies to the finished work of Jesus Christ. It is to this rock-solid testimony that we cling to by faith. As the old song says, “...nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

**Through Water and Blood** (v6) – This verse has been subject to many interpretations. However, keep the context of the false teachers that John has been battling and the lies from Cerinthus in mind. There was a teaching that Jesus, the man, was given the Christ (the divine) at His baptism and that the divine left Jesus just before His crucifixion, all of a sudden, this term, “*through the water and the blood*” makes sense. John is referring to the Incarnation, baptism, suffering and substitutionary death of Jesus Christ, stressing the unity of His entire earthly career. This testimony is the foundation of the declaration of faith. What do we say when asked, “Christian, what do you believe?”

**The Testimony of the Holy Spirit** – The Spirit has come to bear witness to exactly this – that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus was the Christ before His baptism and He was the Christ after His death on the cross. And therefore, Jesus was identified with us in His baptism and we are identified with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. The Spirit is not only love; the Spirit is truth and testifies to this truth.

**The Three Witnesses** (vv7-8) – All Greek texts and English translations have the three witnesses on earth: *the Spirit, the water, and the blood*. Not all have the three witnesses in heaven: *the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit*. This is known as the Johannine Comma and is found in the Latin Vulgate, and through quite a long story, it was also placed in Erasmus’s Greek Text which became the Textus Receptus (the Received Text). There are strong arguments that this is a scribal insertion and not in the original or any early copies. However, it remains an issue, before simply removing it, for the church to determine as the church that it should be removed.

Nevertheless, the point remains the same. There are three witnesses that bring a unified testimony. The Spirit is noted first for He is the active and living witness and the Spirit through the church testifies to the work of Jesus through the testimony to His baptism (and our identification in that) and to His death on the cross (and our participation in that). These testimonies are declared in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

**God’s Testimony** (vv9-12) – The summary of these verses is this: When God testifies, we have a moral obligation to believe.

**How Much More** (v9) – You listen to the testimony of the apostles’, John is saying. How much more then, should you hear the testimony of God, the testimony of the miracles of Jesus and His apostles, the testimony of His resurrection (Rom 1:4), and the testimony of the Spirit by which we cry out, “*Abba, Father*” (Rom 8:15).

**Calling God a Liar** (v10) – The one who listens to the objective witness that God has given, the many infallible proofs (Acts 1:3), that one has a subjective witness within. The one who rejects the former does not and cannot have the latter, because he has called God a liar. Your subjective testimony of the work of Jesus in your heart is a wonderful gift from God and should not be despised. But it is not the objective foundation of the truth, which is the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

**Absolute Antithesis** (vv11-12) – If you want eternal life, do not look to yourself, do not look inside yourself. If you want eternal life, look to Jesus Christ – to the Incarnation, the life, the crucifixion, the resurrection – of the God-Man, Jesus Christ. See Him in your baptism. Renew covenant with Him here at this Table. But to say this is to say that there is no alternative to this story – not unto eternal life.

**Eternal Life** – What Jesus gives us is eternal life, which is far more than duration – but it is that. And that makes a difference, a great difference to many. For many, life holds little joy because death always looms on the horizon. But those who live in the witness of God have abundant life and joy (1 John 1:4). When we live in hope of everlasting future life, we can live an abundant present life, whatever may come.

Just like Jesus....