



Daily Devotionals

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1 JOHN 5:6-12 FOUR WITNESSES

⁶ *This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.* ⁷ *For there are three that testify:* ⁸ *the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.* ⁹ *We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.* ¹⁰ *Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.* ¹¹ *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.* ¹² *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

There are four witnesses to the identity of Jesus Christ as the Promised One who is to come – the Messiah, the incarnate Son of God. Three of those witnesses are objective in origin, while the remaining one is subjective. We see in the Gospel narratives the witnesses of the water at the baptism of Jesus and of the blood through his atoning sacrifice on Calvary. These stand as historic and material testimonies in the experience of the world to the identity of Jesus. He was not just a great teacher, a holy man or a temporary vessel of God's Spirit in the world. Through the voice of God and the descent of the Spirit on Jesus at the Jordan River and the raising of the crucified Jesus to life in Jerusalem, his identity as the Christ was revealed. Later the third witness, the Holy Spirit testified to Jesus as the Son of God. Although Jesus' resurrection was weeks before the Feast of Pentecost, it was only then, when the Spirit descended upon the Disciples that 3000 people believed and were baptized (Acts 2:41). This fulfilled the words Jesus said to his disciples before he was crucified.

²⁶ *“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”* (John 15:26)

And,

¹³ *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.* ¹⁴ *He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”* (John 16:13-14)

The fourth witness is the witness of human experience. The transforming experience of a living faith in Jesus Christ is a testimony both to the faithful individual and to the watching world that Jesus is truly the Lord of all. Our testimony comes from a seminal change in the way we view the world and our own life in it. We are given an eternal perspective that removes our natural human emphasis on ourselves and frees us to live lives of service to others – lives that are radically different than our worldly neighbors. Such lives draw the attention of others and give strength to our announcement of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Lord God, as you have blessed me by revealing yourself to me and making me aware of your saving work in the world, may I be a blessing to my neighbors by the way I live in obedience to your will. Guide me through your Spirit into a life that will be a positive witness to you, your love for the world. Amen.

Chuck+

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