

## Message 12 in the Series: Just So You Know

### *Faith on Trial: A Winning Prosecution*

Text: 1 John 5:1-21

Prosecutors never take a case to court simply based upon a theory.

They must build their case upon hard evidence which can be supported by credible witnesses. If not, the bad guy goes free.

This is true of our faith as well. If our faith stands solely on theory, it will not be able to stand the trials we face in this world, and for that cause, the bad guys, which in this case would be doubt, fear, and deception, are allowed to run free.

To successfully prosecute doubt, fear, and deception - to bind them and put them away for good - the only successful strategy is truth. As John would point us to, "That which was from the beginning."

The trial of faith is unique, in the fact, we may find our self both prosecutor and defendant (a spiritual "countersuit" of sorts).

It is a true saying, Jesus Christ is our savior. He came to deliver us from sin, to give us abundant life, peace, and living hope. He came to give us victory over this world, and our faith is key to our victory.

**1 John 5:4-5** <sup>(4)</sup> For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>(5)</sup> Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

We cannot know Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, in theory only. A theory is a set of beliefs or principles that have yet to be proven by way of practice.

The Bible states faith to be the evidence of things unseen. That evidence is the actions produced by faith. "Faith without works is dead" – "I will show you my faith by my works" – Quotes of James.

So, when your faith is on trial, what evidence will you have to present? Who are the witnesses whom you will call to the stand?

Will you be able to take the stand in your own defense?

#### 1. Our Testimony

**1 John 5:1-3** <sup>(1)</sup> Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. <sup>(2)</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. <sup>(3)</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

The question. Do you love God's children, your brothers and sisters in Christ, the church? Do you love God? Love can only be proven by our actions (practice).

We can know our love for God's family is true through our obedience to Him (practice). Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Love is known by its actions (practice).

Beyond the testimony of our self, we have the witness of the Holy Spirit.

#### 2. The Holy Spirit's Testimony

Concerning Jesus, John writes:

**1 John 5:6** 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. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

When Christ's forerunner, John the Baptist, was baptizing crowds of people in the Jordan River, he admitted to them,

*"I baptize you with water, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I am; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

The cleansing power of Jesus Christ goes way beyond that of water. He washes us by the cleansing power of His blood, which is symbolized in water baptism.

With our sins washed away, we are regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

The promise of the Holy Spirit is given by Him to all who receive Him. Speaking of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, when He comes, "He will testify about Me."

Along with the Holy Spirit, we have, what is known as the sacraments of the church - water baptism and the Lord's supper, in which, we drink from the cup representing His blood shed on Calvary for us.

Through the practice of these sacraments, we attest to the abiding and present effect of the life and death of Jesus Christ through the work and witness of the Holy Spirit.

**1 John 5:7-8** <sup>(7)</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>(8)</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

These three testify to the same thing: the incarnation of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Last, but certainly not least, we have the testimony of God Himself.

### 3. God's Testimony

**1 John 5:9** 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.

- After John baptized Jesus, the heavens were opened, and John saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove. When the dove came to rest on Jesus, a voice was heard from Heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
- Jesus, on top of the mountain where He was transformed from His earthly form into a supernatural form, was seen by three of His disciples speaking with Elijah and Moses. Frightened and not knowing what they should be saying or doing, Peter suggested building small shelters for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses. Suddenly, a cloud formed, and they heard a voice from the cloud saying, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!"
- **Hebrews 1:1-2**  
God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

John writes,

*"The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself."*

**1 John 5:11-12** <sup>(11)</sup> And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>(12)</sup> He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Our faith is everything. We must always be prepared should it be subpoenaed to come under trial.

Jesus has built His church upon rock. This rock is a personal knowledge of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God through revelation from God.

God has provided us with His witness, His testimony, and His testimony is true. We must place our complete trust in Him and Him alone.

You must always let God be true and everybody else a liar; even yourself, if what you are saying or feeling opposes God's truth.

John sums up his case with these words as part of his closing statement:

**1 John 5:13** 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.