

## The First Epistle of JOHN

### Chapter 5:6-13

## “The Witness!”

### I) THE WITNESS! (v6-8)

(v6) **The SPIRIT bears witness - *The Spirit is truth!* - John 4:23-27-** *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."*

**(Insight: The water and blood refer to Christ BAPTISM (water) and DEATH (blood).)**

### (v7,8) The witness of the TRINITY:

> **WHAT IS THE TRINITY?** – While the doctrine of the Trinity is a central fact of Christian faith, it is also beyond human comprehension and has no parallel in experience. It is best defined as holding that, while God is one, He exists as three persons. These persons are equally worthy of adoration, worship and faith. Yet the doctrine of the unity of the Godhead makes clear that they are not three separate gods, like three separate human beings, such as Peter, James, and John. The persons of the Trinity, while having equal attributes, differ in certain properties. Hence, the First Person of the Trinity is called the Father. The Second Person is called the Son, and is sent forth by the Father. The Third person is the Holy Spirit who is sent forth by the Father and the Son. This is called in theology, the doctrine of procession..." Rob Bowman of the Christian Research Institute states: "The three persons, consequently, are not three parts of God, but three personal distinctions within God, each of whom is fully God."

> **GOD'S EXISTENCE - In the Bible** – *The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God. The fact that there is a God is assumed throughout the Scriptures. The first verse in the Bible, Genesis 1:1, is an example; "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" God's existence is presented as a statement of fact that needs no proof. "The fool has said in his heart, 'there is no God'" (Psalm 14:1)*

- **In nature** – Even apart from the Bible, there are certain evidences for the existence of God. **(1)** Mankind has always believed in a universal being. **(2)** Creation must have a creator. The universe could not originate without a first cause. **(3)** The wonderful design, which we see in creation demands an infinite designer. **(4)** Since man is an intelligent being, his creator must have been of a much higher order to create him. **Let's read Romans 1:18-32 for insight.**

> **GOD IS ONE; GOD IS PLURAL** – (a) **GOD IS ONE** – **Deuteronomy 6:4** – *"Hear O Israel; the LORD our God, the LORD is one!"* The Hebrew word *echad*, meaning "one" in the sense of a compound UNITY, used always to describe the divine unity. *"This is what the LORD says--Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come-- yes, let him foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one." (Isaiah 44:6-8). "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me." (Isaiah 45:5) – "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5) "...there is no God but one" (1 Corinthians 8:4).*

**(b) GOD IS PLURAL** – The divine name "God" is a plural word; plural pronouns are used of God. The Hebrew word for God (*elohim*) is used most frequently in the plural form. God often uses plural pronouns in speaking of Himself, e.g.: *"Let US make man in our image" (Genesis 1:26); "And who will go for US?" (Isaiah 6:8); "The man has now become like one of US." (Genesis 3:22)*

> **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD** (found in Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit)- *Omnipresent* - Jeremiah 23:23, 24; *Omnipotent* - Jeremiah 32:17, 27; *Omniscient* - Job 34:21; *Eternal* - Genesis 21:33, Isaiah 40:28; *Holy* (free from all defilement, absolutely pure) - Isaiah 6:3; *Righteous* - Psalms 145:17; *Merciful* (doesn't give us what we deserve) - Deuteronomy 4:31; *Faithful* - Deuteronomy 7:9; *Immutable* (He doesn't change) - Malachi 3:6; *Truthful* - Titus 1:1,2; *Awesome* - Deuteronomy 7:21.

> **TRINITY IN CHURCH HISTORY**: The early church fathers, such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Origen, believed and taught the Trinity. However, the doctrine of the Trinity was disregarded by several ***FALSE*** religious systems, which emerged during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These false religions (which call themselves Christians) include Unitarianism, Mormonism, New Thought/modern spiritism (New Age), and Jehovah's Witnesses.

> **THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT** - **Four-Fold Way**: (1) The plural name of the deity is Elohim; (2) Personal pronouns used of the deity is found in Genesis 1:26 – *“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.’* Genesis 11:7 – *“Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”* Isaiah 6:8 – *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’*”; (3) Theophanies (“appearances of God”), especially the “Angel of the Lord” – Genesis 16 and 18. (4) The work of the Holy Spirit – Genesis 1:2 – *“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”* Judges 6:34 – *“then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon.”*

> **THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT** - **Five-Fold Way**: (1) **The baptism of Christ** – Matthew 3:16, 17 (2) **In the baptismal formula** – Matthew 28:19 (3) **The Apostolic Benediction** – 2 Corinthians 13:14 (4) **Christ Himself teaches it** – John 14:16 (5) **The New Testament sets forth** – **A FATHER who is God** – Romans 1:7; **A SON who is God** – Hebrews 1:8; **A SPIRIT who is God** – Acts 5:3,4 *“The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead invisible (John 1:18); the Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested (John 1:14-18); The Spirit is all the fullness of the Godhead acting immediately upon the creature (1 Corinthians 2:9,10).*

> **THE TRINITY IN THE WORK OF SALVAITON** – 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 1:3,14 - The **FATHER** is presented as electing, loving and bestowing. The **SON** is presented as suffering, redeeming and upholding the universe. The **HOLY SPIRIT** is presented as regenerating, indwelling, baptizing, energizing, and sanctifying.

> **THE TRINITY AND YOU!** - The most distinctive characteristic of the persons of the triune family is their selfless love for one another. Each esteems and defers to the other in a way that makes the original family of the trinity a model for the Christian family of believers in the church. The Father gives all authority to the Son and bears witness to Him, as does Jesus to Himself (John 8:18). Yet the Son claims nothing for Himself; He gives all glory to the Father who has sent Him (John 12:49-50). The key to unlocking the mystery of the trinity is to observe how the persons of the triune family give themselves to one another in selfless love. They are always at one another's disposal. The Father serves the Son; the Son serves the Father; Father and Son defer to the Holy Spirit, who in turn, serves and defers to the Father and Son in a oneness that is eternally dynamic and inexhaustible. The mutual love of the triune persons spills over into the creation and is seen in their generous cooperation in saving the lost (John 14:15-17,25-26). Since God is the original family-in-unity, so Christians are urged by Jesus and the apostles to imitate the divine family in the believing fellowship, as Jesus taught so clearly when He washed the disciples' feet (John 13:14-15). The principal trait of the triune family is speaking the truth in love; this encourages a spirit of generosity among Christians as they reflect the divine family in calling the lost to come home. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

## **II) THE TESTIMONY! (v9-13)**

> **God's threefold testimony:**

**(v9) #1- God's testimony through the SCRIPTURES – Luke 24:44-48 (Jesus fulfilled over 400 prophecies!)**

**(v10) #2- God's testimony by the HOLY SPIRIT - Rom 8:14-17 - *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.***

**(v11-13) #3- God's testimony in the CHRISTIAN - *Hope (eternal life), Faith (life in His Son) & Love (to know & believe in the Son of God)! - Acts 1:8 - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.***