

1 John: The Signs of Life

1:1-2:2 Summary (“Fellowship”)

- 1:1-4, Objective: Fellowship
- 1:5-2:2, Obstacle: Sin

2:3-5:12, Exposition (“Know”)

2:3-28, First Panel

- :3-6, **Righteousness**
- :7-17, **Love**
- :18-28, **Belief**

2:29-4:6, Second Panel

- 2:29-3:10, **Righteousness**
- 3:11-24, **Love**
- 4:1-6, **Belief**

4:7-5:12, Third Panel

- 4:7-18, **Love**
- 4:19-5:4, **Righteousness**
- 5:5-12, **Belief**

5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

The Third Panel of Signs

Things to Look For

- How did the Lord Jesus come “by water” and “by blood”?
- Why does John emphasize that he came by both, not just one?
- What is the witness of the Spirit?
- To what does the third mention of water and spirit refer?
- What is “the witness of God” mentioned in 5:9?
- What other passage in the NT does John recall with his series of witnesses in 5:6-12?
- Compare the chronological order of the witnesses in 5:6-12 with the order in which John mentions them.
- What does 5:10 add to the discussion of the witnesses?

The Three Witnesses, 5:6-7: Past

6a “This is he that **came**”

6a, Water and Blood (past)

Jhn 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with **water**, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Jhn 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out **blood** and water. 35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

6b, Water and Blood (past, both)

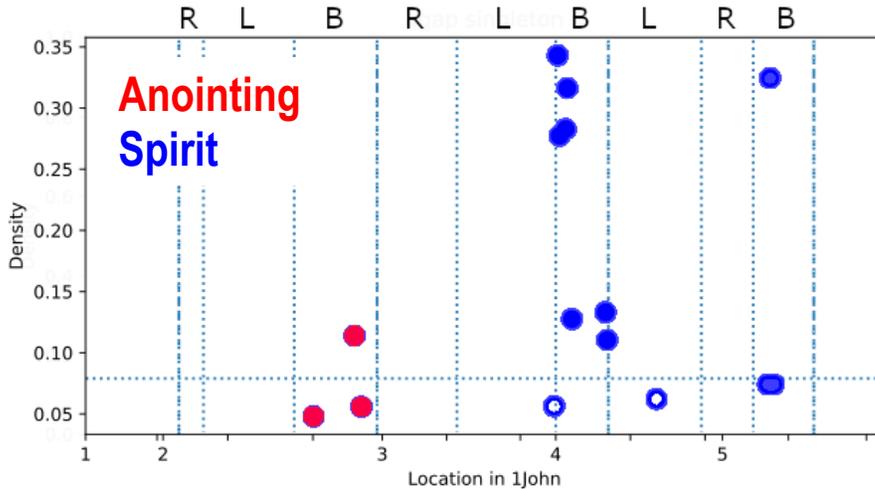
Exo 34:6 ... **The LORD, The LORD God**, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, **forgiving [bearing] iniquity and transgression and sin, ...**

2Co 5:19 ... **God was in Christ**, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

The Three Witnesses, 5:6-7: Present

6c “It is the Spirit that beareth witness”
7 “there are three that bear record, the Spirit, the Water, and the Blood”

Romans 8



Role of Spirit in Earlier Belief Sections

1Jn 2:27 But **the anointing** which ye have received of him **abideth** in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as **the same anointing teacheth you** of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1Jn 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and **he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.**

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:** 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

The “Trinity Verse,” 1 John 5:7-8

KJV: 7-8 For there are three that bear record

in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

The Trinity in the NT

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Ghost**:

1 Cor 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same **Spirit**. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same **Lord**. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same **God** which worketh all in all.

2Co 13:14 The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the communion of the **Holy Ghost**, be with you all. Amen.

Eph 4:4 There is one body, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 **One Lord**, one faith, one baptism, 6 **One God and Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the **Father**, through sanctification of the **Spirit**, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of **Jesus Christ**: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

... et cetera, et cetera, et cetera

Evidence for 1 John 5:7b-8a

Only 10 (out of 500) Greek manuscripts of 1 John have it, often in the margin.

All are very late (one from 1362, the others after 1500)

The reading originates in Latin manuscripts from Spain (not the Old Latin or Vulgate)

→ The doctrine is TRUE; the words are probably a COMMENT that got copied into the text.

The Present Witness of the Water and the Blood

Blood → The Lord's Supper ... Why not the body?

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the **blood** of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his **blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his **blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious **blood** of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Water → Baptism ... But isn't NT baptism different than John's?

Act 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto **John's baptism**. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the **baptism of repentance**, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**.

5:9, The Witness of God

1John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and **we** have seen it, and **bear witness**, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;

1Jn 4:14 And **we** have seen and **do testify** that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Jhn 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5	1 John 5
<p>31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. 32 There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. 33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. 34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. 35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.</p>	<p>9 If we receive the witness of men 6 this is he that came by water ...</p>
<p>36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.</p>	<p>9 greater witness 6 not by water only, but by water and blood</p>
<p>37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. 38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. 39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.</p>	<p>9 this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son</p>