

1 John 5:9-10

[1 John 5:9-12](#) says,

^{1Jn 5:9} **If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. ¹⁰ He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: that 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.**

In reading through these verses, please notice the seven statements that John makes.

[1 John 5:9](#) – The witness of God **is** greater than the witness of men.

[1 John 5:10](#) – If a person truly believes in the Son of God he **has** the witness in himself.

[1 John 5:10](#) – If a man does not believe God, then he **has made** God to be a liar.

[1 John 5:11](#) – God **has given** us life.

[1 John 5:11](#) – God’s life **is** in His Son.

[1 John 5:12](#) – If you have the Son, you **have** the life of God.

[1 John 5:12](#) – If you do not have the Son, you **do not have** the life of God.

Now, I want you to appreciate that each one of these statements is in the indicative mood, the present tense, active voice with the exception of v11 – “**God has given us eternal life**” which is in the aorist tense (past tense). In simple terms, what that means is that John is making declarations about spiritual truth. These statements are true and need to be fully appreciated by the reader. He is making deeply spiritual statements that are essential for every believer to understand and fathom. In other words, these spiritual truths are utterly vital to a believer’s understanding of what the Christian life is and how it actually operates and functions. No believer can be effective in their Christian life if they live in a kind of intellectual vacuum relative to what God says is true. I hope that everyone deeply appreciates that God never engages in “idle talk”. We do that all the time. We are just talking and just rambling with someone. It is just idle talk. However, God is never like that. He never just talks for the sake of making conversation. Whenever God speaks, what He is saying is both vital and critical to the Christian life. These seven statements that John has made are in the indicative mood which means that John is making vitally important declarations. He is saying things that are vital, central, essential, important, and necessary for every Christian to fully absorb and integrate into their Christian life.

Without overstating the importance of this section of Scripture, what seems to be absolutely critical is that there are certain truths that create what I want to call a “sustaining influence” on our life. One such truth for me personally is the sovereignty of God. There are some things that we will never know that ultimately will have no impact on our life. They simply are not essential things for living. However, there are other vital truths that are utterly critical to be spiritually successful in the Christian life, and these seven truths that John is giving to us fall into that category. What is important to appreciate is that as the political environment continually changes and the information age and technology continue to

advance almost exponentially that things will become very uncertain and will constantly make people very nervous, uneasy, and edgy. What is going to happen to the economic system, will our country experience civil war, will there be a food shortage, or will there be a nuclear holocaust? The anxious scenarios are endless and at times people have become so absorbed with the world that they lose sight of God's spiritual realities. They lose sight of God. Now, what John is leading us to is a settled certainty and assurance regarding our Christian life and our eternal destiny. [1 John 5:13](#) becomes his overriding point when he says,

1Jn 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

It means “**that you may know**” with both absolute confidence and total certainty that the eternal life that God has given to you is more than sufficient to see you through what may be considered some very difficult moments.

So, what has John said in these indicative statements? Well, first he says in v9 that the witness of God **is** greater than the witness of men. Just think for a moment of the “**witness of God**” and how great it really has been. From [Genesis 3](#) onward, God the Father has consistently testified as to the coming of His Son. God has given one prophetic utterance after another regarding the birth of Christ, where it would be, that it would be a virgin birth, and many other undeniable prophetic details that eventually came to reality. Then He has given as many prophetic utterances about the death of Christ as could possibly be desired. Not one important detail was left out. God revealed to the exact day when His Son would ride into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey and what songs the people would be singing as He did. He described crucifixion nearly 700 years before it was even invented and said that was how His Son would be murdered. He prophesied the price of betrayal, where the coins would be cast down, that Jesus' clothes would be gambled for, as well as prophecies relative to the one who betrayed Christ. He would be buried in a rich man's tomb, numbered with transgressors, spat upon and beaten, and that He would be silent before His accusers.

There are over 60 specific Old Testament prophecies related to His crucifixion alone – each of which were fulfilled in detail in the New Testament. Many believe there are nearly 270 specific Old Testament prophecies related to Christ alone. Then we have the witness of the Father at the baptism of Christ as well as on the day of His crucifixion where the earth went pitch black dark from noon to 3pm. The Father witnessed to the reality of who Christ was when He raised Christ from the dead. The Father has given a sure witness to the reality of His Son, His death, and His resurrection, and to deny the reality of God the Father's witness is to call God a “**liar**”. John says that the world is inclined to accept the witness of men on issues in which “**the witness of God is greater**”. It is really a very crucial issue who an individual determines that they are going to believe – either men or God. In fact, their eternal destiny fully depends on that decision.

Then on top of all of that, believers have the witness of the Holy Spirit in their life (v6-8). Let me emphasize this in an emphatic and somewhat negative way just to make the point. If someone claims to be a believer and to know Christ, but in reality they know nothing personally of the work of the Holy Spirit in their life or if they are always doubting the reality of the truths of Scripture relative to the

undeniable historical person and work of Christ, then most likely that individual has never truly been saved. Because the Holy Spirit is God, He certainly has the power to provide ample evidences and proofs of God the Father, Christ the Son, and Himself to the believer. So, if someone is always doubting the reality of these truths and they have never truly experienced the life giving and indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in their life, then all of that simply points to the fact that in all likelihood they are not saved. Maybe some church or some individual has convinced them that they are, but the reality of the Holy Spirit's work in a believer's life cannot be denied. If the Holy Spirit is truly indwelling an individual, then He will constantly be bearing witness and giving undeniable testimony of the work of Christ and the person of Christ in that believer's life. So, if someone is always struggling with the most basic and fundamental of biblical truths, then they have all the reason in the world to wonder whether or not they have truly been saved. Please remember that familiarity with the truth does not constitute biblical salvation.

Think of it this way. The Almighty God of heaven has made the reality of Christ fully known, and if an individual is not willing to accept God's ordained eternal truths related to Christ and provided to them by revelation of God Himself, then they are not saved and may never be saved. An individual **MUST** believe the witness of God. You do not have to take my word or the word of any other man, but please do not reject the very testimony and witness of God the Father. The gospel message concerning Christ is not something that men have made up. Even time is dated to the very birth of Christ. The gospel message is not some kind of historical myth that has been falsely perpetrated on the world – not at all. Nothing about the gospel message has ever been hidden from mankind. The ultimate issue has always been that men love their sin more than they love God. [John 3](#) is clear that men love darkness more than they love the light of God's truth and God's way of salvation. Men had much rather trust in their own foolish ideas than the reality of God's faithful and truthful witness to them. If an individual rejects the testimony of the Father regarding His Son, they are not saved and most likely will never be saved. Someone may ask me why I believe so deeply in the Bible as opposed to science or men's philosophies or cultural opinions. My answer is simple – God wrote the Bible, and both God and the witness of God is greater than any witness or bogus idea that men may present. If a person is ever going to come to Christ, then they must believe the truth and revelation that God has given concerning His Son. There are no other salvific alternatives.

Someone may say, "Well, I just do not believe?" If that is the case, then my heart is deeply grieved for them. It is not just a matter of what that individual may think or how they may reason. It is not a matter of their world view or some kind of personal philosophy that they have developed – not at all. The issue is that they simply are not willing to accept the testimony and witness of God. They actually feel much more comfortable in rejecting His witness. They are much more comfortable in elevating their own personal ideas and opinions above the very testimony and witness of God Himself. Listen to how Paul stated some of this in [1 Corinthians 1:18, 21, 24](#).

1Co 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1Co 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1Co 1:24 **but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

1 Corinthians 2:14 says,

1Co 2:14 **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**

God provides the greatest witness possible to men, and to them it is just “**foolishness**”, utter nothingness. The word for “**foolishness**” is the Greek word “*moria*” from where the English word for “moron” is derived. It means absurdity.¹ The tragedy is that to those who are actually perishing and who are spiritually dead and without Christ, the only message that can actually save them is considered to be absurd. We can be assured that God detests this kind of “know-it-all” arrogance and ignorance in the face of the witness that He has clearly provided.² Renn’s Dictionary adds the following relative to the word “**foolishness**”,

*There is a notable consistency between the Old and New Testament concepts of "fool," "foolishness." Both Hebrew and Greek terminology stress that folly is invariably linked with perverse, immoral behavior. And while the rational element is not entirely absent from the vocabulary, it is significantly less prevalent than the moral perspective. Fools and foolishness are condemned throughout the Bible—not because people are intellectually deficient, but because they are in a state of rebellion against God.*³

What men are denying is a revelation from God, a clear testimony and witness from God. Nothing, absolutely nothing in the entire universe could be more certain and trustworthy than the testimony and witness of God the Father. From the very beginning, men have always exhibited this unusual propensity and proclivity to believe anything but God, anything but the truth. They will believe the newspaper, some liberal college professor, some articulate writer, or some new, far out idea that some fool has developed. Oprah seems to have more influence on what people believe than the testimony of God Himself. Well, if that is what they want to base their life on, then just go ahead. So, that is the first declaration – God Himself has given testimony to the reality of His Son Jesus Christ and the salvific mandate associated with His name.

ENDNOTES

¹ Strong, 1248.

² Harris, *moria*, electronic page.

³ Renn, 402.

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