

Says Who? **John 5:31-40**

31 "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. 33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. 35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. 36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish — the very works that I do — bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. 37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. 38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. NKJV

Jesus enters a new area of controversy with the Jewish leaders. Was He claiming all this for Himself without any collaborating witnesses? He was claiming this special relationship with the Father but was this all His own accretion without anyone backing Him up?

The answer to that was no! Was there proof positive for His claims? The answer was yes!

Jesus now calls on a four fold witness to His deity, His unique relationship with God.

I. The Witness of John the Baptist.

A. 33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. 35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

B. God had sent John for that purpose, to point out who the Messiah would be.

1. John 1:6-8 (NKJV) 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

2. John 1:32-34, 32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." NKJV

C. He is the first to see Him as the Sacrifice for Sin.

1. John 1:29-31, 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30

This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' NKJV

II. The Witness of the works of Christ.

A. Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know NKJV

1. Here we see that the credentials that the Lord Jesus had were the miracles that He performed. This idea today that there are those who have the same power that Jesus had is, to my judgment, blasphemy. You see, these miracles which He performed attested that He was who He claimed to be. And, friend, there weren't just a few isolated instances of healing. He didn't put on healing services. He took no offerings. He didn't have people get in a line and come by Him. He moved out into the crowds, into the highways and the byways. And as He moved along, people were healed. I've called attention to this in the Gospels again and again, and it is important to refresh our memories concerning this. Friend, there were not just a half dozen, or even a hundred or two whom He had healed; there were literally thousands of people whom He had healed. It was openly demonstrated. Nobody in that day contradicted the fact that He healed—he would have been a fool if he had. It is over nineteen hundred years later in a musty library in New York City, thousands of miles removed, that scholars can sit down and write books declaring that they don't believe Jesus performed miracles. But that doesn't prove a thing, friend. His miracles were His credentials. His works bore witness that the Father had sent Him.¹

B. This Gospel lists seven of these works:

1. The turning of water into wine (2:1-11)
2. The healing of the official's son (4:43-54)
3. The healing of a paralytic (5:1-15)
4. The feeding of the multitude (6:1-14)
5. The walking on the water (6:16-21)
6. The cure of the blind man (9:1-41)
7. The raising of Lazarus (11:1-44).

III. The Witness of the Father.

A. At His baptism.

1. Matthew 3:16-17 (NKJV) 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up

immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

B. On the Mount of Transfiguration.

1. Matthew 17:5 (NKJV) 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

C. Before the crucifixion.

1. John 12:28 (NKJV) 28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

D. 1 John 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.

IV. The Witness of the Scriptures.

1 John 5:9-13

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. 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. NKJV

The question is often asked, "If Christianity is rational and true, why is it that most educated people don't believe it?" The answer is simple. They don't believe it for the same reason that most uneducated people don't believe it. They don't want to believe it.

—Paul Little

Yet, here they had the greatest of all God's manifestations standing right before their eyes—Jesus, the Word, the visible expression of God to people. *LAB Commentary*

What have I learned? Why, I have learned what I least of all suspected, that I, who went to America to convert the Indians, was never myself converted to God!

—John Wesley

¹McGee, J. Vernon: Thru the Bible Commentary. electronic ed. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1981, S. Jn 5:36