

1 John 5:6-8 “The Spirit, the water & the blood”

“This is He who came by water and blood -- Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.”

Jesus Christ is God. God is a Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the Word of God! “He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God” (Revelation 19:13). In a profound sense, the written Word of God, the Bible, is the revelation of Jesus Christ. He is present from Genesis to Revelation. He is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).

Jesus Christ came by water and blood. In John 19:34 we read, “But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.” The blood and water that flowed from Jesus after His death testified to the reality of His death.

God commanded Moses to baptize God’s people under the old covenant with water and blood. “For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people” (Hebrews 9:19). “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22).

Today, we still have three that bear witness on earth—the Spirit, the water, and the blood. The water and the blood testify to the cross work of Christ, to His atonement by which He purchased redemption for His chosen people. His merits are applied (imputed) to us by faith alone. “By His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

When a person is born again, the Holy Spirit falls on him (Acts 10:44). In our baptism, the water is poured out upon us. The water is sprinkled upon us, just as God’s people under the old covenant were sprinkled with the blood, as an image of Christ’s saving work. In baptism, the Spirit and the water testify to purification, cleansing, atonement for sin, and the redemption purchased for us by Christ in His death and resurrection, which is applied to us by the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit illuminates the Word of God for all believers: “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come” (John 16:13). Water baptism is a sign of God’s covenant, His everlasting covenant of grace, made with Abraham and fulfilled in Christ.

In the Lord’s Supper, we drink of the fruit of the vine, which is the blood of the new covenant. “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28). “In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”” (1 Corinthians 11:25).

In every Christian, in every child of God, there is a threefold witness: the Spirit, the water, and the blood.

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)