



## Three Witnesses

## Recap

1 John 5:1-5

## Recap

How would you define a "**victorious**" Christian life?

Are you **living** it?

## Recap

**Verse 1a:** starting point, believe=become

**Verse 1b-3:** Proof of faith; love God, love His children, obey His commands, keep His commands

**Verse 4-5:** the tools of victory, faith and belief

Victory is in **trusting**, not trying. [Joseph Ola Okunola](#)

## Recap How Does the Enemy Rob Us of Victory

Focus on the **wrong** thing "Did God really say..."

Make victory dependent on our **behaviour**

Make us think we are defeated every time we **sin**

Make us believe we are all **alone**

Make us believe we are beyond God's **reach**

## A letter to My Younger Self, Rosalyn Palmer

Change and healing only happen when you can come to a sincere and heartfelt appreciation of all of your **life experiences**, even the unpleasant and painful ones, and see how they have led you to being who you are today. To move beyond this will need work.

## A letter to My Younger Self, Rosalyn Palmer

For starters, write a letter to your younger self. It is really cathartic and can **heal** an inner part of you that you carry around with you every day. You can share the **wisdom** you have today and allow your inner self to know that even the **struggles** were not in vain and that you were never **alone**.

## A letter to My Younger Self, Rosalyn Palmer

Choose a younger you at a time that was **difficult**. Be clear about how old the younger you that you are writing to is. Be real and authentic and drill down to a few really specific **lessons** or topics that you wish your younger you had known or felt at a heart level at that time. This isn't a shopping list or a way to put pressure on that former you. Be **kind**, imagine that younger you as you would a dearly **loved** younger member of your family.

If you could send a letter to yourself in the past, what would you say about your **faith** journey?

1 John 5:6-12

"John places enormous significance upon faithful **witness** as he nears the conclusion of his letter. This theme recalls the opening statement, "The life appeared; we have seen it and **testify** to it" (1Jn 1:2-note). In chapter 5 John employs forms of "**witness**" and "**testimony**" ten times in five verses (1Jn 5:6, 7, four times in 1Jn 5:9, three times in 1Jn 5:10, and 1Jn 5:11)." [P. Williamson](#)

When John was writing his three letters to the churches in Asia Minor, it was evident that "the disciple whom Jesus loved" was faced with people who were not dealing straight-up with the person of Jesus Christ. They were responding to his person and his life with an **emotional** or **metaphysical** or **mystic** response. But Jesus Christ is a historical figure. He deserves to be taken as he was presented in his life and by the historical record that we have. The true nature of the Person of Jesus is the concern of John. [Dr. Michael A. Milton](#)

And Jesus Christ was revealed as God's Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by **water** only, but by water and **blood**. And the **Spirit**, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony. [1 John 5:6 NLT](#)

This is he who came by **water** and **blood**—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the **Spirit** is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. [ESV](#)

For there are **three** that **testify**: the **Spirit** and the **water** and the **blood**; and these three agree. [1 John 5:7-8](#)

## Water

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' **I did not recognize** him as the Messiah, but I have been **baptizing** with water so that he might be **revealed** to Israel." [John 1:29-31](#)

All **four** Gospels have the baptism account

## Water

The Mishnah specifies what makes the water clean or unclean, and expresses a preference for a larger, fresher body of water, "For in it persons may immerse themselves and immerse others" (Babylonian Talmud, Mishnah). So Yochanan (John the Baptizer) immersing people in the "Living waters" of the River Jordan was perfectly within Jewish **law** and **practice** at the time. Did Yochanan invent **baptism** at this time? Or was it part of **Jewish tradition and practice** before that? No he didn't, and yes it was.

## Water

The Hebrew noun for a ritual bath (mikveh) can help us understand a bit more about the Jewish notion of immersion. Often the Hebrew language reveals keys in the Hebrew thought behind the words. The word mikveh shares the same root as the word for **hope** (tikvah), for line (kav) and **alignment**, and the concept of **hoping or waiting on God** (kiviti l'Adonai).

## Water

So why did Jesus need to be baptized? Because central to Jesus's purpose in being the Saviour of the world is his own faithful **obedience** to the Father. He was obedient even to the point of death on a cross [Johnathan Pennington](#)

## Water

Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I saw this happen to Jesus, so testify that **he is the Chosen One of God.**" [John 1:32-34](#)

One aspect of water is proof of Jesus **claims** about Himself

## Blood

But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the **blood of Jesus**, his Son, **cleanses** us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we **confess** our sins to him, he is faithful and just to **forgive** our sins and to **cleanse** us from all wickedness. [1 John 1:7-9](#)

## Blood

Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. **It's your sins that have cut you off from God**. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. [Isaiah 59:1-2](#)

We don't sin and **become** sinners, we sin because we **are** sinners. Sin is not a law that is broken, it is a posture of the **heart**

## Blood

And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, for this is my **blood**, which confirms the **covenant** between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many." [Matthew 26:27-28](#)

In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was **purified with blood**. For without the shedding of blood, there is no **forgiveness**. [Hebrews 9:22](#)

## Blood

The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around **forgiving** sins?" [Luke 7:49](#)

"What is he saying? This is **blasphemy!**  
Only **God** can forgive sins!" [Mark 2:7](#)

So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the **authority** on earth to forgive sins. [Mark 2:10](#)

for unless you believe that **I AM** who I claim to be, you will die in your sins. [John 8:24b](#)

## Spirit

The angel answered, "The **Holy Spirit** will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." [Luke 1:35](#)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was **led by the Spirit** into the wilderness, [Luke 4:1](#)

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, **filled with the Holy Spirit's power**. [Luke 4:14](#)

## Spirit

"**The Spirit of the Lord is on me**, because he has **anointed** me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**" Luke 4:18-20

## Spirit

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are **born again**, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." John 3:3

Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of **water** and the **Spirit**. Humans can reproduce only human life, but **the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life**. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' Vs 5-7

## Spirit

One day when the crowds were being **baptized**, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the **Holy Spirit**, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy." Luke 3:21-22

For he is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives him the **Spirit without limit**. John 3:34

## Spirit

So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a **life-giving spirit**." 1 Corinthians 15:45

Now the Lord is the **Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the **Spirit**. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

## Spirit

He will **baptize** you with the **Holy Spirit** and with fire. [Matthew 3:11b](#)

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with **water**, but in a few days you will be baptized with the **Holy Spirit**." [Acts 1:4b-5](#)

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **Whoever has the Son has life**; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. [1 John 5:11-12](#)

## Three Witnesses (The Life)

**Water Start**

Repentance, resurrection, choosing THE new life

A true disciple is one who has authentically changed their life **direction** and **continually** gives areas of their lives to God.

**Blood**

Forgiveness, sacrifice,

2nd gen may have adopted Jesus without counting the cost

**Persevere**

A true disciple **continually** seeks forgivenesses and never believes this gift is too **little** or too **far** from them

**Spirit**

Transformation, power, baptism

**Transform**

A true disciple actively **seeks** and **surrenders** to the Spirit

John has taken **snapshots** of Jesus. Ones that would be (and are) critical to the **growth** and **transformation** of any believer, then and now. This is the "life" every believer should have in Jesus.

He asks a unobvious question "have you truly **encountered** the 'real' Jesus?"

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. **For apart from me you can do nothing.** Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! **When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.** This brings great glory to my Father. [John 15:5-8](#)



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