

# Torrey 1988 Why We Need the Holy Spirit: Session 1

## By David Hocking

[Speaker 1]

Good morning, is Dr. David Hocking, who is, of course, the pastor of Calvary Church, Santa Ana, the author of a number of books, my favorite being "The Song of Solomon: Romantic Lovers," the teacher on the Biola--the Radio Bible Teacher. And what most of the Biola community probably doesn't know, Dr. Hocking and a team is traveling and will travel again this year to a number of cities across the United States. In Biola Hour Radio rallies, over 3,500 decisions have been made for Christ. And I hope that sometime along the line, we can give you, really, kind of a feel for what happens in those rallies across the United States where sometimes up to half of the audience that comes, really don't know the Lord, especially when they walk into the building.

Dr. Hocking, there are a lot of people on our campus praying that the Spirit of God will work and move as you address the topic of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. And we welcome you once again, the Lord bless you.

[David Hocking]

I want you to know that Ron Heafer traveled with us the last time we were together, and he had never seen a Biola Rally. I think some of you think probably it's a wheelchair crowd. A few folks that might have listened to Biola in the past might muster all the strength they can get to come out to some church to see what's going on. But it is far different than that. And Ron kind of got a taste of that last time. It was kind of cute. We tried to warn him about be sure you got a seat.

And he just sort of laughed and didn't pay any attention to it. And he was fooling around the back and turned out. But by the time we started, there was no place to sit, and he had to sit on the floor. Oh, poor Ron. Next time he'll learn. But we had a wonderful time. We were in St. Louis and Kansas City. We're fairly new in those areas, at least St. Louis. But how we were thrilled is that auditorium was packed and we saw over 120 people come to Christ that week.

And yes, this year, there's been over 3,000 people who've come to know Christ, over 10,000 in the last five years. We have people around regular Bible study correspondence, and we know about their follow up and their commitment. And we're really excited what God is doing. R. A. Tory was an evangelist that's already been mentioned. So is Dr. Lewis, T. Talbot, under whose leadership that radio ministry began to spread across America. And that ministers to my evangelism heart, because I want to tell you, the world needs Jesus Christ.

There never has been a day when the cities of America are so desperately in need of hearing the true gospel of Jesus Christ. And I hope you'll pray for us. Next week we will be in Baltimore, Maryland, Trenton, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You pray that God will work in a mighty way in the hearts of people. It is true that over half the audience often is secular. They have no religious affiliation. Our largest religious audience in many parts of the country is Roman Catholic, not Protestant, and they usually refer to me as Father David of the Biola Hour.

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to John chapter 3. John chapter 3. Currently, in fact, just beginning on the nationwide Biola Hour is a series on the Holy Spirit, and we chose for this particular Torrey Memorial Bible Conference, a subject that was very important and very dear to

Dr. R. A. Torrey. He was a doctrinal preacher. Perhaps his evangelism heart brought much of that out. But some say one of the finest teachers of Bible doctrine that has ever been in the history of the Church. Whether that's true?

I don't know. But Dr. Torrey has a wonderful book on Jesus Christ. I recommend it to you if you have never read it. It's very fine, excellent book. He also wrote frequently and spoke frequently on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. His day was much like our day, much confusion, much misunderstanding. And I want to approach it from a way that perhaps might be a little bit different. But why do we really need the Holy Spirit? It seems to me that in this particular culture of ours, we're very confident in ourselves.

We're very interested in ourselves, more so than we are in God, much to our shame and embarrassment. But a lot of us sort of crank it through life and make it as best we can, trying to cope, trying to hack it through life without our hearts really sensing the need of the Holy Spirit, we just keep doing our thing, trying to achieve what we want to achieve in life and every now and then, calling God in to bless it and have not perhaps seen the desperate need that's in the heart of every one of us, of the Holy Spirit of God.

Before we look at John chapter three and why we need the Holy Spirit. Just a few basics. The Holy Spirit is God. He is not an influence, not simply a power. He's not an "it." The Holy Spirit is God. He is a real person. Personal pronouns are used of him. He's the God that was active in creation as well as redemption. He was involved in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has mighty power. He is greater than the enemy. We're talking God here. The Holy Spirit is God.

He is a real person, as real as you are. You have a mind to think because he does. You have emotions because he does. You have volitional choices because he does. And in one beautiful sense, that is the sense of his own deity. He is more of a person than we could ever hope to be. And we are people and we relate because of the personality of our Triune God. God is one, not three, but God manifests Himself as Father and Son and Holy Spirit. It is God, the Holy Spirit that we need.

And you can never forget in this discussion that he is God because the fact that he is God not only demonstrates our need of Him but shows a tremendous resource that is available to us if we will walk under the power and control and influence of the Holy Spirit. Now, the first thing I want to deal with today and only today will we get or only this session, I think, because we need the whole time for this one point alone. The reason why we need the Holy Spirit is to be converted and convinced of our relationship to Jesus Christ.

I tell you out of my heart, speaking from an evangelist point of view rather than a pastor teacher, I tell you that there is something wrong in the land among Christians, there are too many so-called Christians who show no evidence in their life that they have ever been born again. The Bible tells us Jesus said it himself that we ought to be aware of something that would happen in the last days. Many he said, not few, but many will say to me, Lord, Lord, have we not done many wonderful works in your name?

Have we not cast out demons in your name? Have we not prophesied in your name? He'll say, depart from me. Workers of iniquity. I never knew you. Obviously, a lot of people who claim a relationship with Jesus Christ, according to Jesus Himself, are not true. Christians have never been born again. I wonder how many people in this audience right now have never been born again, but you claim it. You act like you are. You pick up the vocabulary and you've indicated that to your friends. But you have never been born again of the Spirit of God.

Recently I spoke at a major Christian University on the East Coast, very popular and very well known. I was surprised when both the chaplain and the President of the school told me that it was their estimation that some one third to one half of their students did not know the Lord. They told me that I should be aware of the fact that in the chapels they do not bring their Bibles. And of course, the first thing I said in the opening day, I said, how many of you have your Bible?

The President crawled into the seat. He was embarrassed. But I said, how many of you have your Bible? I'll do that right now. You have your Bible. Hold it up, please. If you have your Bible, if you don't have it, just sit there incarnate and sin. Now, just the presence of those Bibles tells me something. But I want you to know that just because you have your Bible doesn't mean that you're born again either. The interesting thing to me out of that entire student body, they all profess to be Christians.

Yet the faculty and the President knows that at least half of them do not know the Lord and have never been born again. What has happened that has brought us to this place? Some people call it "easy believism." That almost is a contradiction of terms. What would be "hard believism"? I

don't understand. Easy believe. It's never been easy to believe. Some say that the product is happening in our day because of the materialism. And that may be so because of the toleration of sinful lifestyle.

That may be so. But my friends, the only solution to really knowing that you're converted and that you are convinced of your relationship to Jesus Christ is going to come from the Holy Spirit of God and Him alone. Why do we need the Holy Spirit? Let's look at the story. John. Chapter Three Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. Jesus called him in verse ten, the teacher of Israel. If you're familiar with rabbinical practices, you know that usually with any rabbinical community, there's one person who arises at the top and serves as the key teacher.

Evidently, Nicodemus was that. He's a Pharisee. He's also a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin. He's very important. He comes to Jesus by night. First one, there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, Rabbi, we know that you're a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him. Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Nicodemus said to him, how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not Marvel that I said to you, you must be

born again. The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes.

So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. Why do we need the Holy Spirit? Because the Holy Spirit friends, according to the Bible, is the one who causes us to be born again. You do not do it to yourself. There's no spiritual hypodermic needle. I can recommend you shoot in your veins and you've got it. We're not talking a high. That might be the result of a Worshipful atmosphere. We are talking about being born again of the Spirit of God. Just a few facts about that.

According to the Bible, it is supernatural, not natural. Flip back to John chapter 1, please. It's not natural. There's no way I could talk you into it or help you through a given amount of steps to somehow experience that. Unless I'm drawing you to the Bible, which is the incorruptible seed of the Word of God, which the Holy Spirit will use to cause it, no one can cause it except the Holy Spirit. It is supernatural. It's not natural, as I like to say in our Biola Hour rallies.

Listen, if Shirley McLean can say she's born again, we better talk about it again. I picked up a New Age magazine in the chain of stores that you know as Warehouse, where you pick up tapes and records. And I picked up a New Age magazine. They were free. I took it home on every single page. In every single article, there were words about being born again. Rebirthing itself is one of the major emphasis of the current New Age movement. I had a manual sent to me of a major Corporation in America training its employees in this manual, how to be successful and how to be effective in life.

It was New Age thinking all the way and throughout that manual it talked about rebirthing being born again, and it's talking about the human potential movement. It is not talking about what's in the Bible. And so today we have a massive confusion over even the terms that are in the Bible. We've had people in our Biola, our rallies absolutely stunned with what the Bible says about being born again believing because they picked up New Age thinking and the current cultural consensus about it, that somehow they are born again when in fact they had never experienced it.

It is supernatural, not natural. In John 1:12, we read, "concerning Jesus as many as received Him, to them, He gave the right or authority to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood." You're not a Christian because your parents were, nor of the will of the flesh. There's nothing in you that can cause it, nor of the will of man. No one else can help you. You are born, how? John 1:13, "of God." It is supernatural. It is not natural.

Go back to chapter 3 again and look at verse 6. A second thing, I draw to your attention about the Holy Spirit, causing us to be born again. Not only that, it's supernatural, but the Bible says it's also spiritual rather than physical. It is spiritual rather than physical. Look at John chapter 3, please. Verse 6. Jesus said that which is born of the flesh is flesh. That's physical, but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. It's in the realm of the Spirit.

It is not in the realm of the flesh. Yet a lot of us, by formulas or activities hope to somehow get into the Christian community. My friend, you have to be born again. Or as Jesus said, you cannot see the Kingdom of God. That's what I said in verse three. Now there's a problem. In verse five,

it says a man has to be born of water and of the spirit, or he can't enter the Kingdom of God.

What does that mean? Bible teachers disagree the following major views.

Most people will study in a course on this. Perhaps you have already. Number one is that the water represents baptism and the Spirit represents the spiritual side of it really being born again. Regeneration now is that water baptism. And I know many of you come from different religious backgrounds. There are actually millions of Christians who hold this view. It says, if he's born of water and the Spirit, he can enter the Kingdom of God. I have a lot of questions with that number one in one Peter, chapter 3, verse 20.

It tells us that baptism saves only as a type saves us. It's a type, and the type involved is the floodwater. The Ark was in the floodwater, and the floodwater represents baptism that saves you like a type does, but not the putting away of the filth of the flesh. It doesn't take away sin, but it's a type. It's an illustration, like the floodwater. Well, what happened to everything in the floodwater? It died when you're baptized. It's a symbol that everything died. It's goodbye to the old life and Hello to the new life.

And when you come up out of the water, you're resurrected to new life. I do not believe that water baptism fits here because it is a confusion of the issue. Baptism does not take away sin. Water baptism does not cause you to be born again, even though it may illustrate it. A second major view on this is that one refers to physical and the other spiritual. They get a lot of proof of that from verse six. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. The idea here is the woman's womb, the sac, the water, the baby is born the first time that way out of water, so to speak.

And the second time out of the Holy Spirit, one physical one spiritual. To me, that's not a necessary point in the text. Why? Because then what Jesus would be saying is, well, you can't enter the Kingdom of God unless you're first human. It doesn't make any sense to me. What would be the point of that? It's an obvious point. Another point and another argument is that water represents the word of God and the Spirit, of course, himself. And there's very important verses here, like one Peter, chapter one that says, We're born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible seed of the Word of God.

So the two agents causing the new birth is the word of God and the Holy Spirit. That's an outstanding view, and it's held by the majority, I would say of Bible teachers. A fourth view, and the correct one, hopefully is looking at the Jewish background of this man, Nicodemus, and what he would understand. And one of the most powerful things that he would understand are the dimensions of the new Covenant when God would in fact cause regeneration to the people of Israel and in that new Covenant.

Whether it's recorded in Jeremiah or in the Ezekiel passage, both of them deal with the water issue as being cleansed from our sins. It is the most natural element to a Jewish mind to represent cleansing. So what he is thinking about when he is hearing Jesus saying Born of water and of the Spirit is being cleansed of your sins as God promised to all the Jewish people as well as all nations of the world. And he is born again by the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

That which is born of the flesh, however, is flesh and that's physical. What is born of the Spirit is spirit. Let's get one thing straight in our minds. When you are born again, when you truly become converted, you are being born spiritually, not physically. There isn't a number of things I can get you to do, like run around the gym 36 times after the meeting and you're in. There is nothing we can do to give you a list of do's and don'ts or whatever to create in your mind somehow that you can be born again.

You're only born again by the supernatural spiritual work of the Holy Spirit of God. This assumes listen carefully. This assumes that you are spiritually dead. According to the Bible Ephesians Two, one people without Jesus Christ are dead in their trespasses and sins. The Bible teaches in 1Thessalonians 5:23 that we're comprised of body, soul and spirit. According to Genesis chapter 27, when the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, he breathed into his nostrils. The breath of lives. It's plural in Hebrew, not singular.

The breath of lives and man became a living soul, two kinds of life, both physical and spiritual. That explains something that happened in the garden when Adam fell into sin. God had told him that if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the day that you eat it, you will surely die, folks. Adam did not die physically the day ate the fruit. He lived to be 930 years old. What happened is he died. Spiritually, physical death is the consequence of spiritual death.

You can be physically alive, but be spiritually dead. You can know a lot about the Church and facts about the Bible. You can know a lot of information about the gospel of Jesus Christ and literally be dead spiritually. You've never been born again. We are dead in our trespasses and

sins. Our Spirit is dead and must be made alive by the Holy Spirit. Unbelievers have a soul and a spirit as well as believers. But the spiritual side of man is dead inoperative because of sin and must be resurrected.

He must be regenerated. He must receive a new nature, a partaker of a divine nature. It must happen by the Holy Spirit of God, or he cannot be saved. That's why multitudes of people around the world who profess Christianity have no evidence in their life. We're going to talk to you before we're done this week in this particular series of messages about what a difference it will make if you are born again of the Spirit, what will actually take place in your heart? A third thing I draw to your attention.

It's not only supernatural and spiritual, but look, please at Titus, chapter three, Titus chapter three. And that is that it is merciful. It isn't earned or deserved. It is merciful. God doesn't cause you to be born again because you deserve it, or you've done things that you think are worthy of it. You can't pay for it. You can't earn it. You can't deserve it. In Titus chapter three, beginning at verse four, it says, but when the kindness and the love of God, our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration, being born again and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that having been justified by His Grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

How is a person born again? According to the Bible, it takes the mercy of God, or it will not take place in 1 Peter, chapter 1 and verse 3, I read the same thing. It says, Blessed be the God and

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, it takes God's mercy. Now. What does that mean? Mercy holds back from us what we really deserve. If God would just let go for a moment and give you what you deserve.

Lamentations 3:22 says it is of the Lord's Mercies that we are not consumed because His compassions fail, not God loves you. And because of His mercy and his lovingkindness toward you, he holds back from us what we really deserve. We deserve hell. The miracle is not that anybody will be in hell. The miracle is that anybody will be in heaven. If we all got what we deserve, we'd be in hell. We deserve hell, our thoughts, our attitudes, our actions. We deserve hell. But it's because of God's mercy that we've been born again.

I love to talk about mercy. God's holding back what we deserve when I look out over a congregation, whether it's here at Biola or whether it's at the Church or it's in some city, I do not see them as sweet, loving, thoughtful Christians. Maybe I should, but I don't. I see them as dirty, rotten, depraved sinners who need the gospel of Jesus Christ. One lady heard me say that she came up. She said, I can't believe that you said that. I said, Watch my lips. I'll say it again.

She said, That's awful because people are normally good and kind. I said, I found the exact opposite. It's only a question of time, she said, but that hurts self esteem. No, it doesn't. Why it sets you free to believe self-esteem the way God wanted it. Listen, one of the greatest, most liberating moments in my life was when I learned how dirty and rotten, depraved I am. Then I

knew I needed the Grace and mercy and love of God. And there go I but for the Grace of God, every time you see anybody in the gutter.

You've got to understand something about God's Grace. God's mercy. You will be born again because he is merciful. The Bible says we're saved by Grace. That Salvation by Grace is a gift of God. It is not of works, lest any man should boast God's Grace gives us what we don't deserve. And mercy holds back from us what we do deserve. And when I look at the Church, I don't see people who look so fine and wonderful and all of that, I see them as sinners needing the gospel of Christ. When I look at a person who is saved, I see somebody who has been saved by the power of God and now stands in the righteousness of Christ.

What happens to cause trouble in a lot of churches is that people forget that and all of a sudden they take pride in what they have done as believers. Listen, folks, it was Paul at the end of his life who said, I am the chief of sinners that Christ showed long suffering in me. So it'd be a pattern to those who would also believe in the future. God takes people who are in a mess and make something good out of it. God takes the broken pieces of people's lives and puts them back together.

If I didn't believe that I'd quit, I wouldn't want to be part of this anymore. It's God's wonderful Grace. And I've seen Him change lives and he can change students lives right here. And I believe that I believe God has the power to take you, even though you may have fooled everybody and your family and your friends. He can take you and convert you in a moment of time by the power

of the Holy Spirit, and you'll never be the same. We desperately need to understand our need of the Holy Spirit.

There never has been a day like this. And it comes because of God's wonderful mercy. I like to refer sometimes to my staff members because I look at them and I say, God is a God of mercy. You know what I mean? I mean, there are some real stinkers whom God is saving. Have you noticed that? I bet you've already discovered that there are some students here that you wonder how in the world they get here. I like to think of our administrative pastor and our staff.

He used to run the gambling syndicate for the mafia in the Midwest. I think about that a lot. I kind of like it. It puts the fear of God into our people. I think of a dear brother, the Lord, whom I had the joy of working with and the staff and seeing him come to Christ and disciple. I remember the day over there at Long Beach State University when he was so bombed out by drugs. I remember that day very well. James Weston Black Panther got saved that day too.

Free speech platform back in the 60s. I remember that kid. They said his brain would never be straightened out. He was so bonkers. But I tell you to the glory of God. God's Holy Spirit converted Him that day had transformed him and he's still a pastor of being mightily used of God today. My friends, listen, you need to be born again. And if you're born again, it's God's mercy. Don't ever think you deserved it or that God will be so fortunate to get me on his team.

He'll probably ask me to give a testimony of the first order of business in heaven. Let me tell you something. It's mercy. It's Grace. It's loving kindness. By His loving kindness. He draws us.

When the prodigal son came back home, the Father didn't wait for him to crawl in the door and beg for forgiveness. He ran down the road, threw his arms around him, repeatedly, kissed him. He said this. My son was lost and now is found that's our God, he loves you no matter what kind of a hypocritical lifestyle you've developed, no matter how much you fooled your friends, no matter how much sin and crude and junk is in your life.

Now God can save you in a moment of time, by his power. And a lot of us have never come into grips with that. Maybe you've heard this message over and over again but has never become personal with you. One other thing about the Holy Spirit causing us to be born again. It's not only supernatural and spiritual and merciful. It is also eternal. Once it happens, nothing's going to change it. 1 Peter chapter 1, I read these words in verse 23. 1 Peter, chapter 1, verse 23.

I read having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible through the Word of God, which lives and abides forever. Because all flesh is as grass. All the glory of man is the flower of the grass. The grass Withers its flower falls away. But the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you when we're born again. It's incorruptible the word of God lives and abides forever. You cannot be unborn. Jesus said in John 10:28.

I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. I want you to know that I have preached this message over 30 years in the ministry now. I preached that message over and over again. I believed it before I ever went into ministry. I had parents who believed it. I had a Church who believed it. I have never doubted 1 minute that we

are saved forever. But I want to tell you something that has really startled this heart of mine in just the last few years.

There is a widespread misunderstanding of the issue we used to call eternal security. It is widespread. There are literally multitudes of believers who do not have assurance and who do not see the issue as being eternal. They believe you could lose it. This is not guess work on my part or hearsay. We see these people constantly in our gospel celebrations. We let them ask their questions. We interchange with them and hear what the audience is saying and what they're feeling. People today have no assurance of their relationship to God.

And they fear that what they do believe or what they are hanging on to is not real. And the truth of the matter is it may not be the truth of the matter is that many people may not be born again. And that's why there is such a problem. When you are really born again, it is forever. It is not temporary. It's forever. It abides forever. Jesus said, I give them eternal life. They shall never perish. Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand to give you an idea of what people think.

Guy came up to me. He's very serious. Told me he'd studied the Bible most of his life. I said, really, when you were two? But anyway, I was just kind of kidding. He was trying to let me know he was a Bible scholar. So he said he studied all of his life. And he said, I want to ask you a question. He said, you said that Jesus said, no man can pluck him out of his hand, but we could jump out of his hand. What he told me said he was a Bible scholar. My answer, he did not

receive well. And I admit there might have been a little carnality there. I said, That's dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb, dumb.

And he wasn't really thrilled with that. He was offended by that said, I don't want to offend you, but it is dumb. I mean, actually, it's worse than that. I said, look, you may move from knuckle to knuckle, but you're not getting out of his hand. I said, what do you think is in the hand of God? I mean, hey, the whole universe is in his hand. Where are you going to go to flee from His presence. Psalm 139, if I send to heaven, thou art there.

If I make my bed and shield the grave, thou art there. Where did you think you were going to go to get away from him? The Bible tells us it is eternal. It is not temporal. You receive eternal life. He who has the Son of God has everlasting life. Excuse me. I need a little business. Ron, you told me that we were going to go to Win, speak authoritative like you're in charge. Amen 45. Is that what we're going to? Okay, I just want to make sure I don't want to get what time is the next one starting ten.

So the program is wrong. You're making an executive decision to change the program at the present time. Okay? Just want to check on that. Why do we need the Holy Spirit? R1 quick one, because that's the only way we can be converted. He causes us to be born again. But it's also the only way we can become convinced. Now listen to me carefully. Those of you who know you're Christians who believe that you are. But perhaps from time to time have doubt and question and things can happen to you where you begin to wonder.

For an example, the college student who talked to me just one week ago and because of some sinful stuff going on in his life, he's all of a sudden lost his confidence in the Lord and is not sure that he's born again. He needs to get right with the Lord, that's for sure. But the fact that he asked the question and wanted to do something about it. Perhaps it's symptomatic that he really knows the Lord. Now the question is, how do you get assurance? How do you become convinced of your relationship to Jesus Christ?

Turn please, to 1 John and look at chapter 1. 1John chapter 5. How do you become convinced? Now I believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer. 1Corinthians 6:19 says our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I believe the Holy Spirit also baptizes every believer into the body of Christ. 1Corinthians 12:13 but I'm concerned about a practical question that I see people asking all the time. How does one become convinced that you truly are a believer, especially when things aren't going the way you wanted them to one.

John chapter 5 is a very troublesome passage. In one sense. I'm reading out of the New King James, which Paul and Silas used. And in verse 6, it says this. Because some of you are going to see a difference if you got new American International, whatever. But just hang in there in chapter 5, verse 6: this is he who came by water and blood. Now what's the issue here? About the one who overcomes who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. Just check verse 4 and 5.

This is he that is Jesus 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. I don't need just first, John to prove that point. Romans chapter eight says that the Holy Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are the

children of God. You ask me, how do I know I'm really a child of God? You need the Holy Spirit to bear witness with your Spirit. How does he do it?

Let's keep reading. It's the Spirit who bears witness. Witness to what? The fact that Jesus came by water and blood. Because the Spirit is truth. Verse 7, there are three who 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. If we receive the witness of men and we do, the point is not doubting it. It's assuming it. If we receive the witness of men and we always do, nine out of ten doctors can't be wrong.

Three out of four people said the toothpaste was great. I mean, we receive the witness of men. If you do, then understand the witness of God is greater. How does one become convinced of his relationship to God by listening to the witness of men? No. By listening to the witness of God, the Spirit is going to bear witness with your Spirit concerning the truth. The truth discussed here in one John, is Jesus death on the cross? Did water and blood come out of his side? Was there visible evidence that he indeed died on the cross for our sins?

Now keep listening. Verse 9. The witness of God is greater, for this is the witness of God, which he's testified of his son. 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's not believed the testimony that God has given of his son. And this is the testimony that God has given us eternal life. And this life is in his son. He who has the Son has life. He who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

And these things the ones he just wrote about. I've written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know. God wants you to know that you may know that you have eternal life and you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. Folks, listen to me. It's one thing for me to tell you. You need to know this and quote one John five. It's another thing to tell you how it actually happens. You can go out of here and say, yeah, I heard David say that.

And yeah, I believe that too. I believe you ought to know that you're saved and you walk out of here and you say that, but in a crisis, you don't know what to do. Why? Because you haven't fully analyzed what the passage said. The passage is saying that God has witnessed to the truth of Jesus coming by water and blood. The Holy Spirit actually bore witness to that. And if you're a Christian and you see his witness to it, you will have in yourself because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, an agreement, a total agreement without hesitancy to those facts.

If you are not a believer, you will read it and you will question it. What a fascinating point. Now, where in the world is it recorded that water and blood came out of Jesus? It's in John chapter 19. Will you turn there, please? Real quickly. We got to wrap it up. John chapter 19, you get a hold of this and it will be a blessing and an encouragement to your heart. In John chapter 19, this is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross in verse 33, it says, but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

But one of the soldiers, evidently not really that convinced, is going to make sure he pierced his side with a spear and immediately blood and water came out. Now watch the next verse. He who has seen has testified and his testimony is true, and he knows he's telling the truth so that you

may believe. Now, the same writer in one John Five says that the Holy Spirit bore witness to the truth of the water and blood issue of Jesus Christ, as recorded in John 19. What that means is that the only way you get real assurance of your relationship to God is by you yourself reading or hearing the testimony about Jesus Christ.

It's recorded in that book and your heart agreeing to it. The Holy Spirit has promised to bear witness with your Spirit concerning that that which is the truth. And that is a tremendous promise. So by not going to the Bible, we are ourselves causing great jeopardy to our confidence in the Lord. The Bible will bring assurance not independently of your relationship to God. What he said in one John Five is that if you are a true believer in the Holy Spirit's in you, when you see it in the Bible, the Holy Spirit will bear witness to it and he will convince you that that is the truth.

If you're not a believer, you will still question that. It's the truth. I want to give you an example that happened at my door on Saturday as two guys. Well, actually, there's a guy and a Gal came by my door. They were Jehovah Witnesses. They just keep after me. I don't know what I think it's part of their plot to wear me down. But anyway, they came by Saturday again. This guy said he is one of their top dog students. I said, Great, I always like to go to the top.

Go ahead, shoot. So he gave me all this stuff and all this. We're talking again. And he told me, he said, do you believe that the Holy Spirit bears witness? I couldn't believe it because I'm going to speak here. And I thought, hey, classic. Here's an illustration. He said, do you believe the Holy

Spirit bears witness? I said, sure. He said, Well, we do too. And he said, The Holy Spirit has borne witness to me that Jesus is not God. That's what he said to me at the door.

I've been waiting for somebody to say it outright. That was so beautiful. I said, I can't thank you enough for that. I've always believed that's what you believe. But I just appreciate the clarity with what you spoke. He said, The Holy Spirit has borne witness in my heart. I've read the Bible. He's borne witness that Jesus is not God. I said, well, I definitely believe that some spirit borne witness to you. But I'm not sure whether it was the Spirit of God.

He said, well, we believe that. And we believe that the Spirit of Antichrist and of Satan is the one that has caused you to believe that Jesus is God, therefore making you an idolater. Now, the reason why we're at this blunt point in our witnessing is that we've been through a lot of other stuff before, so they probably won't do that with you at the door. They're usually a little more Kinder, but I was very thankful. I said, Man, I'm thankful for this clarification. I said, if I could show you one verse, that point blank said, without any question that Jesus is God, would you agree to it?

He said, Let me see the verse first. So we turn to one John 5:20, where it says, Concerning Jesus Christ, this is the true God and eternal life. He said to me, Well, you have to understand they always do this. So I'm used to the argument, but they say, you have to understand Greek. Okay. It said, according to Greek grammar, a pronoun has to agree in gender and number with the thing. It modifies. I couldn't have asked for anything better. I didn't have to set it up there.

They were laying it in my lap. I said, Then what you mean is the word this cannot refer to Jesus Christ. It has to refer to something else. They said, oh, absolutely. It actually refers to eternal life. And if you knew the Greek, you'd know that. I'd say, Well, what particular gender is the pronoun? They said, Well, we just told you that it represents. I know, I said, but just for my own sake, you know, I'm kind of one of those show me types. Would you please tell me exactly what the gender is of the pronoun?

They did not know. I said, I know. He said, I was afraid of that. I said, it's masculine. I said, tell me what the gender is of the word life. He did not know. He said, but I suspect it's different. I said, you're a wise man. It is different. It's feminine. And according to Greek grammar, the pronoun must modify its closest antecedent that agrees with it in gender and number. And you tell me what is the closest masculine singular noun next to that pronoun, in fact, stands in front of it.

He said, well, it appears to be Jesus Christ. I said, I'll show you this in Greek. I'll show you in your old crummy version called the Emphatic Diglot. I'll show it wherever you want to see it. That passage says that Jesus is the true God. He turned to me, listen, don't climb. I want to get a point across to you about this. As you leave. He turned to me straight, looked me in the face, and he said, Well, that may seem to be so, but I want you to know that I do not believe it, and I'm not going to believe it simply because of that.

I said, Sir, I feel sorry for you because the issue is so serious that I believe some day you'll be in hell because of it. But I said, isn't it interesting that you began this discussion with how the Holy

Spirit of God bears witness to us through the Word of God? And if we are really believers, we would believe it. And you told me there was no passage to claim that he was the true God? I said, so let's ask ourselves again. Which Spirit is talking to you and which one is talking to me?

All I'm telling you, this is the day when we got to stop messing around. Don't check your brains off at the door. Don't try to just get spiritual ups and downs all day long. Find out what you believe and know it. And if you are truly born again, the Holy Spirit of God will convince you of your relationship to Jesus Christ. He promised to do so. And you can read the facts of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And if your heart reading them says, I believe that I agree with that 100% the only way you can do that for no man can call Jesus Lord, except by the Holy Spirit of God.

If you're not born again, there will be hesitancy. There will be question. There will be doubt. There will be a feeling that this is not possibly true. And if that's in your heart, you need to be born again. That's why we need the Holy Spirit to be converted and convinced of our relationship to Jesus Christ. Let's close with prayer, father, I thank you so much for your love, the love that sent your son Jesus Christ into this world to die on the cross for our sins.

Lord, I've never gotten over that. That the sins of my life were paid for by Jesus Christ. That you would forgive me, that you would cleanse me and make me a new creature in Christ. I have done nothing to deserve it or earn it, your grace and your mercy has made it possible. Lord, I know that. There's not a person here that could ever enter the Kingdom of God, according to Jesus, without being born again. Lord, I don't know who we're really talking to today. To all of us for encouragement and understanding. But, God, you know more than we do.

There may be scores of people right here who've just been going along with it. Just playing the role. But have never been born again. And as that tax collector cried out in the Gospels, God be merciful to me. A sinner may that express our heart's desire to know you, the living God and your son, Jesus Christ, to commit our life and our future to him is our, our Savior and Lord, and we thank you in Jesus name. Amen.