

The Testimony of John the Baptist – and You (John 1:19-34)

Verses to Remember: “I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God” (John 1:33-34).

John’s testimony includes these seven things about Jesus

1. Jesus is the LORD (Yahweh). The voice of one calling in the wilderness was to prepare the way for God himself (John 1:23 cf. Is 40:1-5).
2. The One whose sandal John is not worthy to untie (John 1:27).
3. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).
4. The One who always existed (John 1:1, 30).
5. The One anointed by the Spirit (John 1:32 cf. Is 42:1).
6. The One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33).
7. The Son of God (John 1:34 cf. Matt 3:17).

John’s testimony was so that people could know Jesus

- John’s role was to testify to the light so that all might believe through him (John 1:7). He came baptizing so that Jesus might be manifested to Israel (John 1:31).
- The people who came to him to ask him about his authority did not know Jesus (John 1:26). John tells them that there was a time he didn’t know Jesus as Christ either (John 1:31-33). But now he knows him and wants them to know him too.

What is your testimony?

1. “I didn’t know him until...”

- Write out or think about when you came to know Jesus.
- Write out or think about how you felt at the time you came to know him.

2. “Now I know him as...”

- List who Jesus is and who he is in your life. You can list the seven things above that John the Baptist identified, and you can also list more aspects of who Jesus is based on what the Bible says about him.
- Think about how Jesus being those things affects you in your life.

3. “You can know him too...”

- John the Baptist was sent by God to make Jesus visible to others. We have been sent by God with the same task to point people to Jesus.
- Think about how you can introduce people to Jesus. A great way to do that is to ask them to read the Gospel of John with you. You can also bring attention to Jesus anytime that people put the attention on you and ask you why you are the way you are. Pray for chances to share Jesus with others.