

May 10, 2024

God's Promise

[1 John 5: 9-13](#)

We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his son. And this the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (NIV)

If you are like me, you may find this scripture somewhat confusing. John seems to repeat himself, but he does this only to get our attention. John is asking us if we will believe the testimony of people around us, why will we not accept the more important testimony of God? If we are followers of Jesus, then he lives in us, and if so, God says we will have eternal life. What a promise!

Everything rests on us. We are the ones who must make the decision to believe. It is easy to say we believe in Jesus, but as they say, "Actions speak louder than words." One of the reasons non-believers don't understand our message is that we sometimes say one thing but do something different.

The message Jesus left us was to love God and love our neighbor. As children of God and believers in Jesus, we will want to follow his lead. John tells us we must believe what God has said about his Son. We must believe that God will give us eternal life and that this new life is possible only through his Son.

John tells us we can know we have eternal life now when we show Jesus's love to others. Jesus asks Peter three times "Do you love me?" Each time Peter says yes. Jesus' reply is "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17). This question is also asked of us. Do we believe? Do we have Jesus living inside us? If so, we are also asked to take care of "His sheep."

It is not enough just to say "yes" we believe Jesus is our Savior, and we will have eternal life. We are expected to reach out to others and show them God's love. Showing love is our witness that Jesus is living in our hearts.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us eternal life through our belief in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us witness to others by showing your love every day in our actions and words. In your Son's precious name. Amen.

Betty Lou Harris
Franklin United Methodist Church, Wellsburg, WV
Certified Lay Speaker, Administrative Council Chair, Liturgist
Member United Women in Faith