

# The Gospel According to John

## “Identity, Authority, and Faith”

John 5:30-47



## **John 5:30-32**

“I can do nothing on My own initiative.  
As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true.”

## **John 5:33-36**

“You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.

He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish — the very works that I do — testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.”

## **John 5:37-40**

“And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

## **John 5:41-44**

“I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.

I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?”

## **John 5:45-47**

“Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

# Main Idea

Jesus' identity and authority are clearly confirmed, but prideful independence, desire for acceptance, and doubt prevent people from coming to Him by faith and receiving His word for life.

# Identity, Authority, and Faith

How is Jesus' identity  
and authority confirmed?





# **Who is He, and what authority does He have?**

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“I can do nothing on My own initiative.  
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# Jesus is one with the Father

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Jesus, being God in the flesh, cannot  
act or speak independently of God.

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If Jesus and the Father are one,  
then He is ***the*** Authority for all of life,  
and it would be foolish to think  
or act independently of Him!



**How is His Identity and Authority Confirmed?**

By the testimony of John the Baptist

## **John 5:33-35**

“You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.  
But the testimony which I receive is not from man,  
but I say these things so that you may be saved.  
He was the lamp that was burning and was shining  
and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.”

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**By the testimony of Jesus' works**

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— **testify about Me**, that the Father has sent Me.”

# **Consider the works that Jesus did:**

He turned water into wine.

He healed a boy from a distance.

He made a lame man walk.

He fed thousands with a few loaves and fishes.

He gave sight to a man born blind.

He raised the dead.

He conquered death once for all!

# **Listen to the wisdom of a blind man:**

**John 9:30-33**

The man answered and said to them,  
“Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know  
where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes.  
We know that God does not hear sinners; but if  
anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.  
Since the beginning of time it has never been heard  
that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.  
If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

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By the testimony of John the Baptist

By the testimony of Jesus' works

By the testimony of the Father

**John 5:32**

“There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true.”

**John 5:37**

“And the Father who sent Me,  
**He has testified of Me.”**

# **The Father's Testimony**

**Matthew 3:17**

“...and behold, a voice out of the heavens said,  
“This is My beloved Son,  
in whom I am well-pleased.”

**Matthew 17:5**

While he was still speaking,  
a bright cloud overshadowed them,  
and behold, a voice out of the cloud said,  
“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased;  
listen to Him!”

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By the testimony of Jesus' works

By the testimony of the Father

By the testimony of the Scriptures

## **John 5:39**

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that in them you have eternal life;

**it is these that testify about Me.**



# **Examples:**

## **Deuteronomy 18:15**

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.”

## **Psalms 2:6-7**

But as for Me, I have installed My King  
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.  
I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD:  
He said to Me, “You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.”

# Examples:

## Isaiah 53:5

But He was pierced through for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,  
And by His scourging we are healed.

**Luke 24:27**

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets,  
He explained to them the things concerning Himself  
**in all the Scriptures.**

## **John 5:39-40**

“You search the Scriptures because you think  
that in them you have eternal life;

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and you are unwilling to come to Me  
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They had all the evidence  
they needed, yet they refused  
to come to Him for life.

# Identity, Authority, and Faith

How is Jesus' identity and authority confirmed?

What prevents people  
from coming to Jesus for life?



**What prevents people from coming?**

Prideful Independence



## John 5:30

“I can do nothing on My own initiative.  
**As I hear, I judge;** and My judgment is just,  
because **I do not seek My own will,**  
**but the will of Him who sent Me.”**

This is set in contrast to the Jews who refused to come under the authority of another or do the will of another.

They were their own judges,  
assessing the truth and setting  
the rules on their own authority,  
all the while claiming to be  
“under the Law”.

# ***Who were they willing to receive?***

**John 5:43**

“I have come in My Father’s name,  
and you do not receive Me;  
if another comes in his own name,  
you will receive him.”

# **Who were they willing to receive?**

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***Why?***

They received one another  
on the basis of mutual affirmation.

But Jesus came with His own  
authority, an authority that  
demands humble submission!

In our age of rampant individualism,  
we should be especially wary of ourselves.  
Are we willing to lay down our prideful  
independence and truly come under  
the authorities Christ has established?  
**What keeps you from submission?**

# What prevents people from coming?

Prideful Independence

Fear of Man



## **John 5:41-43**

“I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.”

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**Jesus did not come to impress men  
and win their approval.**

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The affections of their hearts were not set on God so as to please Him, but on themselves so as to please men.

**John 12:43**

“For they loved the approval of men  
rather than the approval of God.”

It is impossible to fear God  
*and* to fear man!

## **Galatians 1:10**

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God?

Or am I striving to please men?

If I were still trying to please men,  
I would not be a slave of Christ.

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Or am I striving to please men?

If I were still trying to please men,  
I would not be a slave of Christ.

In fact, fear of man *prevents*  
faith in Christ!

John 5:44

**“How can you believe,** when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?”

**When you seek the approval of others.**

**John 5:44**

“How can you believe, **when you receive glory  
from one another** and you do not seek the glory  
that is from the one and only God?”

**Rather than the approval of God.**

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“How can you believe, when you receive glory

from one another **and you do not seek the glory  
that is from the one and only God?”**

The way of Christ is often offensive,  
alienating, and without appreciation;  
so if you have as your goal to be  
liked, accepted, or praised by others  
you will not *faithfully* follow Christ.

**Luke 6:26**

“Woe to you when all men speak well of you,  
for their fathers used to treat the false  
prophets in the same way.”

# **What prevents people from coming?**

Prideful Independence

Fear of Man

The forgetfulness of unbelief

**The issue is unbelief!**

**John 5:44**

**“How can you believe...”**



# **The issue is unbelief!**

**John 5:46-47**

“For if you believed Moses,  
you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.  
But if you do not believe his writings,  
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**It is a forgetful unbelief!**

**John 5:38**

“You do not have His word abiding in you,  
for you do not believe Him whom He sent.”

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**“You do not have His word remaining in you,**  
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“You do not have His word remaining in you,

**for you do not believe** Him whom He sent.”

How easy it is to hear and be moved  
but then to go away and forget!

# Identity, Authority, and Faith

How is Jesus' identity and authority confirmed?

What prevents people from coming to Jesus?

## How do we receive His Word for life?



**How do we receive His Word for life?**

By hearing it with eyes of faith

**John 5:37**

“You have neither heard His voice at any time  
nor seen His form.”

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John 5:37

“You **have neither heard** His voice at any time  
**nor seen** His form.”

Yet here they were *hearing* the Word  
and *seeing* the Word and refusing to  
believe what they heard or saw!

Do not believe that faith will come  
by hearing His voice or by seeing  
some manifestation of power.

Your faith *will be* your ears and eyes  
enabling you to hear and see!



# How do we receive His Word for life?

By hearing it with eyes of faith

By taking it into ourselves as  
our authority for all of life

# **An intended contrast:**

**John 5:33-35**

“You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.  
But the testimony which I receive is not from man,  
but I say these things so that you may be saved.  
He was the lamp that was burning and was  
shining and you were willing to rejoice  
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shining and **you were willing to rejoice  
for a while in his light.”**

John had stirred interest and even delight  
for a while because some of what he had  
to say tickled their Jewish ears.

**But it didn't "stick"!**

**John 5:38**

**"You do not have His word abiding in you,  
for you do not believe Him whom He sent."**

**They didn't really believe and so did not  
receive God's word into their hearts  
as their governing authority.**

***They abided in their own authority!***

To have the word abiding in you is to experience *a regime change of your heart* whereby ***the*** Word overthrows your self and is established as your governing authority for all of life.

Is Jesus your authority for all of your life?

# How do we receive His Word for life?

By hearing it with eyes of faith

By taking it into ourselves as our authority for all of life

By keeping His words out of love

**John 5:42**

**“...but I know you, that **you do not have the love of God in yourselves.**”**

How did Jesus know that they did not have the love of God in themselves?



## John 5:42

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the love of God in yourselves.”

How did Jesus know that they did not  
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## John 5:43

“I have come in My Father’s name,  
and **you do not receive Me.**”

To love the Father is to love  
His Son and receive Him ***as He is:***  
as the Christ and King who  
came to save *and* rule.  
This they were unwilling to do!

# How do you know you have the love of God in you?

**John 14:23-24**

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me,  
he will keep My word; and My Father will love him,  
and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.”

“He who does not love Me does not keep My words;  
and the word which you hear is not Mine,  
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**“He who does not love Me does not  
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and the word which you hear is not Mine,  
but the Father’s who sent Me.”

You cannot obey *to obtain life*;  
but if you have obtained life,  
you will desire to obey because  
the love of God will be in you.

# Conclusion

Have you received Jesus *as He is*?

Has there been a regime change  
in your heart?

Is your aim in life to love  
and obey Christ in all things?

What testifies to this in your life?