

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

- 1 John 5:11-13 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

Faith did not come into the world with Christianity, and it is not even peculiar to religion. Faith is a human function, which every human being is exercising every day in regard to multitudes of objects. Whatever lies beyond the range of our own immediate observation is an object of faith. How do those of us who have never been out of Europe know that such places as Africa, Asia, and America exist? It is by believing the testimony of those who have been there; it is by seeing objects not produced in this country and inferring that there must be other continents besides Europe from which they come. Our knowledge of all the events which have happened in this world before our own generation is due to faith – we believe the testimony of those who have placed them on record. And our knowledge of what is taking place in the world today, except that which is recognized by our own five senses, is obtained in the same way – by testimony, which we accept by faith.

- James Stalker, *The Seven Deadly Sins and the Seven Cardinal Virtues* (p. 131)

# Sermon Outline

## The Knowledge of Faith

1 John 5:11-13

*An Evergreen Faith*

Brad Anderson

*Faith is the instrument God uses to bring people life in Jesus Christ...*

(1 John 5:11-13)

### How does testimony to that life in Jesus Christ prompt our faith?

By supplying evidence... (1 John 5:11-13)

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By securing knowledge... (1 John 5:11-13)

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By defining reality... (1 John 5:11-13)

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### Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Have you ever been called to give testimony, or witnessed evidence shared in a court of law? Why is the person called to give evidence required to take a vow or oath? How does that vow or oath help to validate their testimony?
- Read 1 John 1:1-4. What is John saying in these words? What does he desire for his audience? What joy is John describing?
- John assumes that faith is based upon facts and that these two (faith and facts) are not mutually exclusive in the slightest. But facts alone are not sufficient to produce faith in anyone. Why is that? Read 1 John 5:20 to shape your answer and observe how faith and fact comes together in Jesus Christ.
- What evidence of Jesus Christ is produced in a person when they believe? How does this evidence prove that what John testifies is true?
- When in your spiritual pilgrimage did you come to understand the meaning of God's gift of eternal life? Or are you still somewhere along the way? Where?