

Hebrews 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

Analysis

Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, The author now invokes the testimony of the Holy Spirit to confirm the finality and sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. The phrase "the Holy Ghost also is a witness" (martyrei de hēmin kai to Pneuma to Hagion, μαρτυρεῖ δὲ ἡμῖν καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον) establishes that Scripture itself is the Spirit's testimony. When we read the Old Testament prophecies, we hear the Holy Spirit's own witness to the new covenant reality in Christ.

The present tense "is a witness" (martyrei, μαρτυρεῖ) indicates ongoing testimony—the Spirit continues to testify through Scripture to every generation of believers. This aligns with the Reformed doctrine of the internal testimony of the Holy Spirit (testimonium Spiritus Sancti internum), whereby the same Spirit who inspired Scripture also illuminates believers' hearts to recognize its divine authority and truth.

The quotation that follows (verses 16-17) comes from Jeremiah 31:33-34, the great new covenant prophecy. By citing this passage, the author demonstrates that the Old Testament itself predicted the replacement of the old covenant sacrificial system with something superior. God's own Word, spoken through the prophets and now confirmed by the Holy Spirit, announces the obsolescence of repeated sacrifices and the establishment of a covenant based on Christ's once-for-all offering.

This Spirit-attested testimony carries ultimate authority. If the Holy Spirit Himself witnesses that sins are remembered no more under the new covenant, then no human tradition, priestly system, or religious ritual can add to or improve upon Christ's finished work. The Spirit's witness seals the sufficiency of Christ's atonement.

Historical Context

The appeal to the Holy Spirit's testimony would resonate powerfully with Jewish Christians familiar with prophetic authority. In Jewish theology, the Spirit of God inspired the prophets, making their words God's own words. When Jeremiah spoke, it was the Spirit speaking through him. The author's point is that this same Spirit now confirms that Jeremiah's prophecy has been fulfilled in Christ.

The early church faced pressure from Judaizers who insisted that Christian converts needed to maintain the Mosaic ceremonial law, including ongoing sacrifices. By showing that the Holy Spirit Himself testified through Scripture to a new covenant that would supersede the old, the author undermines any argument for returning to or maintaining the old system. To reject the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice is to reject the Holy Spirit's own testimony.

The Reformation emphasized this passage in articulating *sola Scriptura*. The Spirit speaks through Scripture, and Scripture is therefore the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. No church tradition, papal decree, or human wisdom can override what the Spirit has testified in God's Word. This verse establishes that the Spirit's testimony and Scripture's testimony are one and the same.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Holy Spirit's ongoing witness through Scripture strengthen your confidence in the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice?
2. In what ways might modern believers be tempted to add human traditions or requirements to what the Spirit has testified about the new covenant?
3. How can you grow in recognizing the Holy Spirit's testimony in Scripture rather than relying primarily on human teachers or personal feelings?

Interlinear Text

Μαρτυρεῖ	δὲ	ἡμῖν	καὶ	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τὸ	ἅγιον·	μετὰ
is a witness	Whereof	to us	also	G3588	Ghost	G3588	the Holy	after
G3140	G1161	G2254	G2532		G4151		G40	G3326
γὰρ	τὸ	προειρηκέναι,						
for	G3588	that he had said before						
G1063		G4280						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 3:7 (Holy): Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Revelation 3:6 (Spirit): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 2:11 (Spirit): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Acts 28:25 (Holy): And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

2 Peter 1:21 (Holy): For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

John 15:26 (Spirit): But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org