In order to establish a fact, at least two witnesses that agree must be present. God is very careful to have witnesses for everything He does.

Deuteronomy 19:15 (KJV)
One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

2 Corinthians 13:1 (KJV)
This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

Hebrews 11:1, 8, chapter (KJV)
1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

8But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)
1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Even witnesses should be tested. False witnesses have been used to destroy the innocent. Should this law be used to verify the witnesses?

1 Kings 21:9-11 (KJV)
9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:

10 And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

11 And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them.
Witness 1: Witness the Lamb of God

He was announced as the Lamb of God who would take away sin. If children of Israel had not been so sure that national greatness came first, they would not have killed the Lord of glory. Even today, national greatness is their goal.

First Promise
Genesis 3:14-15 (KJV)
14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:
15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Promise to Abraham
Genesis 22:18 (KJV)
And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Galatians 3:16 (KJV)
Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Sanctuary Promises
Exodus 25:8 (KJV)
And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Psalm 77:13 (KJV)
Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

Promise of His Presence
Matthew 1:23 (KJV)
23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

New Earth Promise
Revelation 21:3-4 (KJV)
3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Luke 3:3-4, 6 (KJV)
3 preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;
4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
John, Spirit and the Father

John pointed out the sins of the people and what they needed to do.

*Luke 4:6. And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

**John 1:29** (KJV)
The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the **Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

**Witness of the Father and Spirit**

*Mark 1:9-11* (KJV)
9 ... and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he (Jesus) saw the heavens opened, and the **Spirit like a dove descending upon him:**

11 And there came a **voice from heaven,** saying, **Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

**John 1:32-34** (KJV)
32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, **Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.**

34 And I saw, and bare record that **this is the Son of God.**

*If Old Israel had understood that the Kingdom of God must come before national greatness, great sin would have been prevented. I pray that in my life I will bear record that the Son of God lives first in my heart.*

*Truly I desire the Mind of Christ.*

Notes:
Witness 2: of Jesus Birth

In Hebrews 11, Paul lists many of great faith and in Hebrews 12 he speaks of a cloud of witnesses as a reason to lay aside impediments and run the race before us. The laws of the LORD required at least two witnesses, that agree, to establish any fact. If any accusation was false they went to a great deal of effort to acquire lying witnesses. (See 1 Kings 21: chapter)

Zacharias

Luke 1:67-70 (KJV)

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

Shepherds

Luke 2:18-21 (KJV)

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Simeon

Luke 2:25-33 (KJV)

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel

Joseph and Mary

Luke 2:33

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.
Prophesy of Simeon and Anna

Everyone who heard or saw these witnesses are also witnesses. These faithful servants had waited a long time for the promised one.

**Luke 2:34-40 (KJV)**

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

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Witness 3: of God’s Words in the Flesh

It was only as a human that he could live and die the second death for us. Thus He becomes our Savior from past sins and brings all his laws to life in our hearts. When He comes again we will have part in the first resurrection.

Right now, let’s look at the Kingdom of God.

John 1:1-5 (KJV)
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:14 (KJV)
14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1 John 4:3 (KJV)
And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2 John 1:7 (KJV)
For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

How many ways can “antichrist” happen? The most obvious way is refusing to believe any “Thus saith the Lord”. These were inspired by the Spirit of Christ.

1 Peter 1:10-12 (KJV)
10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

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

John 16:13 (KJV)
Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
Psalm 23:3 (KJV)
3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Psalm 25:4 (KJV)
4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

Deuteronomy 30:15-16 (KJV)
15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;
16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Matthew 7:13 (NLT)
13 “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way.

Matthew 5:17-19 (KJV)
17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
19 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Fulfill does not mean “do away with”, cancel or destroy. Enjoy Him and all his laws.

Nowhere does the Bible say that it is OK to break the laws of God.

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Witness 4: Qualities of God in the Flesh

The Lord wanted us to know what he is really like. Jesus personified His compassion and tenderness. Sin is not OK with God, so he took the blame.

Romans 1:20 (NLT)
For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Jesus also came to show the character of God in human form. He does not condemn because he took all our condemnation on himself. In the following texts are some of his qualities.

John 14:6 [Full Chapter] (KJV)
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Deuteronomy 8:6 (JKV)
Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Exodus 34:6 (KJV)
And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

John 8:11 (KJV) Here is an example.
She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Mark 9:50 (NLT)
Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.”

Matthew 5:44-48 (KJV)
44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

“Be not deceived” was the first thing Jesus said when his followers asked him for signs of the end.

Matthew 24:4 (KJV)
4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.
His Ways in Our Lives

2 Peter 1:3-7 (KJV)
3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Philippians 4:8 (KJV)
Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Hebrews 12:2 (KJV)
2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Notes:
Witness 5: Joy in Jesus, the Lawgiver

Just as none of creation happened without Jesus, no laws came into existence without him. They all reflect his character of love.

Psalm 100 (KJV)
1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Nehemiah 8:2-3; 10-12 (KJV)
2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.
3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.
10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.
11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy: neither be ye grieved.
12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

Understanding that the laws of the LORD will bring us joy is a huge step to appreciating the lawgiver.

Ezekiel 22:29-31 (NLT)
29 Even common people oppress the poor, rob the needy, and deprive foreigners of justice.
30 I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one.
31 So now I will pour out my fury on them, consuming them with the fire of my anger. I will heap on their heads the full penalty for all their sins. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!

Isaiah 26:1 (NLT)
In that day, everyone in the land of Judah will sing this song: Our city is strong! We are surrounded by the walls of God’s salvation.
Rebuild the Wall of Righteousness

Isaiah 58:12 (KJV)
And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Matthew 5:19 (KJV)
Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 15:9
But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

2 Corinthians 11:14
And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Daniel 7:25 (NLT)
25 He will defy the Most High and oppress the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a time, times, and half a time.

Matthew 24:12 Expanded Bible (EXB)
12 There will be more and more evil [sin; lawlessness] in the world, so most people will stop showing their love for each other [the love of many/most will grow cold].

Satan will try to destroy God’s cyclical worship system, but God will triumph! Our wickedness is the reason God will not call the feasts to our attention. Revive us we pray! It is time.

Notes:
We are a complete creation in the image of God. We also have visible and invisible parts. The Spirit of God knows the difference!

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)
And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Man was created God said:

Genesis 1:26-27 (KJV)
26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 2:7 (KJV)
7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul

Job 12:10 (KJV)
10 In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

Job 32:8 (NLT)
8 But there is a spirit within people, the breath of the Almighty within them that makes them intelligent.

Zechariah 12:1 (KJV)
1 The burden of the word of the L ORD for Israel, saith the L ORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

The spirit of mankind can die while the body goes on living.

1 Timothy 5:6 (NLT)
6 But the widow who lives only for pleasure is spiritually dead even while she lives.

We need to be reborn:

John 3:3 (NLT)
Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Now we can see the three components that are necessary to be created in the image of God.

Romans 8:16 (KJV)
The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Our spirits communicate things of the Kingdom of God. To protect them we must screen out harmful influences. That means anything we see, hear, feel or think. Sometimes I think self-generated influences are the worst!
The Mind of Christ

*The Spirit was given to Jesus without limit.*

**John 3:34** (KJV)
For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

**1 Corinthians 2:16** (KJV)
For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

**John 17:14-19** (NLT)
14 I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

15 I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.

16 They do not belong to this world any more than I do.

17 **Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.**

18 Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.

19 **And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.**

**Leviticus 22:31-32** (NLT)
31 You must faithfully keep all my commands by putting them into practice, for I am the LORD.

32 Do not bring shame on my holy name, for I will display my holiness among the people of Israel. **I am the LORD who makes you holy**

*We can invite Jesus into our hearts to change the way we think. He is waiting for permission from us. This change happens through His Spirit talking to our spirit.*

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Witness 7: Forgiveness - God’s Cure

Damage control is important in our world. Forgiveness from our hearts will stop the damage in our hearts and in our brains.

Acts 5:31 (KJV)
Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins

Jesus has provided a way of forgiveness for our sins when we repent at his invitation.

Luke 1:77 (NLT)
You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.

Luke 24:47 (NLT)
It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.

Acts 2:38 (NLT)
Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

There will come a time when we have run out of time to repent and confess our sins and receive forgiveness. Today is the time to ask for the gift of salvation. It certainly isn’t something we have earned! Ask while there is still time. Personally we can sin away our time of grace while others can still repent.

Mark 3:29 (KJV)
But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

Jeremiah 36:7 (NLT)
Perhaps even yet they will turn from their evil ways and ask the LORD’s forgiveness before it is too late. For the LORD has threatened them with his terrible anger.

Psalm 32:5-7 (KJV)
5 I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.
6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.
7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Matthew 12:32 (KJV)
And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

When we cut off communication with the LORD, which includes Jesus, we will not be healed of sin. Why? We will not ask in time.
Heart Forgiveness

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Matthew 18:21-22 (KJV)

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

1 John 1:9 (KJV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

How do we want God to forgive us? Do we want him to forget our sins? Then we must forget the sins of others against us. Can we let go of that last shred of bitterness? By His grace alone, at our request to change the way we think.

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