

## GOSPEL PEARLS

# The authority is authorised

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*John the Baptist said to his disciples: 'He who comes from above is above all others; he who is born of the earth is earthly himself and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven bears witness to the things he has seen and heard, even if his testimony is not accepted; though all who do accept his testimony are attesting the truthfulness of God, since he whom God has sent speaks God's own words: God gives him the Spirit without reserve. The Father loves the Son and has entrusted everything to him. Anyone who believes in the Son has eternal life, but anyone who refuses to believe in the Son will never see life: the anger of God stays on him.'* (John 3,31-36)

The Gospel is not a simple doctrine: its proclamation is accompanied and confirmed by the gift of the Spirit, from which life comes. But this gift is given only to those who believe. Who is guilty of refusing the faith does not have life, but draws upon himself "the wrath of God", that is, eternal condemnation. Jesus told us this. Presumably, you don't think He was wrong or that he was joking?