

Intro to John:

Who is John:

John 21:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴ This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

- Matthew, Mark, Luke identify John by name approximately 20 times
- John prefers to identify himself as the disciple “whom Jesus loved”
- John and James, his older brother (Acts 12:2), were known as “the sons of Zebedee” (Matt. 10:2–4),
- Jesus gave them the name “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17).
- John was an apostle (Luke 6:12–16) and one of the 3 most intimate associates of Jesus (along with Peter and James—cf. Matt. 17:1; 26:37),
- An eyewitness to and participant in Jesus’ earthly ministry (1 John 1:1–4).
- John became a “pillar” in the Jerusalem church (Gal. 2:9).
- He ministered with Peter (Acts 3:1; 4:13; 8:14) for a period.
- Besides the gospel that bears his name, John also authored 1–3 John and the Book and the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:1).

John’s Gospel centers on telling us:

- 1) Who Jesus is
- 2) Why we should believe in Him.

Why did he write this book?

John 20:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰ Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

In this purpose statement, John offers two primary reasons for writing:

- 1) That you might believe Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) and the Son of God (a divine human person)
- 2) That believing you may have life.

Monday Morning Moment:

“Just because you believe in Jesus, doesn’t mean He believes in you”

JOHN 2:23 - 24 (NLT) ²³BECAUSE OF THE MIRACULOUS SIGNS JESUS DID IN JERUSALEM AT THE PASSOVER CELEBRATION, MANY BEGAN TO TRUST IN HIM.

²⁴BUT JESUS DIDN’T TRUST THEM, BECAUSE HE KNEW HUMAN NATURE

2 COR 13:5 (NLT) ⁵EXAMINE YOURSELVES TO SEE IF YOUR FAITH IS GENUINE. TEST YOURSELVES. SURELY YOU KNOW THAT JESUS CHRIST IS AMONG YOU; IF NOT, YOU HAVE FAILED THE TEST OF GENUINE FAITH.

LUKE 9:23 (NLT) ²³THEN HE SAID TO THE CROWD, “IF ANY OF YOU WANTS TO BE MY FOLLOWER, YOU MUST TURN FROM YOUR SELFISH WAYS, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME.

The properties of the Word: Word = God Jesus = God Holy Spirit = God

1. indisputable -

Matthew 4:4 (NASB) ⁴But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

2. imperishable -

Matthew 5:17 - 18 (NASB) ¹⁷“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

3. indestructible -

John 10:35 (NASB) ³⁵“If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

4. inerrant -

John 17:17 (NASB) ¹⁷“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

5. infallible -

John 5:39 (NASB) ³⁹“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

The importance of time with Jesus.

Mark 3:13 - 15 (KJV)

¹³And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth *unto him* whom he would: and they came unto him.

¹⁴And he ordained twelve, **that they should be with him**, and that he might send them forth to preach,

¹⁵And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Luke 24:32 (NLT)

³²They said to each other, “**Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?**”

2 Cor 3:16 - 18 (NLT)

¹⁶But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

¹⁷For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

¹⁸So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—**makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.**

1. Water is also a metaphor for the written Word of God, the Bible. God is the Father of his spiritual children, and the written Word of God together with the working of his Holy Spirit is how the new birth is conceived.

EPHESIANS 5:25 - 26 (NASB) ²⁵HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, JUST AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR HER, ²⁶SO THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY HER, HAVING **CLEANSED HER BY THE WASHING OF WATER WITH THE WORD.**

1 JOHN 5:8 (NLT) ⁸THE SPIRIT, **THE WATER**, AND THE BLOOD—AND ALL THREE AGREE.

PSALMS 119:9 (NLT) ⁹HOW CAN A YOUNG PERSON STAY PURE? **BY OBEYING YOUR WORD.**

JOHN 15:3 (NASB) ³“YOU ARE ALREADY CLEAN BECAUSE OF **THE WORD WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU.**”

JAMES 1:18 (NLT) ¹⁸HE CHOSE TO **GIVE BIRTH TO US BY GIVING US HIS TRUE WORD.** AND WE, OUT OF ALL CREATION, BECAME HIS PRIZED POSSESSION.

That is why the Bible tells us that God saves people by the preaching of the Word:

ROMANS 10:14 – 15; 17 (NLT) ¹⁴BUT HOW **CAN THEY CALL ON HIM TO SAVE THEM UNLESS THEY BELIEVE IN HIM?** AND HOW CAN THEY BELIEVE IN HIM IF THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD ABOUT HIM? AND HOW CAN THEY HEAR ABOUT HIM UNLESS SOMEONE TELLS THEM? ¹⁵AND HOW WILL ANYONE GO AND TELL THEM WITHOUT BEING SENT? THAT IS WHY THE SCRIPTURES SAY, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF MESSENGERS WHO BRING GOOD NEWS!” ¹⁷**SO FAITH COMES FROM HEARING, THAT IS, HEARING THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHRIST.**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:21 (NLT) ²¹SINCE GOD IN HIS WISDOM SAW TO IT THAT THE WORLD WOULD NEVER KNOW HIM THROUGH HUMAN WISDOM, HE HAS USED OUR FOOLISH **PREACHING TO SAVE THOSE WHO BELIEVE.**

The finale!

1 PETER 1:22 - 25 (NLT) ²²YOU WERE CLEANSED FROM YOUR SINS WHEN YOU OBEYED THE TRUTH, SO NOW YOU MUST SHOW SINCERE LOVE TO EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS. LOVE EACH OTHER DEEPLY WITH ALL YOUR HEART. ²³**FOR YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN, BUT NOT TO A LIFE THAT WILL QUICKLY END. YOUR NEW LIFE WILL LAST FOREVER BECAUSE IT COMES FROM THE ETERNAL, LIVING WORD OF GOD.** ²⁴AS THE SCRIPTURES SAY, “PEOPLE ARE LIKE GRASS; THEIR BEAUTY IS LIKE A FLOWER IN THE FIELD.

THE GRASS WITHERS AND THE FLOWER FADES. ²⁵ BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD REMAINS FOREVER.” **AND THAT WORD IS THE GOOD NEWS THAT WAS PREACHED TO YOU.**

What does it mean to be “Born Again”?

Jesus:

⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. JOHN 3:5

What happens when a man or a woman is born again? The answer is:

1. God first of all plants within the heart of the person what we might call the “*ovum*” of saving faith, for we are told that even faith is not of ourselves, it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8).
 2. Second, God sends forth the “*seed*” of his Word so that the seed of the Word, which contains the divine life within it, pierces the ovum of faith that God has already placed within our hearts.
 3. The result is conception. A new spiritual life comes into being, a life that has its origin in God and has *NO* connection at all with the sinful, physical life that surrounds it.
- God did not use anything of Abram when he made the new Abraham.
 - He did not use anything of Simon when he created the new Peter.
 - He did not use anything of Saul when he made the new Paul.
 - He does not use anything of our old sinful/Adamic nature when he produces the new life of Jesus within us

That is why we can now say, “**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come**” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Saved believers vs. un-saved believers: Spurious faith (false)

JOHN 2:23 - 24 (NLT) ²³BECAUSE OF THE MIRACULOUS SIGNS JESUS DID IN JERUSALEM AT THE PASSOVER CELEBRATION, MANY BEGAN TO TRUST IN HIM.

²⁴BUT JESUS DIDN’T TRUST THEM, BECAUSE HE KNEW HUMAN NATURE.

JOHN 6:64; 66 (NLT) ⁶⁴BUT SOME OF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ME.” (FOR JESUS KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING WHICH ONES DIDN’T BELIEVE, AND HE KNEW WHO WOULD BETRAY HIM.)

⁶⁶AT THIS POINT MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES TURNED AWAY AND DESERTED HIM.

MATT 7:20 - 23 (NLT) ²⁰YES, JUST AS YOU CAN IDENTIFY A TREE BY ITS FRUIT, SO YOU CAN IDENTIFY PEOPLE BY THEIR ACTIONS.

²¹“NOT EVERYONE WHO CALLS OUT TO ME, ‘LORD! LORD!’ WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. ONLY THOSE WHO ACTUALLY DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN WILL ENTER.

²²ON JUDGMENT DAY MANY WILL SAY TO ME, ‘LORD! LORD! WE PROPHESED IN YOUR NAME AND CAST OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME AND PERFORMED MANY MIRACLES IN YOUR NAME.’

²³BUT I WILL REPLY, ‘I NEVER KNEW YOU. GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU WHO BREAK GOD’S LAWS.’

ACTS 8:13; 18 - 23 (NLT) ¹³THEN SIMON HIMSELF BELIEVED AND WAS BAPTIZED. HE BEGAN FOLLOWING PHILIP WHEREVER HE WENT, AND HE WAS AMAZED BY THE SIGNS AND GREAT MIRACLES PHILIP PERFORMED.

¹⁸WHEN SIMON SAW THAT THE SPIRIT WAS GIVEN WHEN THE APOSTLES LAID THEIR HANDS ON PEOPLE, HE OFFERED THEM MONEY TO BUY THIS POWER.

¹⁹“LET ME HAVE THIS POWER, TOO,” HE EXCLAIMED, “SO THAT WHEN I LAY MY HANDS ON PEOPLE, THEY WILL RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT!”

²⁰BUT PETER REPLIED, “MAY YOUR MONEY BE DESTROYED WITH YOU FOR THINKING GOD’S GIFT CAN BE BOUGHT! ²¹YOU CAN HAVE NO PART IN THIS, FOR YOUR HEART IS NOT RIGHT WITH GOD. ²²REPENT OF YOUR WICKEDNESS AND PRAY TO THE LORD. PERHAPS HE WILL FORGIVE YOUR EVIL THOUGHTS, ²³FOR I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE FULL OF BITTER JEALOUSY AND ARE HELD CAPTIVE BY SIN.”

SAVING FAITH

JOHN 8:31 (NASB)

³¹SO JESUS WAS SAYING TO THOSE JEWS WHO HAD BELIEVED HIM, “IF YOU CONTINUE IN MY WORD, *THEN* YOU ARE TRULY DISCIPLES OF MINE;

JOHN 15:7 (NASB)

⁷“IF YOU ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH, AND IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU.

JOHN 15:8 (NASB)

⁸“MY FATHER IS GLORIFIED BY THIS, THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT, AND SO PROVE TO BE MY DISCIPLES.

ACTS 26:20 (NASB)

²⁰BUT *KEPT* DECLARING BOTH TO THOSE OF DAMASCUS FIRST, AND *ALSO* AT JERUSALEM AND *THEN* THROUGHOUT ALL THE REGION OF JUDEA, AND *EVEN* TO THE GENTILES, THAT THEY SHOULD REPENT AND TURN TO GOD, PERFORMING DEEDS APPROPRIATE TO REPENTANCE.

COL 1:23 (NASB)

²³IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AND STEADFAST, AND NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL THAT YOU HAVE HEARD, WHICH WAS PROCLAIMED IN ALL CREATION UNDER HEAVEN, AND OF WHICH I, PAUL, WAS MADE A MINISTER.

JAMES 2:17 (NLT)

¹⁷SO YOU SEE, FAITH BY ITSELF ISN'T ENOUGH. UNLESS IT PRODUCES GOOD DEEDS, IT IS DEAD AND USELESS.
“*Just because you believe in Jesus, doesn't mean He believes in you*”

Homework Questions for 9-10-2014:

1. Please list at least five different names for Jesus and a supporting scripture for each. For example.

Jesus is The Word of God

Revelation 19:13 (NASB)

¹³*He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*

John 1:1 (NASB)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2- Define the following and find a verse where these terms appear:

Messiah

Christ

Rabbi

High Priest

Emmanuel

Disciple

Convert

Maranatha

3- Why do you think Jesus' very first miracle involved turning water to wine? John 2:1-12

4- How many times did Jesus cleanse the Temple? Where is it found? Why do you think He did it?

5- In your own words, explain the following verses:

John 3:5 (NASB)

⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 4:14 (NASB)

¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

John 4:24 (NASB)

²⁴"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."