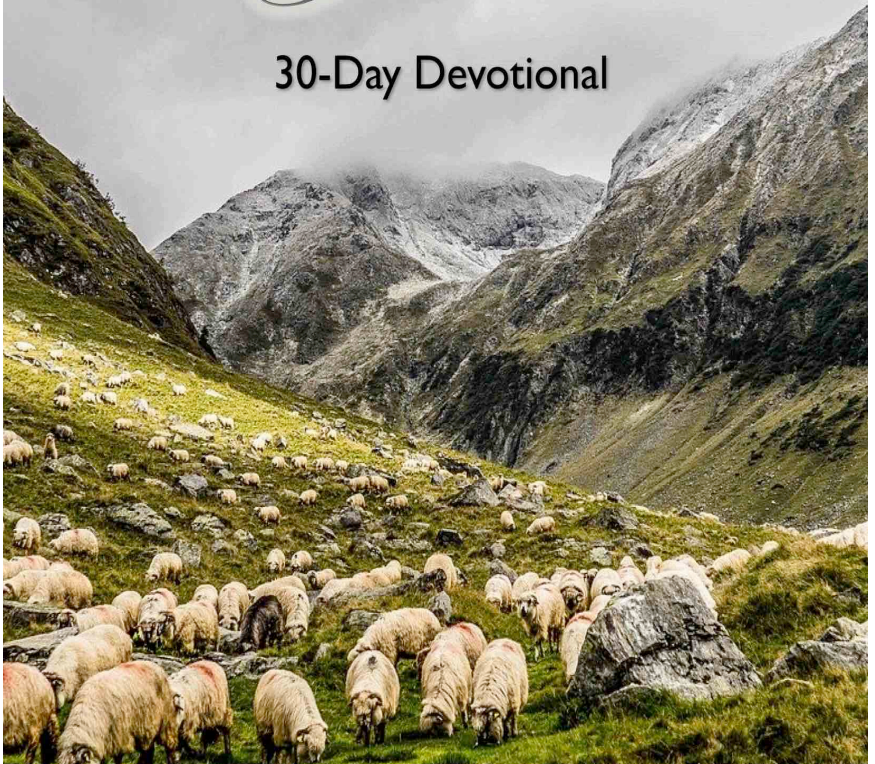


THE GOSPEL
OF

John

30-Day Devotional



Welcome to this 30-day Devotional through the Gospel of John. Each day's entry consists of about 30 verses followed by thoughts and applications from the passage, and should be able to be read in 10 minutes or less. This Devotional is not an exhaustive study of John. Rather, it is a swift journey through the book, highlighting some of the important truths and sharing how these truths apply to our lives.

Two stories come to mind when I think about John's Gospel. One is the account of how prominent author and Christian leader Larry Burkett (who has since passed away) came to personal faith in Jesus Christ. He had been attending a Bible study with his wife but participated with an argumentative attitude. The Bible study leader met with him privately to address Larry's attitude and behavior. He told him that if he truly looked for the truth in God's Word he would find it, but if he was only set on finding questions and problems, that is what he would find. Then to Larry's apparent surprise, he asked him to stop coming to his Bible studies. Yet after this, Larry Burkett proceeded to read the Gospel of John and came to saving faith in Jesus Christ.* Truly God's Word "...is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword" (Heb. 4:12).

The second story comes from a Bible study I had several years ago with a man who had been coming to the church where I was serving as an assistant pastor. This man was not yet a believer in Jesus but was interested in the Bible study. We began studying through John. After a few weeks of our study, I went to his home on a Saturday and began our study for that week. Shortly after I started, he stopped me and told me he wanted to receive Jesus as his Savior.

I trust that God will use His Word in your life wherever you are in your journey. If you already know Jesus in a saving way, I hope this time in John will strengthen your walk and increase your understanding of God's truth and your desire to serve Him. If you are like the men were in the stories above, and do not yet know the Lord, I hope you will read with an open heart and allow God to show you His Son, Jesus Christ, as the one true way of eternal life.

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*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdlfCtNgopw> (final 7 minutes)

Day 1 John 1:1-31

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.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

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. ¹⁵ John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. ¹⁶ And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

¹⁹ And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? ²⁰ And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. ²¹ And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. ²² Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? ²³ He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

²⁴ And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. ²⁵ And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? ²⁶ John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; ²⁷ He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. ²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. ³¹ And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

THE WORD

The Gospel of John begins with “the Word.” The descriptions of the Word are striking, yet very clear. “The Word was God.” “All things were made by Him...” “In Him was life...” The identity of the Word is given in verses 14-17. The Word is Jesus Christ. Jesus entered our world through the womb of His mother Mary, conceived not by man but by the Holy Ghost. One of His names is Emmanuel which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). Thus at the outset of John’s Gospel, we are told of the true nature of Jesus—He was God in human flesh.

Several years ago, someone mentioned to me that history itself makes reference to Jesus’ life on this earth. Each new year we add “1” so that the years count “up.” But going back a little more than 2,000 years, we identify historical events by years that count “down.” What event is in between these years that count down and the years that count up? It is the birth of Jesus. Even though the designations have changed over the years—B.C. (before Christ) has been replaced by some with BCE or other designations—Jesus’ birth still divides the two “sides” of history. But according to John, Jesus was not just a great historical figure. He was both God and Man.

CREATION

Verse 3 tells us that “All things were made by Him...” Throughout the Bible we read references to God being the Creator of our universe.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Speaking of Jesus, Colossians 1:16 says, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible..."

The past 100 years have witnessed marvels in technology. Advancements in travel and communication are truly amazing. Yet we know that behind every jet, computer, or cell phone is a person or group of people who designed and built those devices. How could it be any different with our world? Behind the incredible complexities of the human body or the vastness of the planetary heavens is the wisdom and power of God. The psalmist remarks on God's handiwork in Psalm 139:14, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made..."

GOD'S FAMILY

In our passage today we read of a man named John. This was John the Baptist, not to be confused with John the disciple of Jesus and human author of the Gospel of John. John the Baptist was prophesied in Isaiah 40:3 as one who would proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ. In verse 29 we read that he declared, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Israel in the Old Testament was instructed to offer many sacrifices to God, but these were not sufficient to truly cleanse anyone of their sin. Jesus came to be the One sacrifice that could bring remission of sins. He was and is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. It is through faith in Him that we can be forgiven of our sins and be given eternal life. By receiving Jesus, we become part of God's family. Some may say that we are all God's children because we all came from God. In a sense that is generally correct, but the true children of God are the ones who have believed on Jesus unto salvation. In our passage today, we read in John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name."

Day 2 John 1:32-51; 2:1-11

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.

³⁵ Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; ³⁶ And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

³⁷ And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, **What seek ye?** They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? ³⁹ He saith unto them, **Come and see.** They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, **Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas,** which is by interpretation, A stone.

⁴³ The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, **Follow me.** ⁴⁴ Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, **Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!** ⁴⁸ Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, **Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.** ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. ⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, **Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.** ⁵¹ And he saith unto him, **Verily,**

verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

John 2

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: ² And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. ³ And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. ⁴ Jesus saith unto her, **Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.** ⁵ His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. ⁶ And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. ⁷ Jesus saith unto them, **Fill the waterpots with water.** And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he saith unto them, **Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.** And they bare it. ⁹ When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, ¹⁰ And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now. ¹¹ This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

IDENTIFYING THE SON OF GOD

John the Baptist's mission was to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, and it was revealed to John how to identify the Lord. He would be the One upon Whom the Spirit descended and remained. We read of this happening at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:16). Here in our passage John clearly identified Jesus as the Son of God. Sometime later, while John the Baptist was in prison, he seemed to have doubts about Jesus as the Christ and even sent some of his disciples to ask Him (Matthew 11:2-3). I think this is a good reminder of the importance of guarding against doubting what God has clearly shown us to be true. Sometimes perhaps our changing feelings or life's circumstances may influence us to doubt God or His promises. We need to combat these doubts with the clear truth of God's Word. Philippians 4:8 lists things that we need to think about. The first in the list are things that are true. Our feelings and circumstances may change, but God does not change.

BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS

In the latter portion of John, we read about two men who began to follow Jesus and also brought others to follow Jesus. Andrew found his own brother Peter and brought him to the Lord, and Philip invited Nathanael. Throughout John, we will be reminded again and again about Jesus being the one way to eternal life. How important it is for believers to bring others unto the Savior. Years ago I was out doing some outreach for the church I was pastoring and had the privilege to meet a lady named Karen who was very open to the Gospel. That very day she trusted Jesus to save her soul. A short time later she went into the hospital with some medical complications, and not long after that, this dear lady in her early 40's passed away. She had evidently told her husband that no matter what happened to her, she had made peace with God. We had certainly hoped she would recover, yet it was amazing to see that she had come to know the Lord just months before she died. While we should try to help people with their earthly needs, we must remember the significance of pointing others to the Lord Jesus and eternal life found in Him.

THE FIRST MIRACLE

In chapter 2, we read about Jesus' miracle at the wedding in Cana where He turned water into wine. Years ago in the early days of planting a church in southern California, I remember preparing a Bible study on this passage and wondering how to teach about the "wine." What exactly was it? Was it grape juice? Was it alcoholic? My mind was drawn to Proverbs 23:29-35 about the dangers of intoxicating wine. Would Jesus, who came to save mankind, have made a beverage that fit that description in Proverbs? That certainly would seem contrary to Jesus' nature. According to verse 11, this appears to be the first of the many miracles Jesus performed while here on earth.