

THRIVING



IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

John 1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. ⁵ And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

The Witness John the Baptist

⁶ A man came, *one* sent from God, *and* his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. ⁹ *This* was the true Light ¹⁰ that, coming into the world, enlightens every person. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and *yet* the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.

The Word Made Flesh

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only *Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testified about Him and called out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who is coming after me has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.'" ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; God the only *Son*, who is in the arms of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

¹⁹ This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ And he confessed and did not deny; and *this is what* he confessed: "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And so they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? *Tell us*, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am THE VOICE OF ONE CALLING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE THE WAY OF THE LORD STRAIGHT,' as Isaiah the prophet said." ²⁴ And the messengers had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize in water, *but* among you stands One whom you do not know. ²⁷ *It is* He who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy *even* to untie the strap of His sandal." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing *people*. ²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is He in behalf of whom I said, 'After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.' ³¹ And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water." ³² And John testified, saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. ³³ And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit

descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Jesus' Public Ministry; First Converts

³⁵ Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What are you seeking?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day; it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). ⁴³ The next day He decided to go to Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets *also wrote*: Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!" ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good be from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
3. How do you think we are supposed to respond to this passage?
4. What are you excited to share with others?

"As we have celebrated Christmas in 2020, John chapter 1 verse 14 stands out doesn't it? "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . ." Jesus came as a humble little baby, to live the perfect life that we could not and then go to the cross as the "Lamb of God". He did that 33 years later. His light has shined in the darkness and He is the way we all made it through this past year. True? For apart from Him we can do nothing. We soon embark on the new year of 2021, may it be that John chapter 1 captivates our hearts as this next year unfolds. May we respond to our Savior like Nathaniel did! May we understand that Christ not only sees all things, but that He knows our hearts. May it be that this next year will be filled with the joy of our Savior each and every day as we focus on the Word and all He says. May His light so shine through us that some trapped in the darkness do come to understand it, because this dark, lost, and dying world needs His light." — Pastor Matt MacCollin

"If there is any reality within the whole sphere of human experience, that is by its very nature worthy to challenge the mind, charm the heart and bring the total life to a burning focus, it is the reality that revolves around the person of Christ."— A.W. Tozer