

# The Gospel of John

1:6-13

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

✠ **John 1:6-8** *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

This week's study starts out speaking of John. Now this is not the same John who wrote this book, but rather John the Baptist. And John said that John the Baptist was sent from God.

To understand this, we have to look in the book of Luke.

✠ **Luke 1:5-25, 57-66, 80** *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. And so it was, as soon as the days*

*of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."*

*Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John." But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." So they made signs to his father--what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.*

*So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.*

I know this is kind of long since we are really studying the book of John and not Luke, but I really like the story, it shows God's faithfulness and that He can do anything through anyone. There is also a lot of good stuff we could go over just in this chapter in Luke, but we won't. That may have to be for another study.

You must remember that the book of Luke was already written; therefore, those who read these verses in John knew what he was talking about.

But notice at the end of the story in Luke, what the people were saying, *"What kind of child will this be?"*

They may have believed that this may have been the Messiah, but John removes any doubt of those who may have still thought this by writing.

✠ **John 1:8** *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

So we know about John the Baptist, and if you read in the other Gospels you will read of John being that witness of the Light. So who is this Light John is speaking of here?

✠ **John 1:9-13** *That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become*

*children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

It is obviously Jesus, but John makes some pretty bold statements here. The first is in verses 11-12

✠ *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*

Once again speaking of creation, which we learned that Jesus was the creator of all things in last week's study.

But it's very sad to think that the one who created all things was not recognized by His creation.

To think that a non-breathing, no life in its self, rock knew that the creator was here,

✠ **Luke 19:40** *But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."*

But the people that God breathed life into did not know it was God.

*"After all that Jesus did, how could these people not know that God was there?"*

The simple reason is the hardness of their hearts, and the desire for the things of this world rather than the creator.

✠ **John 6:26** *Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."*

As you read through the gospels, you read of how people flocked around Jesus, not because of who He was, but rather what they could get out of Him.

But before we start to raging on these people, don't we all do the same thing?

We are so interested in getting from the Creator, that we miss Who He really is. GOD!

Not a genie who will grant us our wishes, not a Santa Claus or a store. Sure, God does supply all our needs and even beyond them. God is called the Great Provider in the Bible.

✠ **Gen 22:14 (KJV)** *And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*

**Jehovahjireh** means: The-LORD-WILL-PROVIDE!

But is that all you see God as? That's all they saw Jesus as in the gospels, at least until He was resurrected. But even at Jesus' death, one of the oddest persons finally got it. This odd person was a Roman soldier who just crucified Jesus.

† **Matt 27:54** *So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"*

As soon as Jesus died, the Holy Spirit was at work in the hearts of the people!

Once again John states the purpose (as we saw he did at the end of the book) for writing this book:

✠ *This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.*

What about you, are you bearing witness of the Light so others might believe?

Very simply, how is your lifestyle and what are you showing others with the way you live?

Do you party and get drunk and call yourself a Christian?

Are there magazines with naked men or women around your house?

What kind of websites do you visit on the Internet?

What about when you get those awful e-mails from spammers advertising pornographic web sites, do you go because you are just curious?

What about your speech and the things you say? You may not cuss, but do you always put others down saying mean and nasty things about them behind their backs?

Do you help those in need?

Would your checkbook reflect wisdom with God's money or wasteful spending?

Would others want to be like you, because they see Jesus in you?

Tough questions, but ones we need to ask ourselves all the time to keep ourselves in check.

Back in our study in the book of Genesis, I gave the example of the sun and moon, and I think the same applies to this study also.

You see the moon in itself is just a cold hard rock up in space, with it generating no light in itself. So why do we see the moon at night? It's because the sun is reflecting it's light off of it. Without the sun we would never see the moon.

We are just like the moon; in ourselves we are nothing more than cold hearted rocks, and the sun is Jesus. So when Jesus is in our lives then His light will shine through us.

But you will also notice that we don't always see a full moon in the sky at night.

Sometimes it will be a  $\frac{3}{4}$  moon, or a  $\frac{1}{2}$  moon or even a  $\frac{1}{4}$  moon, finally there is what's called the new moon, where you don't really see the moon at all.

The reason we see the moon like this is because the earth blocks out the light of the sun, be it  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  or completely.

The same is true for us as Christians, when we allow the world to take over us, others see less and less of Jesus in our lives, the amount of the world you allow to influence you reflects how much of Jesus others see in you.

Maybe you have been a Christian for some time now, but others don't know it. Ask the Lord to show you what things of this world you are holding onto that stops others from seeing Jesus.

The choice is yours, a full moon,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  or new moon, which do you want to be as a Christian?

But John does give us good news.

✠ **John 1:12-13** *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

John is speaking of being born again here in verse 13. We will get more into that when we get to chapter three. But until then look at 1 Peter.

✠ **1 Peter 1:23 (NLT)** *For you have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.*

You will hear this question a lot in these studies in John, but then after all, that's why John wrote the book in the first place.

So what's the question?

*"Do you believe in Jesus? Have you been born again by the Spirit of God?"*

You may answer "yes" and "I don't know" which are good honest answers.

But to the first question; what Jesus do you believe in? The one the world portrays at Christmas or Easter or the one of the Bible.

*"Is there a difference?"*

Yes, and no. You see the world only knows a small portion of Who Jesus really is. They know he was born on Christmas day (Which is not His real date of earthly birth) in a manger. They may know that He died on the cross (But then again it wasn't on Easter that Jesus died) and some may know He rose from the dead on Easter.

Now don't get me wrong, these are good things to know and in fact you MUST believe that Jesus rose from the dead in order to be saved.

But there is so much more to Jesus than these two things that He did.

We have learned just in last week's study that Jesus was the creator of all things.

✠ **John 1:3** *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

But also through the bible we see God's compassion through Jesus, as He heals and forgives sinners. How He protects those who are persecuted. How much love He had even for the one He knew would betray Him.

There is so much to Jesus that I am learning about Him every day and even if I lived a thousand lifetimes, it would only scratch the surface of Who Jesus is!

He has been so patient and good to me, but so many times I forget this and question Him, and He is always faithful to me, even when I am not faithful to Him.

For years he has allowed me to teach His word on the Internet.

He has blessed me with a 3 sons, and a daughter who are all the best a dad could ever ask for.

The Lord has provided me with a job, a home, and good Christian friends that I trust.

God pours His love upon me so much every day and gives me a peace in times when I would have gone crazy with the same problems.

I could do pages and pages, day after day of just Who Jesus has been to me, and His goodness towards me every day.

But you know what, I'm not the only one. **He has done the same for you too!**

The first thing He did was die for you, because He loves you and wants to spend eternity in heaven with you.

*"How could God ever love a sinner like me? Does He really know what I've done? If He did He wouldn't want anything to do with me."*

Have you prostituted yourself or committed sexual sin over and over?

- † **John 8:4 & 11** *they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

Have you denied Him or even cursed at Him?

- † **Matt 26:34** *Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."*
- † **Matt 26:73-74** *And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.*
- † **John 21:19b** *And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."*

Jesus knows what you have done, but still Jesus says to you, **"Follow Me."**

Will you?

People send me questions, which are good questions. Some really make me search the scriptures to find the answers. I get questions from both Christians and non-Christians. Some are honest questions and some just want to argue with you.

One question I get a lot from both Christians and non-Christians is, “*Who was Cain’s wife?*”

Good question no matter who asks it, but if there is not a solid answer to this question or other questions we just won’t know until we get to heaven. But will that keep you from accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

When you die and you are standing before God will you say, “*I didn’t believe God because I didn’t know who Cain’s wife was.*”

I know that sounds kind of crazy, but it’s really the truth.

But Jesus didn’t say to believe in who Cain’s wife was, or if there were dinosaurs, or if the earth is billions of years old verses 6000 years old. God does not say to know how an adam was constructed, or why the earth turns as fast as it does.

God doesn’t say to stop believing in Him because it was time for a loved one to be with Him in heaven.

What excuse are you using right now? If you were to die tonight and stand before God, would God pardon you because of this excuse?

Jesus makes it very clear in who and what you should believe in to get to heaven.

† **John 6:47** *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.*

† **John 11:25-27** *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

Once again Jesus is asking you, "*And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*"

And by believing in Jesus you too can have the light that John has been talking about, and that Jesus is now telling you.

† **John 12:44-46** *Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness."*

Today, come out of the darkness of this world, and enter the light of Jesus Christ in your life. Stop being a dead rock floating around in space, and be a full moon for all to see the light of Jesus living in you.

How do you do this? Once again just a prayer by faith, like this one.

**Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I have been walking in darkness for all my life. Please forgive me for my sins, I choose to turn from them and run to You. Please be my Lord and Savior. I believe that you died on the cross for all my sins and rose**

**from the dead on the third day. Thank You Jesus for doing this for me. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit and may I share You with others. I pray this in Your Name Jesus. AMEN!**

If you just prayed this prayer by faith, you are now saved and are a Christian. Welcome to the family of God. I would encourage you to keep praying and reading your bible every day. Find a good bible teaching church to go to, and share Jesus with others.

Two answer the second question, you are now born again of the Spirit of God, which we will study more when we get to it in John.

Well, I think that will do it for this week's study.

I pray you are enjoying these studies and are growing closer to the Lord through them and most important His word.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy, and may you be a full moon allowing the light of Jesus to shine in your life!