

Approximately 35 minutes



The Gospel of John: Believe and Live

Opening Prayer

Father God, we come before You in the name of Jesus. Thank You for Your Word, which is living and active. Thank You for the Gospel of John, which clearly reveals who Jesus is. Lord, open our eyes to see Christ, open our hearts to believe, and open our lives to live in the power of Your Spirit. If anyone here does not yet know You, draw them to salvation today. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Introduction: The Purpose of John's Gospel

If you want to know why John wrote his Gospel, you don't have to guess.

He tells us directly.

John 20:31 (NIV) "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

That is the theme of John's Gospel:

Believe and live.

Not merely know facts.

Not merely admire Jesus.

But believe...and live.

John wrote to show us who Jesus is so that we would trust Him and receive eternal life.

The Gospel of John is simple enough for a child to understand, yet deep enough for a theologian to swim in for a lifetime.

Today we're going to walk through the major themes of John's Gospel and see how it calls us to believe and live.

I. The Identity of Jesus: The Word Made Flesh

John does not begin with a manger. He begins with eternity.

John 1:1 (NIV) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Jesus did not begin in Bethlehem.

He existed before creation.

He is eternal.

John continues:

John 1:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the incarnation.

God became man.

Fully God. 100%

Fully man. 100%

Jesus did not merely bring a message from God.

He is God in the flesh.

“**If**” we misunderstand who Jesus is, we will misunderstand salvation.

- He is not just a good teacher.
- He is not just a prophet.
- He is **God the Son**.

And John says: Believe this....and you will live.

II. The Signs of Jesus: Evidence for Faith

John records seven major signs (miracles). He calls them “signs” because they point to something greater.

1. Water to Wine (John 2)

Jesus turns water into wine.

This reveals His authority over creation.

It also shows He brings transformation.

He takes ordinary water and makes it extraordinary.

That is what He does with lives.

2. Healing the Official’s Son (John 4)

Jesus heals from a distance.

His word has power.

3. Healing the Paralytic (John 5)

Jesus heals a man who had been sick for 38 years.

When others gave up, Jesus stepped in.

4. Feeding the 5,000 (John 6)

Jesus multiplies bread and fish.

He is the provider.

5. Walking on Water (John 6)

He has authority over nature.

6. Healing the Blind Man (John 9)

He brings sight....physically and spiritually.

7. Raising Lazarus (John 11)

He has authority over death itself.

Each sign answers one question:

👉 Who is Jesus?

John's answer: He is the **Son of God**.

And the response must be belief.

III. The “I Am” Statements: Jesus Declares His Identity

Throughout John, Jesus uses the phrase “I am.”

This echoes God’s name in **Exodus 3:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”**

Let’s look at a few.

“I Am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35) NIV ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Jesus satisfies the deepest hunger of the soul.

“I Am the Light of the World”

(John 8:12)NIV ¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the

light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

The world is spiritually dark.

Jesus brings truth and clarity.

“I Am the Good Shepherd”

(John 10:11)NIV¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

- He protects.
- He leads.
- He sacrifices.

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

(John 11:25)NIV²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

This is not poetry.

This is promise.

“I Am the Way and the Truth and the Life” (John 14:6)NIV⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

This is limited.

Not one of many ways.

The only way.

And John says: Believe....and live.

IV. The Heart of the Gospel: John 3:16

If you could summarize John in one verse,
This would be it:

John 3:16 (NIV)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Notice the key word: **believes**.

Salvation is not earned.

👉 Salvation is received by faith.

And notice the promise:

Not perish....but have eternal life.

Eternal Life does not begin at death.

It begins the moment you believe.

V. What Does It Mean to Believe?

Belief in John is more than mental agreement.

Even demons believe facts about God.

To believe means:

- . To trust
- . To rely
- . To surrender

When you sit in a chair, you are trusting it to hold you.

That is biblical belief.

You trust Christ with your life.

John 1:12 (NIV) says:

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

Belief leads to relationship.

VI. The Cross and Resurrection: The Source of Life

John slows down dramatically in chapters 18 - 20.

Why?

Because the cross is central.

- Jesus was arrested.

- Mocked.
- Crucified.

John 19:30 (NIV) says: **30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.**

👉 **"It is finished."**

The debt was paid.

Sin was paid for.

Then on the third day, the tomb was empty.

The resurrection proves:

- . Jesus is who He said He is.
- . Death is defeated.
- . Eternal life is available.

Without the resurrection, there is no life.

But because He lives, we live.

VII. The Result of Believing: Abiding Life

Jesus says in **John 15:5(NIV) ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

Believing is not a one-time decision only.

It is an ongoing relationship.

You abide.

You remain.

And life flows from Him into you.

- Peace.
- Joy.
- Strength.
- Purpose.

This is what it means to believe and live.

VIII. The Danger of Unbelief

John also shows us the tragedy of unbelief.

Many saw the miracles....and still rejected Him.

John 12:37(NIV) says:

“Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.”

Unbelief hardens the heart.

Belief softens it.

👉 The difference between eternal life and eternal separation from God is belief in Christ.

Invitation: Believe and Live

The Gospel of John gives a clear invitation:

Believe....and live.

Maybe you have known about Jesus.

Maybe you have attended church.

👉 But have you truly believed?

👉 Have you trusted Him personally?

Jesus said in **John 5:24(NIV)** ²⁴ **“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”**

Not will have.

👉 Has Eternal Life.

If you want eternal life, you must believe.

Invitation to Be Born Again

Jesus told Nicodemus in **John 3:3(NIV)** ³ **Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

To be born again means:

- . Admit you are a sinner.
- . Believe Jesus died for your sins.
- . Trust Him as Lord and Savior.

Right now, you can respond right where you are at.

If you want to receive Christ, pray sincerely:

“Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. I confess I am a sinner and need forgiveness. Please forgive me. Come into my life. I trust You as my Savior and Lord. Give me eternal life. Help me follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

If you prayed this sincerely with faith, you have passed from death to life.

Believe....and live.

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the Gospel of John. Thank You that Jesus is the Word made flesh, the Light of the world, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life. Thank You that by believing in Him we have eternal life. Strengthen our faith. Help us abide in Christ daily. And draw many more to believe and live. We give You all the praise and glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20