

# How to be Connected with God

## The Importance of Jesus

1. Before he became a man, Jesus already existed in eternity past. (John 1:1-2)
  - a. He is called the Word of God, and he existed with God. {1} In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
  - b. He was God. and the Word was God.
  - c. He was in the beginning with God. {2} He was in the beginning with God.
2. He created everything that exists. (John 1:3): {3 }All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
3. The world at large has no clue who Jesus really is. (John 1:10). {10} He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
4. He came to his own things that he had created, but his own people, the Jewish people, did not receive him. (John 1:11): {11} He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.
5. To every person who did receive him, he gave the right, or authority to be born into God's family. (John 1:12-13):
  - a. The requirement to be met: {12} But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,
  - b. The synonym for "receiving him": even to those who believe in His name,
  - c. The power behind being born into God's family: {13} who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
6. The eternal Word of God became man. (John 1:14): {14} And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only-born from the Father, full of grace and truth.
7. The Only-Born one explains the invisible God. (John 1:18): {18} No one has seen God at any time; the only-born God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.
8. The encounter of Nicodemus with Jesus (John 3:1-21).
  - a. The question of Nicodemus (John 3:1-2).
    - i. His identity: {1} Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;
    - ii. His observation – no one could do the miracles that Jesus did unless God were with him: {2} this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

- b. Jesus' reply. You can't even see God's kingdom unless you have been "born again." (John 3:3): {3} Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again <sup>1</sup> he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- c. Nicodemus' incredulity. (John 3:4): {4} Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"
- d. Jesus' more detailed reply. (John 3:5-8). – If you are going to enter God's spiritual kingdom, you have to be given birth by God's Holy Spirit:
  - i. The condition for entering God's kingdom: {5} Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water <sup>2</sup> and the Spirit <sup>3</sup> he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
  - ii. If one is only born of the flesh, he remains flesh: {6} "That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
  - iii. If one is born of the Spirit he is born into the spiritual realm: and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
  - iv. Being born of the Spirit is like the wind. You can tell it is there, but you can't see it: {7} "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' {8} "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- e. How to be born into God's family. (John 3:16-21)
  - i. God's love (John 3:16) {16} "For God so loved the world,
  - ii. God's gift: that He gave His only begotten Son,
  - iii. The result of believing in him: that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
  - iv. God's purpose in sending Jesus: {17} "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.
  - v. The requirement of faith: {18} "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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<sup>1</sup> John 3:5 - born again: The Greek word translated here "again" actually has two meanings – "again" and "from above." Jesus meant both. Nicodemus thought he meant only "again."

<sup>2</sup> John 3:5 - born of water: This is physical birth, not baptism.

<sup>3</sup> John 3:5 - born of the Spirit: This is spiritual birth into God's family.

- vi. Why people reject the Light: {19} "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. {20} "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.
  - vii. Why do people who practice truth come to the Light? {21} "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."
9. Jesus' promise to his followers just before his death. (John 14:1-6)
- a. Jesus' reassurance: {1} "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
  - b. Jesus' promise to his followers to prepare a place for them when he leaves earth
    - i. The existence of much room in his Father's house: {2} "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
    - ii. His promise to prepare a place for them and come and get them: {3} "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.
    - iii. His reassurance that they knew the way to get there: {4} "And you know the way where I am going."
  - c. The skepticism of Thomas: {5} Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"
  - d. Jesus' exclusive statement: {6} Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
10. John's purpose in writing the Gospel of John. (John 20:30-31)
- a. Jesus performed many miracles which are not recorded in his gospel: {30} Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;
  - b. His purpose in recording the ones he did: {31} but these have been written <sup>4</sup> so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

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<sup>4</sup> John 20:31 - these have been written: The signs (miracles) Jesus performed that John did record are as follows: (1) Turning water into wine (John 2:1-12). (2) Jesus' healing the royal official's son (John 4:46-54). (3) Jesus' healing of the invalid at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9). (4) Jesus' feeding of 5,000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish (John 6:1-14). (5) Jesus' walking on the water (John 6:16-21). (6) Jesus' healing of a man blind from birth (John 9:1-41). (7) Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead after he had been dead four days (John 11:1-45). (8) Jesus' providing a miraculous catch of fish (John 21:1-14).