

The Life-giving Light
of Christ
John 1:6-13

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.” **Isaiah 9:2**

“ ‘They say Aslan is on the move- perhaps has already landed.’ And now a very curious thing happened. None of the children knew who Aslan was any more than you do; but the moment the Beaver had spoken these words everyone felt quite different. Perhaps it has sometimes happened to you in a dream that someone says something which you don't understand but in the dream it feels as if it has some enormous meaning- either a terrifying one which turns the whole dream into a nightmare or else a lovely meaning too lovely to put into words, which makes the dream so beautiful that you remember it all your life and are always wishing you could get into that dream again.” C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Jesus is the One who can transform impossible dark and difficult places into places of hope, of life, and of freedom.

I. Can I Get a Witness? John 1:6-8

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all may believe through him. He was not the light but came to bear witness about the light.”

John 1:6-8

The woman at the well: “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”

John 4:29

The man born blind: “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see ... If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” **John 9:25,33**

- **Jesus is the Pre-existent One and John is not:
Jesus is more than a prophet.**

“John bore witness about him, and cried out, ‘This was he of whom he said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”

John 1:15

“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’”

John 8:58

- **Jesus is the Christ and John is not. Jesus is the promised sin-removing Lord.**

John 1:23 “He (John the Baptist) said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.’”

Isaiah 40:1-2 “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins...”

- **Jesus is the Spirit-baptizer. John is not.**

John 1:32-34 “And John bore witness: ‘I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water, said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and bear witness that this is the Son of God.”

- **Jesus is the King of the world. John is not.**

John 3:29-30 “The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. **Therefore, this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease.**”

Jesus is not another prophet.

He is not just the greatest of all prophets.

He is the Christ, the eternal One, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the King who reigns over all things for all time.

II. Deep Spiritual Darkness John 1:9-11

“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.”

John 1:9-11

Jesus displays His glory to everyone everywhere.

Yet, despite the obvious life-giving light of Jesus, all the miracles that he did and all the life-transforming truths he spoke, the darkness resisted him.

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

John 3:19

- **Deep and Determined Ignorance**

“He was in the world and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.”

John 1:10

“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must walk no longer as the Gentiles do in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.” **Ephesians 4:17,18**

“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

Romans 1:20

- **Willful Rebellion**

“He came to His own, and his own people did not receive Him.”

John 1:12

“Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words.” John 5:45-47

“Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; **for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.**” **John 12:41-43**

“Most of the people you see at the mall or at work *look* alive. If you tell them they are dead, they will think you’ve lost your mind. But if you substitute spiritual blindness and darkness for deadness, then you start to see what John means. People aren’t dead because they can’t walk or talk or think or feel or even see with physical eyes. They are dead because ‘*seeing* they do not *see*’.” **John Piper**

III. The Miracle of the New Birth John 1:12-13

“But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, he gave the right to become the children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” **John 1:12-13**

The Greatest News: Jesus was born as a son of man so that we might be born (again) as sons and daughters of God.

- **The Right of Sonship (John 1:12)**

“But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, he gave the right to become the children of God...”

- **The New Birth (John 1:13)**

“who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

The human will cannot overcome the human heart and its sin and rebellion or self-righteousness and religion. But Christ can by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

Matthew 19:25-26

“There is no hardness in the human heart against God...which is so hard that God himself cannot overcome it and save the hardest sinner. This is the very heart of the new-covenant promise of Ezekiel 11:19: ‘I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh. Nothing is too hard for the Lord.’” John Piper