

*Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine?
Those who are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be
upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there
a little.*

Isaiah 28:9-10

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #188

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

PART 2: CHAPTER 1, VERSES 1-14

1-*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.* The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible through men. The Word is JESUS. *With* in this verse is from the Greek *pros* which is a word that means *towards* and denotes *a sense of closeness*. The Holy Spirit is saying that the relationship with the Father(God) and the Son(Jesus) is an intimate relationship. One scholar translated this verse as, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was face to face with God, and the Word was God.*

WORD is one of most profound titles of Jesus, and indeed, as I pointed out last week, He values His Word even more than He does His name. In the Old Testament, His name was Jehovah. This was such a big deal to the Jew, that they never pronounced *Jehovah* out loud because it was too holy for mortal, unclean man to even say. That is why you sometimes see things like *G-d* in the writings of Messianic and Orthodox Jews.

As we discussed last week, *Word* in this verse is from the Greek Word *Logos*, which denotes the whole Bible. In fact, every time you see *word* in John, it is *Logos*, not *Rhema*. The other Greek word that is translated as *word* in English is *Rhema*. This is a specific verse from the *Logos* that the Holy Spirit gives an individual for a specific situation at a specific time, much like what we think of as a *prophetic word*.

Other Scriptural Examples

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Rhema that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4b

But he that received seed in the good ground is he that heareth the Logos and understandeth it, who also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred, some sixty, some thirty. Matthew 13:23

So, then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Rhema of God.
Romans 11:17

Let the Logos of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Rhema of God. Ephesians 6:17

2-*The same was in the beginning with God.* The Amplified Bible translates this verse as *He was present originally with God.* Jesus, as God the Son, has always been and always will be. Indeed, the Bible begins with God, not with theological or philosophical arguments for His existence.

3-*All things were made by Him and with out Him was not anything made that was made.* He is the Creator and the Jehovah of the Old Testament. *But as to the Son [Jesus] He [the Father] says to Him [Jesus], Your [Jesus'] throne, O God, is forever and ever....And further, You, Lord [Jesus] did lay the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands."* Hebrews 1:8b & 10 AMP Jesus created everything by speaking the Word.

4-*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.* *Life* comes from the Greek word *Zoe*. From it we get zoology, the study of life. *Light* comes from the Greek word *Phos*. From *Phos*, we get things like photography.

5-*And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness overcame it not.* According to Rick Renner, a Greek scholar, "*John 1:5 makes it absolutely clear that darkness does not have the ability to suppress or to hold the light under its domain. Darkness may try to prevent the light from shining, but it never holds back the light permanently. Eventually, it always comes shining through. This is true of you and your dream, vision, or calling as well. You may feel hindered from time to time in your attempts to fulfill the call God has given you, but don't despair. Those hindrances won't last long. The only way the devil can steal your dream, vision, or calling is if you surrender to him first! If you hold on and refuse to give up, your faith will overcome every encumbrance the devil tries to set in your path!*"

6-*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.* **7-*The same came for a witness to bear witness of the Light, that all men through Him might believe.*** **8-*He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*** John the Baptist was the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, a

cousin of the Virgin Mary. He was the forerunner of Christ and was beheaded by Herod (Matthew 3:1,4,13). More than any other, besides Jesus, John was the bridge between the Old and New Testament, making the transition for the Jewish people, from Law to Grace. He was born when his parents were old and beyond the child bearing years. His father was a priest. John practiced a life of self-denial and was a Nazirite. He dressed simply, ate modestly (mainly honey and locust), and spoke bluntly and honestly. He was a man of courage, powerful preaching, zeal, and honor.

According to *The Layman's Bible Encyclopedia*, a Nazirite was "An individual who consecrated himself in the Lord and took a special vow of separation. During the period of his vow, the Nazirite was forbidden to eat or drink of any product of the vine, to cut his hair or beard, to touch a dead body, and to eat unclean food. At the close of the period of consecration, he made various offerings, shaved his head and burnt the hair, after which he returned to normal life. If the vow was accidentally violated at any time before its completion, the entire process had to be repeated from the beginning."

9-That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10-He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. 11-He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. Again quoting from Rick Renner, "When I get disappointed at the way others respond to me or to what I have done for them, I often think of what happened to Jesus on the night He came before these Jewish leaders. John 1:11 tell us, '*He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.*' Although these men who spit on and hit Jesus refused to acknowledge Him, He still went to the Cross and died for them. His love for them was unwavering-unshaken and unaffected by their wrong actions. As you think of how people have wronged you, does it affect your desire to love them? What have these conflicts revealed about you? Is your love for those unkind people consistent, unwavering, unshaken, and unaffected? Or have the conflicts revealed you have a fickle love that you quickly turn off when people don't respond to you the way you wished they would? The same Holy Spirit who lived in Jesus now lives in you. Just as the Spirit of God empowered Jesus to love people consistently, regardless of what they did or didn't do, the Holy Spirit can empower you to do the same. So why don't you take a few minutes today to pray about the people who have let you down or disappointed you? Then forgive those people and decide to love them the way Jesus loved those who wronged Him!"

12-But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His name. There are two words in Greek that denote power. One is *exousia*. It is the one used here, and it has to do with power that has been delegated, giving you authority and influence. You receive this power when you accept Christ. Unfortunately, we do not tell new believers that all the power and authority and divine influence are resident in you when you are born again. As one person put it, “Stop laying claim to your family’s genetic problems, inheritable sicknesses, dysfunctional behavior, disorders, hang-ups, curses, or any other negative thing that was a part of your life before Christ. That old person no longer exists. He is dead. You are brand new.”

His Name is so important for those who believe on it. Until John 14, according to Andrew Murray, “The disciples had not asked in the Name of Christ, nor had He Himself ever used the expression...” We will be looking extensively at the power of His Name when we get to John 14. Until then, I will just quote a writing by Gloria Gaither, which I am sure many of you have heard:

Jesus, the mere mention of His name can calm the storm, heal the broken, raise the dead. At the name of Jesus, I’ve seen sin-hardened men melted, derelicts transformed, the lights of hope put back into the eyes of a hopeless child...

At the name of Jesus, hatred and bitterness turn to love and forgiveness, arguments cease.

I’ve heard a mother softly breathe His name at the bedside of a child delirious from fever, and I’ve watched that little body grow quiet and the fevered brow cool.

I’ve sat beside a dying saint, her body racked with pain, who in those final fleeting seconds summoned her last ounce of ebbing strength to whisper earth’s sweetest name---JESUS, JESUS...

*Emperors have tried to destroy it; philosophies have tried to stamp it out. Tyrants have tried to wash it from the face of the earth with the very blood of those who claimed it. Yet **still** it stands.*

And there shall be that final day when every voice that has ever uttered a sound—every voice of Adam’s race shall raise in one great mighty chorus to proclaim the name of Jesus—for in that day “every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!!!”

*Ah—so you see—it was not mere chance that caused the angel one night long ago to say to a virgin maiden, “His name shall be called JESUS.” Jesus—Jesus—Jesus You know, there **is** something about that name...*

13-Who were born, not of blood, not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. The Message Bible puts it in a way that we all can understand: *The Life-light was the real thing: Every person entering Life He brings into Light. He was in the world, the world was there through Him, and yet the world did not even notice. He came to His own people, but they didn't want Him. But whoever did want Him, who believed He was who He claimed and would do what He said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex- begotten.*

14-And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15-John bore witness of Him and cried, saying, This was He of whom I spoke, He that cometh after me is preferred before me, for He was before me. 16- And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. 17-For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Note that a man was not made a God, as in false religions, but that God was made a man. God, unlimited by space and time and in a glorious and joyful heaven, loving us so much that he came down in the form of flesh, the most unholy and potentially unclean part of us, so that He could reconcile sinful man by paying the price of our sin with His own life. *He paid a debt we cannot pay. We owe a debt that we cannot pay.*

I WILL GLORY IN THE CROSS

Dottie Rambo

*I boast not of works or tell of good deeds
For naught have I done to merit His grace
All glory and praise shall rest upon Him
So willing to die in my place.*

*My trophies and crowns, my robe stained with sin
Twas all that I had to lay at His feet
Unworthy to eat from the table of Life
Till Love made provision for me.*

CHORUS

*I will glory in the cross, in the cross
Lest His suffering all be in vain
I will weep no more for the cross that He bore
I will glory in the cross.*