

*Monday, 1 May 2017 John 1:6-9*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

John the Baptist might have been called John the Witness for that was his purpose. He came to bear witness about the Light. So am I. So is each one of us whether we have come to recognize it or not. Question #1 from the Westminster Shorter Confession. "What is the purpose of man? To glorify God and enjoy His company forever." Man was created to be a witness to the perfection of God so that all might believe in/trust in/obey/commit to the LORD, God, the Almighty.

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*Tuesday, 2 May 2017 John 1:9-13*

*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. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become 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.*

Receive—an action, something I need to initiate to acquire an object or a condition. The result is a precious belief/trust/commit/obey condition, a total reversal of my fallen state. The door is open for me to allow Jesus Christ to enter in to begin that process of transformation which will enable me to recognize and implement the good, perfect and acceptable will of God in my life.

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*Wednesday, 3 May 2017 John 1:47-51*

*Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."*

*Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater*

*things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

What was there about the statement that Jesus had seen Nathanael under a certain tree that caused Nathanael to acknowledge that he was in the presence of the Son of God? Nothing remarkable if a friend mentions that he saw my car at the drive through at McDonald's. What made this statement so startling to Nathanael?

What is not important or it would have been included in the record. But I can conclude that Nathanael recognized immediately that the statement indicated conclusively that he was in the presence of One who was supernatural. I remember that moment for me. It was in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:35) on a Friday afternoon in the summer of 1979. When was yours?

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*Thursday, 4 May 2017 John 2:9-11*

*When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.*

The disciples did not have advanced degrees in organic chemistry. They didn't need one to recognize that suddenly the normal, predictable progression that led to the formation of wine had been suspended at the command of someone whom they had underestimated. This statement that they believed in Him indicates a transformation from casual acceptance to life-changing conviction.

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*Friday, 5 May 2017 John 2:18-22*

*So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When*

therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

How often has the movement from head to heart taken place at a significant period of time after the event that served as stimulus? Just as the Spirit will bring a passage of Scripture to mind when needed, so He uses spoken words and events to cause the leap from casual acceptance to convicted believer.

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**Saturday, 6 May 2017** John 2:23-25

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

"Many believed when they saw the signs" Is it different today? In some ways, no, except now the goal of the individual performing the signs and wonders is to direct a following to himself. The Lord knew then and does know now that man will always be eager to steal His glory..

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**Lord's Day, 7 May 2017** Psalm 119:171

My lips will pour forth praise, for you teach me your statutes.

This is so true and so elegant that I cannot not praise You to the extent that the beauty of Your statutes is revealed to me.

# VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



May 1-7, 2017

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 3:20-21**

Now [I pray] to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

LORD, as I meditate upon this prayer, I am convicted by the paucity of my prayers, that I frequently doubt the power that is at work within me and within the [congregation], to move mountains and to powerfully expand the Kingdom of Heaven into very dark places.

So we, the members of the {congregation}, join together in raising our voices to You, pleading that Your power, already at work within us, will be evident to all; that we will not doubt, but be exceedingly bold in declaring that Your Kingdom is available to all.

Amen

*Creational Theology hint for the week—May 1-7* There are certain characteristics of the Creation that I find very fascinating. Not that other characteristics are not, but these, well they're special to me. The symmetry, the predictability, the coherence, all of which indicate the planned nature of the Creation. There is no doubt that the Creation is the result of the handiwork of an intelligent designer.

Chaos never produces predictability, it cannot. When do you expect the bluebirds to return to your area? Another week or so here in southern Vermont. Now take a bunch of white and red marbles; shake them up and dump them out on a tray. Did the red marbles roll around until they formed a recognizable word? If not do it again until they do. Now repeat the experiment until you get the same word.

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