

Quarter Four: Themes in the Gospel of John

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Lesson 9—The Source of Life

Tuesday: Believing and New Birth

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- **Last Week:** “Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies”
 - John 5, 8, 13, 17
 - Jesus’ fulfillment as Messiah from the OT Scriptures (prophecies)
 - Yet, some still rejected Him
- **This Week:** “The Source of Life”
 - John 1, 6, 10
 - Jesus as the I AM, possessing preexistent life & offering eternal life to all who accept Him by faith

Memory Text: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
(John 14:6, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** In Him Was Life (John D)
 - John 1, 3, 6, & 7 – Jesus possessing eternal, pre-existent life; His substitutionary sacrifice, so we could have eternal life, as well
- 2. **Monday:** The Words of Eternal Life (James)
 - John 6 – Jesus possessing eternal life – our faith that receives this gift & claims His blood for cleansing from sin; Jesus as the Bread of Life (His life, death, resurrection are the source of eternal life)
- 3. **Tuesday:** Believing and New Birth (Jill)
 - John 1:12, 13; 20:31 – purpose of the gospel = to possess eternal life
 - Process of the new birth: believing / faith & being changed / transformed
- 4. **Wednesday:** Rejecting the Source of Life (SQ)
 - John 1, Num 13 – Christ was rejected because people didn’t accept His Word; importance of faith vs doubt
- 5. **Thursday:** Condemnation (Daniel)
 - John 3; 5; 8; 12; Matt 4 – importance of basing beliefs on the authority of the Word of God – not feelings, doubts, or outward experiences

Tuesday: Believing and New Birth

John 1:12, 13; John 20:31; Rom 10:17; John 5:24, 38, 47; John 16:7, 8; Rom 8:16

- What is the purpose of John’s gospel? Why was it written?
 - John 20:31, 31 – “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **believing** you may have life in His name.”

- Matt 4:17 – “From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”
- **5. Experience His regenerating power in your heart**
 - John 1:12, 13 – “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the **right** to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”
 - Right = Gk, *exousia* = “authority”
 - He gives us authority or power to become God’s children
 - If we are “born of God” – we receive His power
 - He alone has power to regenerate our hearts
 - Nicodemus’ experience (John 3)
 - Must be born again (Gk, “from above”)
 - Moral purification & inner transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus questions’ Nicodemus’ core beliefs
 - Jews believed the Gentiles needed to be converted, not the Jews
 - Jews heritage – back to Abraham
 - Jews believed
 - They were the chosen people
 - They were not in bondage
 - They were not sinners
 - They did not need conversion
- **6. Rest in the assurance of His salvation**
 - John 5:24 – “Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and **believes** in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into **judgment**, but has passed from death into life.”
 - *Assurance now – “Cover with His life, whiter than snow”
 - Believe – constant action over time
 - Judgment – means “condemnation”
 - Humanistic approach
 - Find a foundation, the criteria for faith, & then believe
 - By contrast, faith **is** the foundation, a gift from God
 - We start with the foundation, and then grow in understanding & grace

6 Steps of Conversion / New Birth Experience from John’s Gospel

- 1. Respond to the drawing power of God
- 2. Recognize Jesus is your Substitute
- 3. Receive Him by faith
- 4. Repent and be baptized
- 5. Experience His regenerating power in your heart
- 6. Rest in the assurance of His salvation