



The Book of John
Lessons in Discipleship
and
Following Jesus.

Salt Shakin Sisters - Life Application Study Guides

www.wow-womenofword.com

www.youtube.com/user/007babbs

Simple steps to learning how to read Gods Word and really understand it. It is more important to "hear from the Word of God and understand what you read" than just sit down and read the bible and walk away not getting anything out of what you just read. We follow the 11 simple steps:

“11” Simple Steps”

Learning “How To” spend time with your Heavenly Father and Receive Revelation from His Word You will need the following tools:

- 1.A Willing Heart***
- 2.Make an appointment with yourself***
- 3.Find a quiet, private place with no distractions***
- 4.Soft Praise & Worship Music (optional)***
- 5.Coffee / Tea***
- 6.Bible Version you understand***
- 7.Journal***
- 8.Dictionary***
- 9.Concordance & Commentary***
- 10.Post Cards***
- 11.Pencil / Highlighter***

Let His Word become active and operative in your life so you will have peace, power, and purpose as the Holy Spirit speaks. Bfc.

Page One

How to use this study guide for the Book Of John - the best book for a new Christian or someone that is new to getting into reading Gods Word.

1. Read the first Chapter of John a couple of times
2. Then read the small sections of verses that have been divided up for your daily study. Sit still and read and re read it several times, think and pray and ponder over the verses. Don't get in a hurry!
3. DON'T just read the verse, then read the BFC portion I am sharing, then the Believers Bible Commentary. **You will be tempted to just read all of it and move on, don't do this, you will miss out on what God wants to "tell you" personally. What God spoke to me may or may not speak to you, you need to wait and see what He wants to tell you. Don't get in a hurry, Don't get in a hurry, Don't get in a hurry.** There are days in my study time, I will just have to sit there and stare at this computer screen with the verses written on them and I just don't "get it". There are days I have to move on to the next verse and then come back to the one I got stuck on. Don't get discouraged! This is a learning process just like a baby learning how to walk. He sits up, then he crawls, then he walks, but he "falls a lot" along the journey. **You are "learning how to learn"** Perseverance! Commitment! Patience! Discipline! You can do it as you continue to pray and ask God each new study time to speak to you.
3. If, after a few minutes you feel you're just not understanding what you're reading or you understand what you're reading and just "don't have any thoughts or insight" to write underneath your scriptures you're reading, move on to the next verses. Don't get "stuck" on the verses, you will be missing the point of the entire concept of studying and learning how to hear from Gods Word. Read to hear from your heart, NOT your mind. Don't analysis everything you read, don't pick it apart, trust me you will be tempted to do that at times.

Page Two

When God begins to speak to you and the "light bulb" comes on, you will know it! You will have a couple of words, or maybe even just one word, jump off the page at you, **THAT IS YOUR WORD FOR THE DAY.** Write it down if need be and ponder on it all day long. This word/verse will help you today in whatever you're new day has in store for you. Learning how to hear the Holy Spirit of God from within your heart is "life changing" in the best of ways.

4. If you just can't seem to "get it", do you really know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? **Be honest with Him.** Have you confessed your sins to Him? Have you admitted that you know if you died today you would "not" go to heaven? Getting saved or "born again" is a very simple act. Pray from your heart and not your head, confess your sins, ask Him to come into your heart and save you and believe with your heart and confess Him with your mouth. I believe if you keep reading John, you will have no problem understanding Gods love and grace for your soul. **This book is all about salvation and being born again.**

Now let's SEE what God has to say to us today! Blessings to you and may you receive exactly what you need to help you walk closer to Jesus and learn how to do what He did and have the attitude towards others as He did.

blessings - bfc

Page Three

John 1:1-2:1

Christ, the Eternal Word - 1 In the beginning the **Word** already existed. The **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God.2 He existed in the beginning with God.3 **God created everything** through him, and nothing was created except through him.4 The **Word** gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.5 *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

(REMEMBER, DON'T MOVE PAST THIS VERSE AND BE TEMPTED TO READ WHAT BFC IS SHARING NOR THE BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY NOTES. SIT STILL AND READ AND RE READ IT FOR A WHILE. PRAY, ASK GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU, THIS IS NEW TO YOU, BE PATIENT, GOD IS EVEN TEACHING YOU THAT TRAIT AS YOU LEARN TO HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD - THIS IS FOR YOU!)

bfc:

Word is used 5 times. - Create is used 3 times.

Christ - (God - Father) - Holy Spirit - THE WORD (No beginning and no end). Know the Word, the Bible and you'll know Jesus and how to follow Him and even look like Him. Life in the Word! Jesus is the Light that overcomes the darkness in our lives and in this world. Satan can't stand the Light. We can be that light as we learn at the feet of Jesus.

Believers Bible Commentary:

The Bible teaches that there is one God and that there are three Persons in the Godhead; Father Son and Holy Spirit-All 3 persons are God.

Page Four

The Word here includes both physical and spiritual life. When we were born, we received physical life, when we are born again (saved), we receive spiritual life, both come from God. God provides the guidance and direction we need through the Bible. The same one who gave us life is the one who provides us with the light for the path we travel. It was the entrance of sin that brought darkness to the minds of men.

The titles of God is used 7 times in these verses:

Light - Word - Lamb of God - Son of God - Christ - King of Israel - Son of Man (These are titles of God, but not shown in the NLT we are using in this study, each bible version will be a little bit different)

Page Five

John 1:6-13

6 God sent a man, John the Baptist, 7 to tell about the **light** so that everyone might believe because of his testimony.⁸ John himself was not the **light**; he was simply a witness to tell about the **light**.⁹ The one who is the **true light**, who gives **light** to everyone, was coming into the world.¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him.¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical (when we are born of our mother's womb) birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. (Second birth, salvation of our souls)

(REMEMBER, DON'T MOVE PAST THIS VERSE AND BE TEMPTED TO READ WHAT BFC IS SHARING NOR THE BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY NOTES. SIT STILL AND READ AND RE READ IT FOR A WHILE. PRAY, ASK GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU, THIS IS NEW TO YOU, BE PATIENT, GOD IS EVEN TEACHING YOU THAT TRAIT AS YOU LEARN TO HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD - THIS IS FOR YOU!)

bfc:

Although we don't have to be a John the Baptist, God does send us to let our light shine for Jesus by our daily lifestyle as a witness to a world in darkness.

John paved the way for Jesus, we can be a light to shine for Jesus, so that others passing thorough our lives can also be saved and disciplined, to learning how to be Christ like - Christians.

Page Six

Jesus came to the very world He created and his own people/family rejected Him. Does this ring a bell or sound familiar with your family? Do you have family members, those closest to you that are the hardest to win for Jesus. This is all the more reason we have to "live" a shining light life. When we do this, they will be able to "see" Jesus in us; be real, transparent, and honest in your attitude and actions.

Our lifestyle and habits talk a lot louder than mere words. What kind of lifestyle are you walking in? Is your light bright or so dim no one can see it?

Rejection is part of being a Christian, it can be a lonely journey at times. You've got to be committed, stand firm, persevere, hold onto Jesus and His Word, especially when that is all you may have for a season. In the tough times, if you don't have the Word banked in your heart, your feelings and pain will be more intense and you'll miss out on the peace that passeth all understanding, the victory and blessings that could have been yours.

Praise God, I believed in and accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior over 35 years ago! (See my personal testimony on the Salt Shakin Sisters website: www.wow-womenofword.com - www.youtube.com/user/007babbs).

Page Seven

Believers Bible Commentary:

John the Baptist, a forerunner of the Lord Jesus. His mission was to announce the coming of Christ to tell the people to "get ready" to receive Him. He pointed men to Jesus and not to Himself., it means that the "Light" shines on all people, without regard to nationality, race or color.

When a room is in darkness, you do not see the dust on the furniture. But when the light goes on, the room is seen as it actually is.

In that same sense, the shining of the true Light reveals man as he actually is. I can attest to this example, come to my house, I live in the middle of some farming fields and deal with this all the time. My house can look pretty good until I open the windows and I see dust in places I had no idea was there! Never thought of this as an example of the Christ like life.

To become a child in a physical sense, one must be born. So, also, to become a child of God, one must have a second birth. This is known as the new birth, or conversion, or "being saved".

This verse tells us three (3) ways by which the new birth DOES NOT take place, and the ONE WAY by which it does.

Page Eight

First, the three ways by which we ARE NOT born again. "Not of blood". This means that a person does not become a Christian through having Christian parents. Salvation is not passed down from parent to child through the blood stream. It is not of the will of the flesh. In other words, a person does not have the power in his own flesh to produce the new birth. Although he must be willing in order to be saved, yet his own will is not enough to save him. Not of the will of man. No other man can save a person. The power to produce a new birth does not rest with anything or anyone but God.

Page Nine



John 1:14-16

14 So the **Word** became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. (This is ours when we tap into the source-Jesus) And we have seen his glory, the glory of the **Father's** one and only **Son**.15 John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me."16 From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.

bfc:

Do you need to "pencil" Him into your busy schedule? IF that is what it will actually take to get your relationship started with Him, that's great, do it! In time, you won't need to pencil Him in, you will have become so close to Him and hearing His voice, it will become a natural habit. You will have gained times of fellowship with Jesus that you won't want to miss anymore.

Page Ten

The scriptures today are telling us that Jesus came to save us, come into our very being/heart. He has the unfailing love and faithfulness we need. We can receive these gifts as we "grow" with Jesus. Take baby steps, change won't be evident over night, that's for sure! Growth is a "process" (I know, if you have read any of my studies, you hear this all the time) it takes discipline and commitment and TIME. We learn how to follow Jesus on the "good days" and "bad days". The Word has all the "helps and resources" you need for new encouragement and direction every new day. Seek, Knock, Find. John 10:10, The devil came to kill and destroy, but God came to give us life and life "more abundantly". You won't know about the "abundant, good life" unless you know Jesus, the Word.

Believers Bible Commentary:

The Word Became Flesh - He had always existed as the Son of God with the Father in heaven, but now chose to come into the world in a human body. He dwelt among us. It was not just a short appearance, God actually came to this earth and lived here as a Man among men. The word "Dwelt" in, His body was the tent in which He lived among men for 33 years.

And we beheld His glory. In the Bible "glory" often means the bright, shining light which was seen when God was present.

Page Eleven

When John said, "We beheld His glory", he was referring primarily, no doubt, to the moral glory of the Lord Jesus. He and the other disciples beheld the wonder of an absolutely perfect life lived on this earth.

But it is likely that John also included the incident on the Mount of Transfiguration as well. the "glory" which the disciples saw indicated to them that He was truly the Son of God. Jesus is the only begotten of the Father, that is, Christ is God's unique Son.

All who believe on the Lord Jesus receive supplies of spiritual strength out of His fullness. His fullness is so great that He can provide for all Christians in all countries and in all ages. The expression "grace for grace" probably means "grace upon grace", "abundant grace". Here grace means God's gracious favor which He showers on His beloved children.

Page Twelve

John 1:17-23

17 For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ **No one has ever seen God.** But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us. The Testimony of John the Baptist 19 This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?"²⁰ He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."²¹ "Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?" "No," he replied. "Are you the Prophet we are expecting?" "No."²² "Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?"²³ John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "**I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Clear the way for the Lord's coming!'**"

bfc:

What is the difference between the "Law of Moses" and the "Grace and unfailing love through Jesus"? The law can get you into works and legalism where grace and love works totally different. Thank God in the New Testament - Jesus came and gave us salvation by faith and no works are involved in it, it's all Gods doing. Once we are saved, we will "want to do good works" only because we love Jesus so much and strive to be more like Him. It's about "inward" working within our new spirit that changes our hearts and will to serve Jesus. When we accept Jesus as our personal Savior, we receive Jesus, Father and Holy Spirit, the full Trinity.

Page Thirteen

Jesus IS GOD in the flesh, He came as a man so He could feel what we feel and endure all temptations and persecution without sin, our perfect example.

John the Baptist was only a mere man that was born with an assignment, to make the way for Jesus. He was to "testify" about the Savior that was to come to save us from death and hell. What a mission. I just now realized, I will get to actually meet him when I get to Heaven. How can we testify of Jesus in our lives? Do people know you are a Christian, or are you a closet Christian? We don't want to be "secret agents" for Jesus, God help us be John the Baptist Christians.

Believers Bible Commentary:

John contrasts the OT period and the NT era. The law that was given through Moses was not a display of "grace". It commanded men to obey and condemned them to death if they failed to do so. It told men what was right but did not give them the power to do it. It was given to show men that they were sinners, but it could not save them from their sins.

But grace and truth came "through Jesus Christ". He did not come to judge the world but to save those who were unworthy, who could not save themselves, and who were His enemies. That is "grace" Heaven's Best for earth's worst. No one has seen God at any time. God is Spirit and therefore invisible. He does not have a body. Although He did appear to men in the OT in visible form as an Angel or as a Man, these appearances did not reveal what God is really like. They were merely temporary appearances by which He chose to speak to His people.

Page Fourteen

John 1:24-28

24 Then the Pharisees who had been sent 25 asked him, "If you aren't **the Messiah** or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?" 26 John told them, "I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. 27 Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal." 28 This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing. **Jesus, the Lamb of God.**

bfc:

"Then the Pharisees who had been sent asked him.....what right do you have to baptize?" As I read and re read this portion of this scripture, I see the Pharisees as Satan attacking Christians for their work and ministry.

What "right" do I have, EVERY right! I am saved, called and equipped to serve and walk in the callings and giftings God has given me. A child of the king, blessed to be a blessing, a servant filled with the Holy Spirit of God fresh each morning; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control

The more of Jesus I receive, the more I can be like Him. It's my prayer each and every day, God convict me of sin and help me repent quickly. When I fall, help me back up and remind me in your still small voice, to "act upon" what you say, even in those "small, minute" acts of kindness or obedience in any given situation.

Page Fifteen

I could name several examples, but I will save that for later on, or when our ladies share these scriptures in a bible study time. Since I am not seeing "the light bulb" come on in these past few words, I will pull out the old commentary and see what we can learn.

Believers Bible Commentary:

The Pharisees formed a strict sect of the **Jews who prided themselves on their superior knowledge of the law and on their efforts to carry out the most minute details of the instructions of the OT.** Actually, many of them were hypocrites who tried to appear religious but who loved very sinful lives. They wanted to know what authority John had for baptizing if he was not one of the important persons they named.

"I baptize with water", said John. **He did not want anyone to think that he was important.** His task was simply to prepare men for Christ. Whenever his hearers repented of their sins, he baptized them in water as an "outward symbol of their inward change".

John continued, referring, of course, to Jesus. The Pharisees did not recognize Him as the long looked for Messiah. In effect John was saying to the Pharisees, "Do not think of me as a great man. The ONE you should be paying attention to is the Lord Jesus; yet you do not know who He really is." He is the ONE who is worthy. He came after John the Baptist, yet He deserves all the praise and preeminence.

Page Sixteen

John 1:29-31

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**30 He is the **one** I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.31 I did not recognize Him as the **Messiah**, but I have been baptizing with water so that He might be revealed to Israel."

bfc:

Behold the Lamb of God! Thank you Jesus for opening my eyes over 31 years ago and saving my soul! You took away all my sins; past, present and future. This is unfathomable to me, I am without anymore words.

Believers Bible Commentary:

The next day after the visit of the Pharisees from Jerusalem, John looked up and saw Jesus coming toward him. In the "thrill" and excitement of that moment, he cried out, "Behold! The Lamb of God who bears the sin of the world!.

The lamb was a sacrificial animal among the Jews. God had taught His chosen people to slay a lamb and to sprinkle its blood as a sacrifice. The lamb was killed as a substitute and its bloodshed so that sins might be forgiven. However, the blood of the lambs slain during the OT period did not put away sin. Those lambs were pictures or types, pointing forward to the fact that God would one day provide a Lamb who would actually take away the sin. All down through the years, godly Jews had waited for the coming of this Lamb.

Page Seventeen

Now at last the time had come, and John the Baptist triumphantly announced the arrival of the true Lamb of God. When he said that Jesus bears the sin of the world, he did not mean that everyone's sins are therefore forgiven. The death of Christ was great enough in value to pay for the sins of the whole world, but ONLY those sinners who receive the Lord Jesus as Savior are forgiven.

Good people don't go to Heaven, you must be saved, only ONE WAY, through Jesus, no other man or religion can or will save you.

Romans 10:9-10 are salvation verses to help you if you need to receive Jesus as your Savior right now.

(Let someone know if you accepted Jesus as your Savior and get into a good bible teaching church if you don't have one).

Page Eighteen

John 1:32-34

32 Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. 33 I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God."

bfc: As I sit here and read and re read this verse, I never realized until today that John did not even recognize Jesus as the Messiah, Christ, Son of God when He first saw Him. I suppose I assumed that he would recognize Him because of his calling to baptize and be the forerunner of His coming.

It very clearly states in the scriptures that John did not know it was Jesus until the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove came down upon Jesus, then he knew because that is what he was told in the beginning of his ministry.

We hear about the "dove" descending on Jesus, I want to make a note here; the Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove only this one time, we receive the Holy Spirit of God when we receive Jesus as our Savior, there is an "infilling and being filled with the Holy Spirit" that is yours when you want it at a later time. This can be a little confusing to a new Christian, so if you are a new Christian, don't get hung up on this, just go on growing in Jesus and you will "understand all of this" as you stay in the Word, Christian fellowship and under good teaching and preaching.

Page Nineteen

Believers Bible Commentary:

God had revealed to John that the Messiah was coming and that when He came, the SPIRIT would descend upon Him and stay on Him.

Therefore, when this happened to Jesus, John realized that this was the ONE who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a Person, one of the three Persons in the Godhead. He is equal with God the Father and God the Son.

Whereas John baptized with water, Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. The baptism with the Holy Spirit took place on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:5; 2:4,38) At that time, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven to dwell IN the body of every believer and also to make each believer a member of the church, the Body of Christ.

(1 Corinthians 12:13)

On the basis of what he saw at the baptism of Jesus, John testified positively to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God who was foretold as coming into the world. When John said that Christ was the Son of God, he meant that He was God the Son.

Page Twenty

John 1:35-39

The First Disciples 35. The following day John was again standing with **two of his disciples**. 36 As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" 37 When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus looked around and saw them following. "What do you want?" he asked them. They replied, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" 39 "Come and see," he said. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

bfc:

The following day, after realizing He was seeing and baptizing Jesus, our Savior, John was standing alongside **two of his disciples**. This says to me, John was not only a man of God, walking in his calling and ministry even before Jesus ever came on the scene, but he was also a role model and mentor to others because he had **"two disciples"** that were serving with and following him.

When John said "LOOK, There is the Lamb of God!" these two disciples that were faithfully serving with John begin to follow Jesus. Jesus wanted to know why they were following Him and what did they want. I am sure there is a lot more here than I am sharing, but it is obvious John and his two disciples wanted to learn from the TEACHER and spend time learning from the Son of God, so they found out where He was staying and spent the day with Him. Can you imagine what they learned from Jesus during this brief time?

Page Twenty-One

We have Jesus! He is inside of us all the time! **He is the Word!** When we spend time in the WORD-JESUS, we can spend a lot more than just one day with Him. WOW, this is amazing and exciting to me! Let's see what the Commentary has to say and then move on to our final verses in this Chapter, this has really been good! I can remember each day a few things that the scriptures have said to me, as I heard them in my spirit throughout my work day.

Believers Bible Commentary:

"The next day" referred to here is the third day that has been mentioned. John was with "Two of his own disciples". These men had heard John preach and believed what he said. But as yet they had not met the Lord Jesus. Now John bore public witness to the Lord.

On the previous day, he had spoken of His Person (the Lamb of God) and His work (who takes away the sin of the world). Now he simply draws attention to His Person. His message was short, simple, selfless, and all about the Savior.

By his faithful preaching, John "lost two disciples", but he was glad to see them "following Jesus". So we should be more anxious for our friends to follow the Lord than for them to think highly of us.

The Savior is always interested in those who follow Him. Here He showed His interest by turning to the "two disciples" and asking, "What do you seek?" He knew the answer to the question; He knew all things. But He wanted them to express their desire in words.

Page Twenty-Two

Their answer, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" showed that they wanted to be with the Lord and to get to know Him better.

They were not satisfied merely to meet Him. They longed to have fellowship with Him. Rabbi is the Hebrew word for Teacher. He said to them, "Come and see". No one with a genuine desire to learn more of the Savior is ever turned away. Jesus invited the two to the place where He was staying at the time.

They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day. Never had these men been so honored. They spent the night in the same home as the Creator of the universe. They were among the very first members of the Jewish nation to recognize the Messiah.

bfc:

WOW again! I always like to read and re read the verses and ask for the Holy Spirit to speak to me. It's so neat to get "confirmation" of what He says to me. The commentary picked up on the "two disciples" and how they wanted to learn at His feet too. So Thankful we have the WORD in our hearts and hands, we can learn at the feet of Jesus, the Creator of the Universe, Behold the Lamb of God!!

Page Twenty-Three

John 1:40-44

40 **Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men** who heard what John said and **then followed Jesus**.41 Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ").42 Then **Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus**.

Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter").43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. **He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me."** 44 Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown.45 **Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him,** "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth."

bfc:

Disciples handpicked to follow Jesus: Andrew,Simon,Philip,Nathanael

Andrew was one of the "**two disciples**" that first followed John Baptist

Simon is next (Andrew's brother) Jesus spoke to him personally and told him his new name was going to be PETER .Why did Jesus look into Simons eyes so "intently" and tell him He was changing his name from Simon to Peter? There is some deep truths here, we will see what the Commentary has to share with us.

Philip is next -Jesus personally picked him out when he had gone to Galilee the next day. Jesus said: "Come, follow me". (This is what He says to us!)

Page Twenty-Four

Nathanael is next (Philip went looking for him) These men were "personally chosen", to serve and follow Jesus the true Messiah.

Believers Bible Commentary:

One of the "two disciples" was Andrew. Andrew is not as well known today as his brother, Simon Peter, but it is interesting to notice that he was the first of the two to meet Jesus.

The name of the other was not given to us, but almost all Bible scholars assume that it was John, the one who wrote this Gospel. They reason that humility kept him from mentioning his own name.

When a person finds Jesus, he usually wants his relatives to meet Him too. Salvation is too good to keep to oneself. So Andrew went quickly to his own brother Simon with the thrilling news, "We have found the Messiah!"

How "simple" Andrew's message was. It was only five words, We have found the Messiah, yet God used it to win Peter. This teaches us that we do not have to be great preachers or clever speakers. We need only to tell men about the Lord Jesus in simple words, and God will take care of the rest.

The Lord knew Simon's name without being told. He also knew that Simon had an unstable character. And finally, He knew that Simon's character would be changed, so that he would be firm as a rock.

Page Twenty-Five

How did Jesus know all this? Because He was and is God.

Simon's name did change and he became a man of strong character, especially after the Ascension of the Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

"FOLLOW ME", The Savior is still issuing this simple, yet sublime, invitation to all men everywhere.

Philip wanted to share his new found joy with someone else, so he went and found Nathanael. New converts are the best soul-winners. His message was "simple" and to the point. He told Nathanael that he had found the Messiah who had been foretold by the prophets.

Page Twenty-Six

John 1:46-51

46 "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied. 47 As they approached, **Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity."** 48 "How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you." 49 Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." 51 Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth."

bfc:

Jesus is "all knowing and all seeing". He speaks "into our lives" through the Holy Spirit that dwells inside of us and by means of God's Word and godly men and women. Jesus is our "mediator" between God and the devil. He is the "Only way to Heaven/God". Learn how to be "sensitive" to that still small voice within you, the Holy Spirit of God. He will guide you and walk with you in all your daily situations.

He sees you, He knows where you're at, where you've been and where you're headed. The closer fellowship you have with Jesus, the more He talks to you and reveals things to you. Do you want to be used by God? Do you need a change of heart, one that is desirous to **follow Jesus**? Be real, be simple and just tell Him how you feel.

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If you have no desire nor understanding of God's Word, He can change all that "if" you want to have what He wants for you. Trust Him, He will come through for you. No quick fixes though, growth is a "process", step by step, day by day.

Believers Bible Commentary:

Nathanael had problems. Nazareth was a despised city of Galilee. It seemed impossible to him that the Messiah would live in such a poor neighborhood. And so he voiced the question that was in his mind. Philip did not argue. He felt that the best way to meet objections was to introduce men directly to the Lord Jesus, a valuable lesson for all who are seeking to win others to Christ. Don't argue. don't engage in prolonged discussions. Just bid men to come and see.

Verse 47 shows that Jesus knew all things. Without any previous acquaintance with Nathanael, He declared him to be an Israelite indeed, in whom there was no trickery or deceit.

Verse 48 shows that Nathanael was obviously surprised that a total Stranger should speak to him as if He had known him previously. Apparently he had been completely concealed when he was sitting under the fig tree. Doubtless the overhanging branches of the trees and the surrounding foliage hid him from view. But Jesus SAW him, even though he was so hidden.

Blessings! I pray you receive from God what He wanted for you.

I look forward to going on to Chapter Two with you in the very near future. bfchapmond

