



Gospel of John 1-12

Receiving the Fullness of God

*“In the beginning was the Word
...and the Word became flesh...”*

These two phrases from *John 1:1 and 1:14* summarize the theme of the entire New Testament and are the foundation for the message of the good news of the Gospel. As the Apostle Paul had this in mind when he wrote,
“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Col 1:27.

John 1:14-18 (NKJV)

14 And the Word became 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 out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’”

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Introduction: The opening verses of John use both the “Word” and “Light” as metaphors for Jesus. Jesus is the Word and the Word is God. He is the True Light that is coming into the world to reveal God to every person. This passage clarifies the meaning of the Incarnation.

A. The Word Becomes Flesh *John 1:14a*

NOTE: “The Word became flesh,” expresses the reality that in the Incarnation God took on humanity; the infinite became finite; eternity entered time; the invisible became visible; the Creator entered His creation. The record of His life and work, and its application and significance for the past, present, and future, is in the New Testament.

- 1. The Word:** In becoming flesh the Word did not cease being the Word.
- 2. The Flesh:** The Word did not merely attach a physical body to Himself, as a puppeteer would slip a puppet over his hand. No, He became flesh by being born personally and intimately into a human existence.
- 3. The Incarnation:** The Incarnation was not a temporary experience for the Word. Neither the resurrection nor the ascension of Jesus serve to undo His incarnation.

B. The Word Dwells Among Us *John 1:14-15*

- 1. He pitched His tent among us:** ‘Dwelt’ literally means “to live in a tent.” Jesus Christ’s humanity was not a mere appearance. He took on all the essential attributes of humanity and was “made in the likeness of men” (*Phil. 2:7*).
- 2. We have seen His glory:** The ‘we’ here is the unique band of believers who bore witness to all who would listen: “We have seen his glory.” Here is the historical character of the Christian faith where faith is verified not solely by inner conviction, but also by the testimony of flesh-and-blood eye witnesses.
- 3. Grace and Truth:** Grace and truth is characteristic of God’s kind and tender dealings with His people throughout the Bible. Now that same grace and truth rested upon Jesus in the fullest measure.
- 4. John’s Witness:** [*15*] This verse simply reaffirms the witness of John the Baptist that when Jesus the Messiah came—all should look to Jesus and not to John.

C. The Word Dwells In Us *John 1:16-18*

- 1. Who are the all?** The ‘all’ here is not the entire world or all who heard Jesus but those who have truly believed upon His name. (*See John 1:12-13*)
- 2. What is the fullness?** Notice that ‘fullness’ and ‘grace’ are one and the same and that they are contrasted to the Law. The Law, given through Moses, was graciously given by God himself. It did not provide the full picture of God, nor did it supply the fullest grace. Such grace—true grace (in its complete and final dimensions)—comes only through Jesus.
- 3. In what form does this fullness of grace come?** In knowing God! Listen to Jesus’ prayer at the onset of His “hour”—“*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent*” (*17:3*). Is there anything greater than knowing God through Jesus Christ?
- 4. How does this come through Jesus?** [*18*] Since God has never been seen—the only way to experience His fullness is through His Unique Son. Jesus, as the only Son, enjoys unparalleled and unsurpassable closeness with God. A place of intimacy with God accessible to no one else falls to the Son who through His death on the cross gives us access to the throne of God.