

# Beyond Belief

## Part 3: Is Jesus The Son Of God?

### SETTING THE STAGE

**John 20:24-31** (NIV)

*Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. [25] So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."*

*[26] A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" [27] Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." [28] Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

*[29] Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." [30] Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. [31] But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

1. What special evidence did Thomas demand before he would believe that Jesus was raised from the dead and was the Christ the Son of God? (John 20:25)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What about individuals, like you, who do not have access to the physical presence of the resurrected Lord? (John 20: 29)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What has the Apostle John done to help you have the necessary evidence to believe that Christ is the Son of God? (John 20: 30-31)  
\_\_\_\_\_

This week's Fellowship Notes will examine only some of the evidence given by the Apostle John in his writings. Since we will not be able to examine all that John has offered, please accept the challenge to read the entire book of "John" taking notes. List other evidences recorded by John that help strengthen your faith and belief in Jesus as the Son of God.

### CONNECTING WITH THE SUBJECT

**Eternal existence:** (John 1:1-3 (NIV)) (Genesis 1:1-31; John 1:18; John 16:28; John 17:5)

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning. [3] Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."*

1. To whom was John referring when he used the term "Word". (John 1:1; John 1:14)  
**John 1:14** (NIV)  
*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. John referred to Jesus as being the "Word" and said that He was with God before the event of creation. John also said that Jesus was whom? (John 1:1)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Continued to page 2)

A Discipleship Ministry  
or  
THE FELLOWSHIP  
@  
FOREST CREEK  
3379 Gattis School Rd  
Round Rock, Texas 78664  
(512) 255-8972  
For more information or questions  
gerald@fellowshipfc.org

### Our purpose

*We exist to*

**Glorify God**

By

*Reaching people for Christ and  
Helping believers grow to be like Him  
(Matthew 28:19-20)*

## HELPS

### Colossians 1:17 (NIV)

*"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*

### Hebrews 1:10 (NIV)

*"He also says, 'In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.'"*

### 1 Corinthians 8:6 (NIV)

*"yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live."*

### John 17:5 (NIV)

*"And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."*

### John 5:17-18 (NIV)

*"Jesus said to them, 'My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.' [18] For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."*

### John 1:29-34 (NIV)

*"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] This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' [31] I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.' [32] 'Then John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. [33] I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' [34] I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.'"*

### John 1:26-27 (NIV)

*"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. [27] He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."*

(continued from page 1)

3. We use words to communicate messages from one to the other. Therefore if Jesus is God and John calls Him the "Word" then what Jesus has to say must be a message from whom?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does it make you feel to know that God loves and cares enough about you to communicate directly with you?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What response are you making to the personal communication that God has with you through what Jesus taught about God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## They All Called Him "Christ the Son of God"

### John the Baptist (Different man from the Apostle John) (John 1:32-34)

1. Was John trying to make a name for himself or to communicate an urgent message? (John 1:26-27) (Matthew 3:17)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was John the Baptist's source of information to recognize that Jesus was the "Son of God"? (John 1:33)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did God reveal to John the Baptist which man standing around him was "the Son of God"? (John 1:33)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did John the Baptist reveal about the work and message that Jesus came to bring to us? (John 1:29)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Isaiah 53:6-7:

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

5. What decision have you made concerning belief that Jesus is the Son of God and that through your personal faith and trust in Him, He will take away your sin of rebellion against God and give you His Life which is Eternal Life?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Tuesday:

### Nathanael (John 1:45-49)

*"Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' [46] 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. 'Come and see,' said Philip. [47] When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.' [48] 'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.' [49] Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.'" (NIV)*

1. Why was Nathanael skeptical that Philip had found the Messiah? (John 1:46)  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Continued to page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

## HELPS

**John 6:53-69** (NIV)

*"Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. [54] Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. [55] For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. [56] Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. [57] Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. [58] This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever." [59] He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum." [60] "On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" [61] Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? [62] What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! [63] The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. [64] Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. [65] He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." [66] From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. [67] "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. [68] Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. [69] We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."*

2. Do you think that Nathanael had a preconceived idea as to what Messiah the Son of God would look like and at least from where He would not come? (John 1:46)

---

3. What was Jesus' first greeting to Nathanael? (John 1:47-48)

---

4. What did Jesus know about Nathanael? (John 1:47-48)

---

5. How did Jesus' knowledge about Nathanael and Jesus' understanding of him impact Nathanael's response to Jesus?

---

6. Do you have some kind of preconceived idea about what God is like and if Jesus is the Son of God what He should be like?

---

7. God knows your most private thoughts and your most secret whereabouts. Even though He knows everything about you, God loves you and wants to be your Savior. How are you impacted by this fact?

---

## Wednesday:

**Peter** (John 6:53-69)

1. Would you say Jesus was trying to attract people to follow Him with "truth" or was He telling them what He thought they wanted to hear? (John 6: 53-60)

---

2. Many of the people who had come to Jesus had come to get material and health needs met. What was their response when He began to explain that following Him would be costly? (John 6:66)

---

3. What was Jesus teaching about the difference in the value of spiritual things over the value of material things? (John 6:63-65)

---

4. What do spiritual teachings bring to you? (John 6:63)

---

There is a terrible story about an artist who was painting the Last Supper. It was a great picture and it took him many years. As a model for the face of Christ he used a young man with a face of transcendent loveliness and purity. Bit by bit the picture was filled in and one after another the disciples were painted. The day came when he needed a model for Judas whose face he had left to the last. He went out and searched in the lowest haunts of the city and in the dens of vice. At last he found a man with a face so depraved and vicious as matched his requirement. When the sittings were at an end the man said to the artist: "You painted me before." "Surely not," said the artist. "O yes," said the man, "I sat for your Christ." The years had brought terrible deterioration. (Copied from Barclay's Daily Bible Studies)

5. Peter declared, "... *Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God* " (John 6:68-69 (NIV)) Will you choose Christ as the Son of God and become like Him, or will you deny Christ and have spiritual deterioration eat away your life?

---

## HELPS

### John 9:25-41 (NIV)

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" [26] Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" [27] He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" [28] Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! [29] We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." [30] The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. [31] We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. [32] Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. [33] If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." [34] To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. [35] Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

[36] "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." [37] Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." [38] Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. [39] Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." [40] Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" [41] Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

### John 10:38 (Msg)

"But if I am doing them, put aside for a moment what you hear me say about myself and just take the evidence of the actions that are right before your eyes. Then perhaps things will come together for you, and you'll see that not only are we doing the same thing; we are the same—Father and Son. He is in me; I am in him."

### John 3:2 (NIV)

He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

## Thursday:

### The Healed Blind Man (John 9:25-41)

1. Do you need to explain in theologically correct language everything about Jesus before you can experience and witness to others what Jesus has done for you? (John 9:25)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If you can not understand intellectually that Jesus is the "Son of God", you can still feel Him with your heart. Is it better to "love Jesus" or to "love theories" about Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the fact that Jesus was able to open the man's blind eyes tell you about His relationship with the Father? (John 9:30-33)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. This young man would not deny that Jesus had made a change and difference in his life. Are you ready to stand firm in the work place, neighborhood, or such places to testify concerning the changes Jesus has made in your life? What are some of the changes that Jesus has made in your life? These changes testify as to the fact that He is the "Son of God". (John 9: 35-38)  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Friday:

### Jesus' own argument (John 10:38)

1. How did Jesus use the miracles He had done to challenge the Jews to believe He was the "Son of God"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did this same system of reasoning connect with Nicodemus? (John 3:2)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What are some life changing things that you see in the lives of people who have placed their faith in Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When an individual gives his or her life to Jesus and can experience a transformation from something such as a raging temper, or substance addiction, that life suddenly reflects a new inner peace that nothing else has ever brought. Can you doubt that such extreme changes can come only by the touch of the hand of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Those around Jesus who were honest about what they saw and heard came to the conclusion that Jesus was and is the "Son of God."

The Apostle John believed that the life and work of Jesus was enough to validate Jesus' claim to be, "the Son of God".

### John 20:31

[31] But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

After examining the facts, can you "believe" Jesus is the "Son of God"? If you can, He makes you a promise: **John 1:12** (NIV)

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—"

To bring more strength to your faith and belief in Christ as the Son of God read the entire Gospel of John.

\_\_\_\_\_ I believe Christ is the Son of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am seeking to know if Christ is the Son of God.