

## Pastor's notes

Text of the narration used for the video titled:

### **"Using the Gospel of John to lead a person to Christ - Part 1"**

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Today we want to talk about using the Gospel of John to lead a person to Christ. Through out Christian history John has been one of the most loved books of the bible. Many have found faith in Jesus through the pages of this gospel.

One of the reason is that John's very purpose in writing this book is to relay a promise to those who have not yet believed. The Gospel of John is unique because it is the one book in the New Testament that is written to those who have not yet believed.

It is a sure and certain promise, repeated throughout the book that the one who believes in Jesus has eternal life. In John we find Jesus words telling this promise.

Even though we may find that a young child has simple questions and an older person has more complex questions, In John we find that God saves young children the same way He saves older people; that is, the Spirit of God works in each person heart about their need for a Savior, and that Savior is Jesus Christ.

When start a friendship with someone who has not yet believed and we come to those moments where they seem to want to talk about what it means to be a Christian. It's good for them to ask questions, the bible encourages people to ask question and it has answers to those questions.

But at some point we ought to bring that person to the promises we find in John's Gospel. Because the gospel of John tells us how that starting point of a relationship with Jesus begins.

The purpose statement of John reminds us that it was written to the unbeliever so that they may believe. John write about the signs of Jesus, his life, his teachings, his miraculous works, his death and resurrection, and his payment for the sins of the world. Everyone is invited to consider these signs and consider is Jesus who he says he is, the Savior of the world. And those who receive him, who believe in Him, are given eternal life. For those that believe in Jesus as their Savior - that person is born of God and their eternal destiny completely guaranteed by Jesus.

So today we want to focus on our 7 favorite verses from to Gospel of John where we find Jesus' promise that those who believe in Jesus have eternal life.

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Our first favorite verse is the famous purpose statement found in John 20:30-31:

### Slide - John 20:30-31

In this verse John is writing to men and women who have not yet believed. He wants them to consider the signs of Jesus. Here John's states his purpose - that these signs are written that "you might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that believing you may have life in his name" It is important to see here that by "Christ, the Son of God" John means that Jesus is the Messiah who grant eternal life to all who believe in Him for it. John relays this profound yet simple promised repeatedly - that anyone who believes in Jesus as the One who secures his or her eternal destiny, that person is born of God.

This theme of believing in Jesus for eternal life ought to arm our conviction for sharing the gospel with people. As we share this Gospel we should then rely on the Spirit of God to work in their hearts. It is important that we let John's gospel perform God's intended purpose. Sometimes in our desire to help this process of persuasion along we may use words that distract from the simplicity we find in John's gospel. The best approach would be to stay consistent with the message found in John. Like John does we can talk about our own conviction that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Like John does, we can point to the great signs that Jesus did that prove that He is who He says He is. We can share our conviction that Jesus is too great to fail to keep his promise. And we can emphasize the great promise of eternal life freely offered by Jesus to those that believe in Him to provide it. And finally we can thank God, that salvation is so wonderfully simple!

We need to focus on the core issue in bringing men and women to faith and eternal life. What is that core issue? Very simply it is this: We want people to believe that Jesus can be safely entrusted for their eternal destiny and that Jesus guarantees it to the anyone who believe in Him. Of course, we would like them to believe a lot more than this, but this at least is the core of what must be believed. We should keep in mind that the Bible teaches that a new believer now possesses the Spirit of God within them and and the work of the Spirit of God is to continue to teach and mature that believer.

This wonderfully simple yet explicit promise is repeated through John. Consider this next favorite verse where we are asked to believe in Jesus to provide for our eternal destiny.

### Slide - John 1:-13

In the first chapter of John we find the most elegant introduction of Jesus where He is presented as being equal to God and is call the true light who came into the world to make truth available to all. And John tells us in this verse that some did not receive Him - but those who did receive Him - who believe in His name - they are born of God. Throughout John we find theme that those that believe in Jesus are born of God and given life by Jesus.

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Our next favorite verse on this theme is John 3:16.

**Slide - John 3:16**

John 3:16 has been called the “Crown Jewel” of scripture, and the “gospel in a nutshell”. In this verse Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus and makes this extraordinary promise “that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Our fourth favorite verse that talks about believing in Jesus for eternal life is John 5:24.

**Slide - John 5:24**

In this verse we again find Jesus’ promise that the one who believes has “everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” Jesus teaches that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father and that the Father has sent the Son to give this message.

Our fifth favorite verse on this theme is John 6 35-40.

**Slide - John 6:35-40**

Notice the incredible concern by Jesus through His promises of security. Jesus says that the one who believes in Him will never hunger or thirst. And that anyone who comes to Him, Jesus will hold close forever. Notice Jesus says that it is the Father's will that Jesus should never lose those that believe in Him. Jesus emphasizes that it is the Father's will that everyone who believes in Him is given eternal life and will be raised up at the last day.

Our sixth favorite verse is John 6:47

**Slide - John 6:47**

In this verse we have an amazing statement by Jesus of the saving message; "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."

And finally, we have our seventh favorite verse.

**Slide - John 11:25-27**

Jesus is speaking with Martha and this conversation again demonstrates the theme of believing in Jesus for eternal life. “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”. Jesus is asking her if she believes that He guarantees resurrection and everlasting life to all who simply believe in Him. Martha replies to Jesus’ question that she believes Him to be the Christ.

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These 7 verses found in the Gospel of John show its focus on the theme of believing in Jesus for eternal life. As we share the Gospel of John's message with people we could give them the Gospel of John to read it for themselves.

Or you could invite them to study the Gospel of John with you. Studying the signs of Jesus found in John could open many discussions about whether Jesus is who he claimed to be. And could lead to a discussion about Jesus' complete payment for each person's sin on the cross. You could point out that Jesus paid it all and there is nothing for them to do or to pay to secure their eternal destiny.

By studying the Gospel of John, we would hope that a person will now be able to understand the reasonableness of a salvation that is absolutely free. You could continue to pray that the spirit of God works to shine the light of truth in that person's heart and that they believe in Jesus as the One who secures their eternal destiny.