

The Gospel of John

1:6-13

I The Envoy of the Light (John 1:6-8)

- A. John the Baptist was sent as an envoy from God with a special commission to testify for the Light so that people might believe in the Light through his testimony. (**John 1:7, 29, 31-32, 34, 35-37**)
- B. He was not the Light; he just testified concerning the true Light. (**John 1:8, 21-23**)
- C. This light, to which John testified, is the true light which illumines and enlightens every man inwardly and which brings life to the ones who receive the Word
 - 1. This true Light created the world and came into it, but the world, the human race, did not know Him
 - 2. He came to His own and they did not receive Him. (**John 1:10-11**)

II Receiving Him By Believing On His Name

- A. Many have not believed in Him and have rejected the Light of the world, outright. However, we have received the Light of the world by believing in His name. (**John 1:12, Col.2:6a**)
- B. Believing in the name of the Lord is equal to receiving Him. When a person believes in that dear name, in some way or other, he will say, "Lord Jesus." As long as you say His name from the depths of your being, it means that you believe in Him. This is a work of the Holy Spirit. (**1Cor.12:3**) If you believe in Him by calling on His name, it is proof that you have received Him. We call on His name and we get the person of this name.

III He Gives Authority to Become Children of God

- A. When we receive Him, we get Life (**1:4**) and this becomes the authority for the believing ones to be the children of God. The birth described in these verses is not the natural birth which we had through our parents; it is the second birth which occurred when we believed in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- B. What is authority? It is Christ Himself as life to you. Christ as life is simply the Spirit of Sonship, and this Spirit of Sonship makes you God's child. (**Gal.4:5-7, Rom.8:14-17a**)
 - 1. You can know that you are a child of God by two things: by the fact that you believe in Him and call on His name, and by the fact that, at times, you spontaneously and sweetly cry, "Abba, Father."
 - 2. If you can call God "Abba, Father" in such a sweet way, it proves that you are His child....When we became a child of God, we were not born of our physical life, our fallen life, or our created life—we were born of God, the uncreated life.
- C. Why has God brought forth so many children? Not mainly because He loves us or because He has pity on us. Although He loves us, the purpose of His begetting so many children is for His multiplication. (**1John 3:1a, John 12:24, Heb.2:10-13, Rom.8:19-23**)

IV Begotten of God

- A. Our new existence as children of God is not the result of human effort or intervention, not out of blood (lit., bloods), the physical life, not of the will of the flesh, i.e., not of the will of fallen man, after man became flesh, nor of the will of man, i.e., not of the man created by God. (**John 1:13a**)
- B. We are the children of God because we are begotten of God Himself. (**John 1:13b, Col.4:28**)
- C. We are His children, with His life and nature. (**John 20:17, Rom.8:19, 29, Gal.4:6, Eph.1:5, Heb.2:10-12; 2Peter1:4**)