

WHO IS JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Follow 2 | principle 9.2



Jesus, the Word of God – the bread of life

Jesus compares his words to bread. When we take in his words, believe them and put them into practice in our life, then these words will give us life. The life being talked about here is our spiritual life. Our bodies live but our spirits also need to be fed. Jesus' words give eternal life.

John 6:48-51

Jesus, the water of life

Jesus indicates that the Holy Spirit will come when He is gone. The Holy Spirit will give us living water, which happens in our spirits. Our longing for God will be quenched by the Spirit. He is as a river of water flowing over thirsty land.

John 7:37-39

Jesus, the good shepherd

The good shepherd is a wonderful example of who Jesus is. He says that we enter the Kingdom by him because He is the door. It is by faith in Jesus that we enter the Kingdom.

Jesus himself died for us. He took the death we deserve, due to our sin, upon himself. He died in our place. Just as a shepherd will do anything for his sheep, so Jesus gave His own life for us. He gives eternal life.

Jesus knows us and we can know Him and follow Him, just as sheep know their shepherd and follow.

John 10:7,11-15,27

Jesus, free of sin

This one sentence is possibly one of the most important in the Bible. What does Jesus mean here? Jesus knows that satan gets power if He doesn't trust God the Father, is not dependent upon the Father and would choose His own way. This we call sin. If we live in sin then we are not free and we live under the power of satan.

What does Jesus say about His life?

John 10:18

Jesus did what He saw the Father doing and what the Father asked of Him. Jesus was without sin. He was completely pure and clean, even in His mind and thoughts. Satan could find nothing in Jesus which would give him power over Jesus. So Jesus didn't need to die, but He chose to give up His life.

What does Jesus say about the way, truth and the Life?

John 14:6

John 8:31-36

Jesus is the way to the Father. No one can come to God but by believing in Jesus. Jesus is the truth. This truth will set you free. In our lives, much is said and claimed about what man thinks to be truth. Jesus says very simply that He is the truth. He will give you life and set you free.

What does Jesus say about the true vine?

John 15:1-5

A grape plant can only bear fruit if the branches are joined to the vine. That too is how it is with us. If we as Christians, followers of Jesus, want to live, it is important that we are connected to him. This means that we live each day with him, talk with and listen to him. This was actually always God's intention. In the OT we see that there were many rituals to be followed. In the NT we see that life with Jesus replaces these rituals as we follow Him each and every day.



EXERCISE:

Read through the names of Jesus once again and ask yourself which speaks most to you. Is there one name which makes you want to respond in some way?

Pray that Jesus reveals himself to you. Maybe one of the names is speaking strongly to you. If that is so then thank God for this. This is worship. Jesus really loves it. Often He draws close when you do this.

Try doing this more often yourself, for example, when you are reading John's Gospel.

Discuss with your mentor which of Jesus' names are still strange for you. Discuss any actions you want to undertake in order to get to know Jesus better.

During this study we are reading the gospel of John. This time, while you are reading, write down the other things that Jesus says about himself.

PRINCIPLE 9

Jesus came to earth as a human being to let everyone hear and see who God the Father really is.



John 6:48-51

48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 7:37-39

37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

John 10:7, 11-15, 27

7 Therefore Jesus said again, Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:18

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

John 14:6

6 Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 8:31-36

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. 33 They answered him, We are Abrahams descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free? 34 Jesus replied, Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 15:1-5

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.