

# THE WORD

DR. CURT DODD

JOHN 1:1-18

# THE WORD

## Part 1: The Word

John 1:1

### INTRODUCTION

One of the incredible things about Scripture is that there is so much information to be learned and absorbed even in the smallest of passages and verses. As we go through this series, we will be taking a close look at the first 18 verses of the gospel of John as we attempt to unpack and gain a better understanding of what he calls “The Word.” During this study, you will learn more about theology, understand the character of God, get to know the person of God, and learn how you can relate to Him more intimately. It is God’s desire to ultimately reveal Himself to His children so that we can have a closer relationship with Him. He does this by revealing Himself through His Son and through His Word, which we will learn through this series, are one and the same.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. A Word of Explanation

**The pre-existence of the Word.** When you read John 1:1, take note of the use of the word “was.” The meaning of that word in this case is “eternal in its existence; there has never been a time when it did not exist.” The key point John is trying to make is that the Word was not created, but rather the Word has always been. And since Jesus Christ is the Word, He has always been as well. This can be hard to understand because we are so used to describing things with a beginning and an end. But life is not always like that, and according to this passage of Scripture, the character and nature of God is not like that either

**The partnership of the Word.** If you look at the ministry of Jesus, everything was Father oriented. Everything He did was a reflection of and in accordance to the Father. He would tell His disciples, “I’m only doing what I see the Father doing.” His life and His whole ministry was that of lining up with the Father, hence making the point that God was the Word.

**The person of the Word.** The language and wording John is using in these verses of Scripture is ultimately communicating that Jesus is God. He is trying to clearly tie the two together. There are a lot of people today who don’t comprehend that Jesus is God. But they need to understand that He is not just divine or some sort of holy human. He is God incarnate. In fact, that is why the Jewish religious leaders wanted Jesus executed because they claimed He committed blasphemy by claiming to be God. But Jesus was very clear when He said, “He who has seen me has seen the Father.”

#### 2. A Word of Application

**“I want a new beginning.”** Maybe you are at a place in your life where you need a new beginning. You need to push the reset button. God is the only one who can give you a new beginning. He is the author of all things. He creates all things, and He can create a new beginning for you. If you just cry out to Him asking for a new beginning, the Lord can answer that prayer in your life through Jesus.

### NOTES

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**“I want to be in partnership with you.”** Partnership with the Father is not about getting God to line up with your agenda. It means that you line up every aspect of your life with Him – your relationships, your time, your resources, your goals, everything. You will speak only when He says to speak. You will be silent when He says to be silent. You will live according to what He wants for you. When you cry out to God asking to be in partnership with Him, you need to understand that you are asking God to align you with His plan and His path.

**“I stand on the Solid Rock.”** Looking at John 1:1, you are reading a description of the beginning of the beginning. You are understanding that Christ is the originator of all things. So when you choose to stand on Christ, you stand on solid ground. However, when you don’t stand on Jesus, but rather stand on religion or church membership or philosophy or your own theology, you are standing on shaky ground. God wants us to stand on Christ so that we can stand firm, having confidence in Him.

### 3. A Word of Conflict

**We like where we are.** One of the things that keeps us from wanting a new beginning and being in partnership with God is the fact that we like things the way they are now. We don’t like change. It is only when there is internal or external pressure that we are really open to change. But this resistance to change can keep us from really knowing God intimately.

**We love our independent, self-centered life.** Something else that keeps us from experiencing God’s power in our lives is our love for ourselves and our independence. We don’t want a partnership with God because we feel no need for Him when we’re doing fine on our own. If anything, we want God to line up with our schedule, our goals, and our preferences. We trust ourselves more than we trust the Lord, and that’s a dangerous place to be.

**We are convinced there is no security outside of the here and now.** One of our weaknesses as humans is that we easily get bogged down with what’s happening right now instead of thinking with an eternal mindset. But if we think about eternity rather than just the present, we begin to understand how important it is to have Christ as the foundation of our life. We have to be willing to look past the temporary securities of the present and cling to the eternal security that is only found in Christ, the Solid Rock.

**We errantly think we could never have a relationship with a Holy God.** In a way, this statement is true, because *on our own* we could never have a relationship with God. It is only through Jesus Christ that our relationship with the Lord is even possible. The only way you can be acceptable to a Holy God is to receive what He has done for you in Christ. The moment you turn from your sin and place your faith in Him, He declares you lovable, Holy, acceptable and pure.

## NOTES

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*John 1:1*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Do you live your life as a partnership with God, or do you tend to try to do things based on your own strength and understanding?
2. What is one area of your life where you could partner with God by surrendering your will and your plans and aligning yourself with Him?
3. Which of the four points of conflict do you struggle with most?

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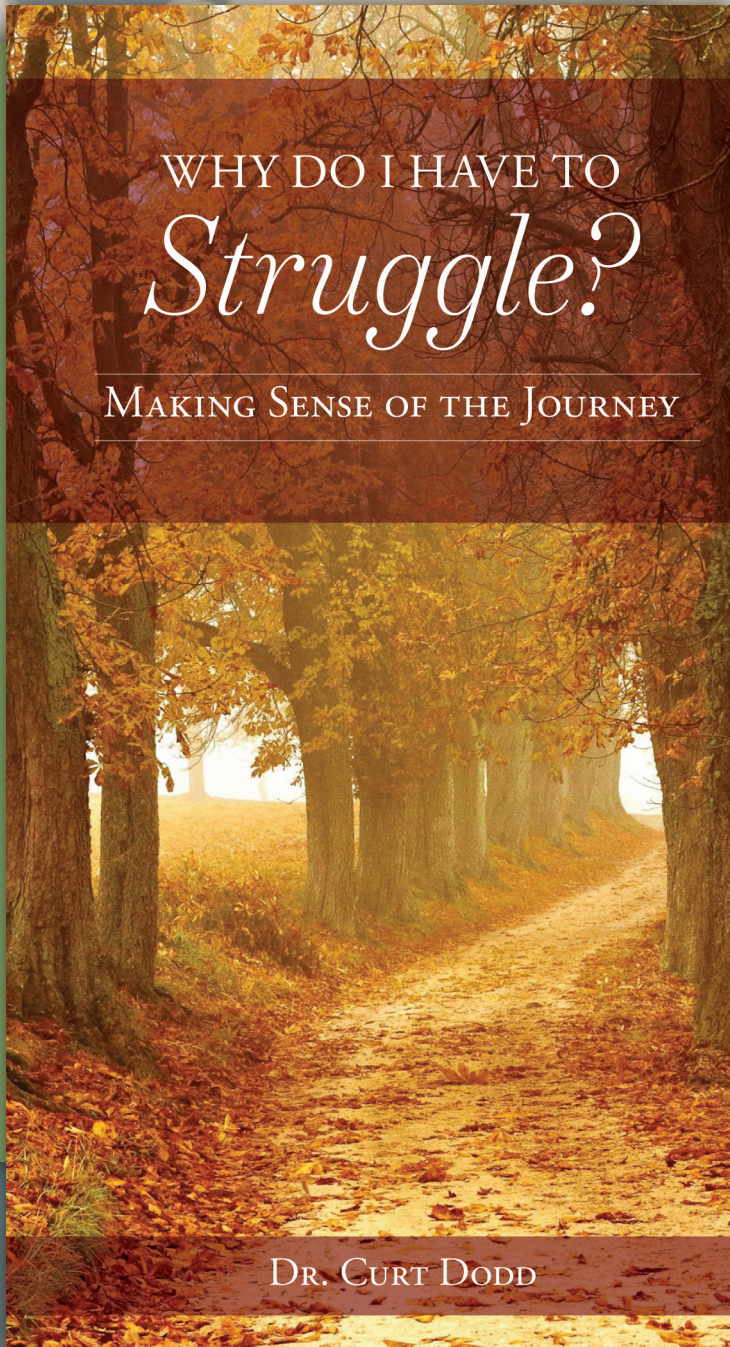
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# WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLES



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