DR. CURT DODD

JOHN 1:1-18



#### Part 11: Isn't It Amazing?

John 1:1-13

#### INTRODUCTION **NOTES** As we continue our study on the Prologue of John, we are going to take a look at all of the amazing things this text speaks of. We're going to see how amazing God is, what amazing community looks like, what amazing gift we are given through Jesus, and what amazing gain we experience by spending our lives following Christ. While it's true that being a Jesusfollower isn't always easy, there are some amazing parts of this life is well, and that's what we're going to focus on in this week's message. **KEY POINTS** 1. An Amazing God According to Ephesians 3:20, God is an amazing, giving God: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." He gives more than you could ever ask or imagine. He gives beyond anything we could even think of. He gives second chances, third chances, fourth chances, and beyond. He is an amazing God! Just think of how He has treated you, how He's given you hope, He's given you a future, He's given you His Son, and He's given you eternal life. We serve an amazing God. Never forget how good He is to you. In fact, one of the best things you could do right now would be to make a list of how God has been good to you. List some of the things that He's given you: your health, your relationships, your resources, your senses, etc. If you have even a couple of those things. You are extremely blessed. And don't forget that every good blessing comes from your amazing God. 2. An Amazing Group The prologue of John doesn't just speak of an amazing God, but also of an amazing group. When the Scripture says, "Yet to all who received him," he is speaking of the body of Christ, those who have come and received Jesus as Lord of their lives. In the previous verses, John is saying that He who created everything, when He came to His own people, they didn't recognize Him. They did not receive him, so therefore, John does not want to leave the impression that there was no one around. Maybe it wasn't a majority, but maybe there was a large group of people who didn't respond, and as many as received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. In that regard, have you ever considered this question: "Why do people finally receive Christ?" There are many reasons, but there are a few: They are overwhelmed with the love of God. They want a change in their lives. They don't want to go to hell. They want freedom from the sin nature. They need a reason to live. They have become convinced of the truth of God's word.

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They want to go to heaven.

They want a relationship with God Himself.

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3. An Amazing Grasp	NOTES
Scripture tells us that we were given the right to become children of God. The Greek word used for "right" is the word for authority and personal choice. In this case, it's about status. It's not something to be, but something to become. When you receive Christ, He gives you the status to become. In other words, you're in process. By the very description of the power of God and His work in your life, you are a work in progress.	
4. An Amazing Gain John talks in today's key passage about receiving Christ. The he moves to talking about believing in His name. Are those two different concepts? No, they're not. They're the same. They are different sides of the same coin. When you receive Jesus, you are also believing in Him. So what do you get when you place your faith in Christ? You receive Him, and you gain belief in Him as well.	
When you follow Christ, you are all in. You have pushed in all the chips. You don't hold anything back. You gave everything that you are to Jesus, and He gives you everything that He is. This is important because it is an amazing gain that when you receive Christ, all of His character will begin to flow through your life. He has done that for you.	
<b>5.</b> An Amazing Gift When John says, "To those who receive Him, He gave the right to become the children of God," This is an inheritance that it's speaking of; everything that God has is for you. Therefore, God wants you to remain in the position and posture of a child, like the verse says, and He has given you the right to become a child of God.	
There are a lot of things about children that are really amazing. They find it easy to believe, easy to trust, and they expect provision, protection, and support. They believe that it's theirs by right. God wants you to live like a child and receive the gift of the inheritance He has for you.	
<b>6. An Amazing Gap</b> Not everyone will become a child of God, which is a sad reality that we must face. Just like Matthew said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).	
There is a narrow path and a narrow gate and only a few find it. If you've given your life to Christ, you have come down a narrow road and a narrow gate. Do you know what that gate looks like? Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. I am the gate." The gate looks like Jesus, and you need to grab hold of that.	

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Last of all, there is an amazing grace in this passage we're looking at. It speaks of nothing but grace. In the last part of verse 13, John talks about this birth not of natural descent, nor of a husband's will. What is he talking about? This natural descent hints of Jewish emphasis upon their ancestry.

But the good news for all of us, is that God's grace is ours to accept and ours to receive. It doesn't matter where you come from. It doesn't matter if your parents follow Jesus, or if your grandparents follow Jesus. God extends His grace and love to you no matter what you've done, where you've been, or who you're related to. His grace is a free gift, and an amazing gift at that.

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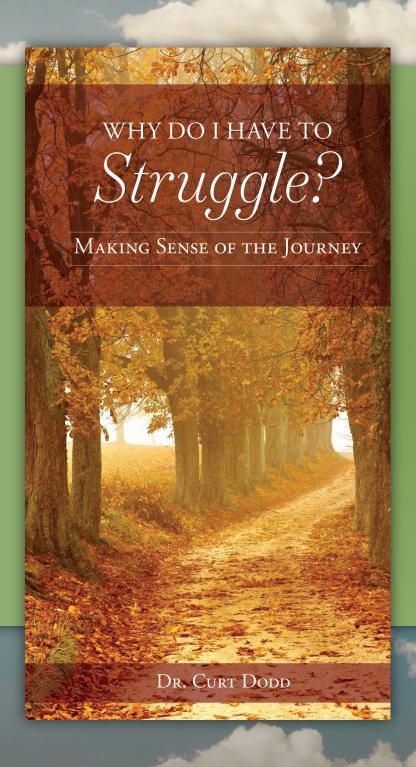
John 1:1-13

#### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Do you truly believe that God can do immeasurably more than you could ask or image, or do you doubt His ability and His goodness?
- 2. What are 5 things you are grateful for that God has blessed you with?

3.	Would you say that you have a childlike faith and approach your heavenly Father like His child? Do you believe Him and trust Him easily, or do you think you have everything covered and tend to trust in your own ability and judgment instead?

# WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLES



God is with us when we are struggling the most.

Visit **HigherAim.org** to order your free copy of Dr. Dodd's most recent book, Why Do I Have To Struggle? Making Sense of the Journey.

