

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



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‘The Word Became Flesh’
by
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(Any words in brackets are not in the original text
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THE WORD BECAME FLESH

This is such a well-known sentence from the first chapter of John's Gospel, but what does it mean exactly and how did it happen?

The Word Always Was

John's Gospel begins by talking about the Word, meaning the words which God spoke and speaks and which in time were written down and became the Bible. John 1:1-2 says – '*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*'²*The same was in the beginning with God.*' Because God has always existed, so has His Word. The words God speaks have always been with Him and they are actually God Himself. They are His nature, His very DNA.

Because the words God speaks are Him, everything He says accurately express who He is and what He is and they contain His power. This is why He could command the world to come into existence by simply using His words. In Genesis 1, each time He said "Let there be ..." what He commanded was created. We're told '... and it was so.'

Psalm 138:2 says of God – '*you have exalted your Name and your Word above all.*' This is how significant God's Word is. God has exalted it as high as His very name. In Psalm 8:1 David tries to express how exalted God's name is – '*LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*' What is true of His name is true of His Word. Along with His name, it is exalted above everything. Therefore we cannot ignore it or hold it lightly if we truly want to know Him and walk with Him.

The Word Became a Man on Earth

John then tells us something even more remarkable in John 1:14 – *‘The Word became flesh and lived amongst us.’* Notice that a man didn't become the Word. God didn't put His Word in a man. No, His Word became a man. There's a huge difference. The words God spoke, which were His very self, took on flesh and became a man – Jesus.

Jesus' Conception

How is it possible that Jesus can be the Word, not just contain it or express it, but actually be it?

Let's read the account in Luke 1:26-38 when the angel Gabriel visits Mary with an amazing message from God – *‘Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸Having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, you highly favoured one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you amongst women!” ²⁹But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered what kind of salutation this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Don't be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹Behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and shall name him ‘Jesus.’ ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. There will be no end to his Kingdom.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, seeing I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is*

born from you will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Behold, Elizabeth your relative also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing spoken by God is impossible.” ³⁸Mary said, “Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.’

Gabriel told Mary that she would have a baby, but no man would be involved. Why was this important? When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden and threw all of creation into chaos, God held Adam accountable. Romans 5:12 says – *‘Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death passed to all men because all sinned.’* Eve was deceived, but Adam rebelled. God had told Adam that he would die if he ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but he went ahead and ate it anyway. He didn’t die physically straightaway, though he did so eventually. What died instantly was Adam’s perfect spirit, which God had created in His own image. And in its place came a sin nature, which Adam would pass on to every descendant throughout history. This is what it means when it says in Romans 5:12 – *‘death passed to all men because all sinned.’* This is why it was essential that a man had no part in Jesus’ conception. Because no man’s sperm was used, Adam’s sin nature was not passed on to Jesus. He was born sinless and remained perfectly sinless throughout His physical life on earth.

In Luke 1:35 the angel told Mary how the conception would happen – *“The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”* Remember John 1:1 tells us that – *‘the Word was God.’* We know that the Holy Spirit is God and God is the Word, so it was the Word which impregnated Mary. Jesus often referred to the Word as a seed. When He was

explaining the meaning of the Parable of the Sower, He said in Luke 8:11 – *“The seed is the word of God.”*

A physical seed is something that is sown in order to produce a plant, an animal or a person. God didn't use the physical seed of a man's sperm, because that would just produce a man with a sin nature. He used the spiritual seed of His Word to fertilise Mary's egg and the Word became flesh here on earth.

Once she understood what was going to happen, Mary responded to the angel in Luke 1:38 saying – *“Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.”* This can be interpreted in two ways, both of which are accurate. Firstly, Mary could be saying that she accepted everything the angel had spoken to her and agreed for it to take place. Or secondly she was saying, let this all happen to me by using God's Word.

Jesus and the Word are One

The Bible isn't a book written by men about God – it's a book by God written down by men. 2 Timothy 3:16 says – *‘Every Scripture is God-breathed.’* It is the Word of God and Jesus is the Word. Therefore the Bible is Jesus – not the paper and ink or digital format, but the truth and meaning and power of the very words themselves. When we read the Bible, in a very real sense, we are reading Jesus and God. They are all one.

This is why there are verses in the Bible which can seem puzzling when we put them side by side, if we don't have this understanding of Jesus being the Word and the Word being Jesus. Here are some examples. The first verse of each pair refers to Jesus and the second to the Word.

Creation

Colossians 1:16 – *‘For by him all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, visible things and invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things have been created through him and for him.’*

Many times in Genesis 1 – ‘God said “Let there be ...” ... and it was so.’

Salvation

Acts 4:12 – *‘There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that is given amongst men, by which we must be saved!’*

James 1:21 – *‘receive with humility the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.’*

Life

John 10:10 – *“I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.”*

Matthew 4:4 – *“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of God’s mouth.’ ”*

Truth

John 14:6 – *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”*

John 17:17 – *“Your word is truth.”*

Faith

Hebrews 12:2 – *‘looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.’*

Romans 10:17 – *‘So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.’*

Power to Destroy

1 John 3:8 – *‘To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.’*

Jeremiah 23:29 – *“Isn’t my word like fire?” says the LORD; “and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”*

Power to Heal

1 Peter 2:24 – *‘You were healed by his wounds.’*

Psalms 107:20 – *‘He sends his word, and heals them, and delivers them from their graves.’*

Jesus and the Word will always remain

The Bible tells us in various places that God’s Word will always remain. Isaiah 40:8 says – *‘The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God stands forever.’* Even in heaven, God’s Word will stand and will never pass away. Of course Jesus has always existed and always will. He existed as God’s Word from before time. Then for a period of time He became a man on earth – the Word made flesh. And He will exist for eternity. Hebrews 13:8 says – *‘Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.’* He and the Word are one so both will remain and stand forever.

In Psalms 89:34 God says – *“I will not break my covenant, nor alter what my lips have uttered.”* God assures us that He will never break His Word. We can trust it completely. In Isaiah 55:11 He says – *“so is my word that goes out of my mouth: it will not return to me void, but it will accomplish that which I please, and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.”* This applies to the words God speaks through the Bible and through His Holy Spirit.

But we do have to have faith in the Word for it to be able to accomplish His will. Hebrews 4:2 says – *‘For indeed we have had good news preached to us, even as they also did, but the word they heard didn’t profit them, because it wasn’t mixed with faith by those who heard.’* Jesus is the Word and God sent Him to fulfil His purpose of saving us and Jesus perfectly accomplished it. But we have to put our faith in Jesus and what He has done for it to benefit us. Jesus says in John 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only born Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

The Word Became Flesh

When Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem, He was fully human from Mary and fully God from the Word. His body was human, but He was perfect and sinless because He wasn’t born with a sin nature, as man was not involved in His conception. Instead of inheriting Adam’s sin nature, His spirit was the very Word of God, making Him fully divine.

Jesus was the Word of God become flesh. So when He spoke it wasn’t just Jesus speaking the truth of the Word, it was the Word itself speaking, or I should say the Word Himself speaking. And the same is true today. If you love Jesus, but don’t love the Word, then there’s a problem. You are missing out on the fulness of who Jesus is and what He is. Read God’s Word knowing it is Jesus and expect to be blessed because Jesus says in John 10:10 – *“I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.”* Or maybe you put such a strong emphasis on the Word that people think you’ve got it out of proportion. Be encouraged, loving the Word and giving it top priority is the same as loving Jesus and honouring Him above all else.

We have a wonderful God who sent His Son to earth to be His Word in the flesh. Thank You Lord for Jesus and for Your Word and thank you that they are one. John 1:14 says – *‘The Word became flesh and lived amongst us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the only born Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.’*

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for you personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’* Say this prayer out loud and believe it in your heart – “Jesus, I declare that You are Lord and that God raised You from the dead to live forevermore. Thank You for dying for me personally. I receive my forgiveness and my salvation now. Thank You Jesus, my Lord and Saviour.”

You are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. All your sins are forgiven, past, present and future, and you have a new perfect spirit. And after this life is over, you’ll live in love, peace and joy with your Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God’s love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

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This is such a well-known sentence in the Bible.
But what exactly does it mean
and how did it come about?

Read about the amazing significance
of Jesus being the Word
and the Word being Jesus
and how this truth can impact
the way you view and approach them both.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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