

Still Creating New Life

John 1:1-5; John 1:29-34

- God didn't stop creating at Genesis — in Jesus, He's creating new life all over again.
 - John opens his Gospel exactly like Genesis opens Scripture — "In the beginning" — signaling that something as foundational as the first creation is happening again.
 - The same Spirit that hovered over the waters in Genesis 1 now descends on Jesus at His baptism, marking the start of this new creative work.

John 1:1-5 NASB

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. ⁵ And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

John 1:29-34 NASB

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is He in behalf of whom I said, 'After me is coming a Man who has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me.' ³¹ And I did not recognize Him, but so that He would be revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water." ³² And John testified, saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. ³³ And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Consider the start/why...

- Like Genesis, the Gospel of John starts with the words: “In the beginning.”
 - John is reminding us about Genesis 1, suggesting that this moment is like that one—God is creating again.
 - John identifies Jesus as the Word through whom God spoke the world into being, and we know from Genesis 1:2 that the Spirit also participated in the original creation, hovering over the waters.
 - Instead, the people choose violence and injustice, unleashing chaos throughout their land.

Consider the empowerment...

- At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit comes down from heaven like a dove and rests on him.
 - Once again, God's Spirit is hovering like a bird over the waters, preparing to bring order from chaos so that life can flourish.
 - God's Spirit is empowering Jesus to begin the new creation.
 - The Spirit is doing what the Spirit always does—giving and sustaining life—but in a new way.
 - Light is once again entering the world, overcoming the darkness.

Consider the anointing...

- The dove-like Spirit resting on Jesus also anoints him as someone who will baptize others, but in the Holy Spirit rather than in water.
 - John the Baptizer explains that Jesus will cleanse people from sin and give them the Holy Spirit, as Ezekiel promised (Ezek. 36:24-30).
 - This will enable them to follow God's ways, which lead to life.

Reflect

Do you see connections when you compare Genesis 1:1-5 with John 1:1-5, 29-34? How does this help you understand the Spirit's work through Jesus?

- Think about your own journey : you have been filled, you have been empowered, you are anointed for God's service

More Relevant Scripture References

Matthew 1:18 (Matthew's account of Jesus' birth)

Matthew 3:13-17 (Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism)