



# Prayers Anchored in the Gospel of John John 1:19-28

Friday, Day 13

\* Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

\* [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org)

\* **The Collect**  
Collecting your thoughts so you can focus  
on God.

John 1 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders<sup>[c]</sup> in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

<sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

 **Scripture**

\* This is a time when you will want to think about what God has said to you this week. He has spoken personally and He desires you to pay attention and put some feet to the direction he has given to you.

Did God speak to you about being more like John in

... courage

... oneness in purpose

... humility

... love for Jesus

... or some other attribute?

\* **Meditation**

## \*The Spirit of God

- \* Comforts
- \* Rebukes
- \* Teaches
- \* Guides

Sometimes the Voice of Jesus resonates deeply in one of these areas and sometimes we hear that sweet voice in two, three or even all four of these ways. Write down what Jesus has discussed with you this week.

# \*Meditation

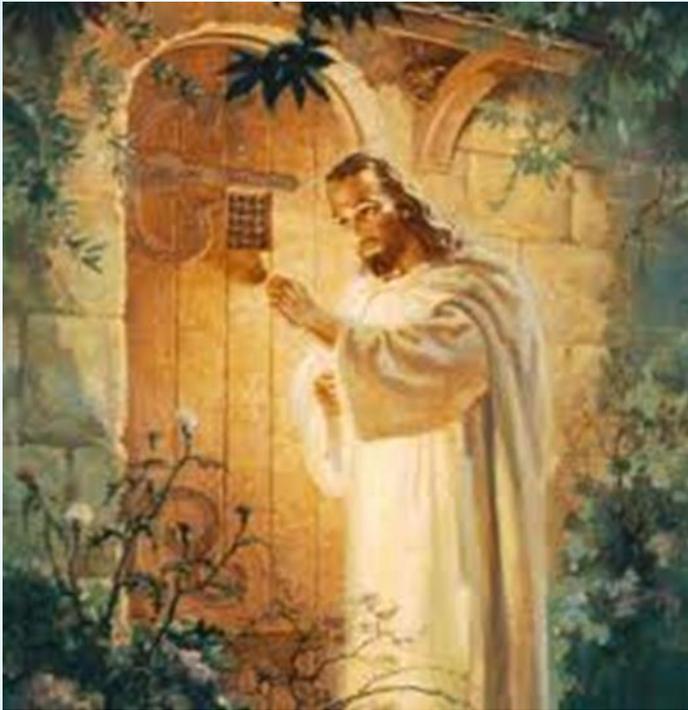
\*“This brief encounter between the officials and the Baptist raises searching questions for us. First, do we have the inner openness and deep desire necessary to receive God's revelation? Second, since our identity, like that of the Baptist, is most truly seen in relation to Christ, how does our life—our relationships and responsibilities—flow from our relation to God? What would we say if asked "Who are you?" (v. 22) and "Why are you doing what you are doing?" (v. 25)? IVP Commentary

<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/ivp-nt/John-Baptist-Witnesses-About-Himself>

\*Meditation

- \* Can you take these thoughts and articulate your response back to God? Is your response one of surrender to His direction or are you finding resistance welling up inside? Scripture is meant to become a script to guide and change our lives and with practice you will become better at hearing the Voice of Jesus speak.
- \* For instance, my personal response as I have contemplated this passage this week has been: “I will own my identity. I have a calling that I will not be distracted from. Just as John knew why he called people to repentance and baptised them, I will keep the purpose of my tasks, top of mind, so that I will never be intimidated by questions. I will know who I am and why I do the things I do.”

\* **Response**



This is an example of the prayer that comes from my meditation on John's life this week.

“Father, I submit to your calling in my life. Much of my confusion about your script for me comes from loving other things more than you. I will devote more time to accepting the identity you have given me and then asking the question, ‘What do I need to do to become the person who can live out that calling?’ There are several things I do that have nothing to do with your calling on my life so I level them and push them into a personal valley so that Jesus will have a level highway in my life. Getting rid of one thing often supports the new things God wants to do.

For example, cutting out activities later at night that don't relate to my calling, supports more sleep, which gives me more energy during the next day, to do what you want me to do.

Father, I will remember who I am and why I do the things I do.”

\* Prayer

John 1: 26-27

<sup>26</sup> “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

May the blessing of your identity guide you in everything that you do. May it keep you from tripping or falling into any trap that the enemies of Jesus may have for you.

 **Blessing**