

*Daily Devotional Guide to
the Book of John*

John Chapter 3

Days 19 - 27

Gaile Thulson

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A Daily Devotional Study Of The Gospel Of John

You will need a Bible of your own to do this devotional study. Reading the Bible with an open heart and mind brings us into God's presence, and getting to know God is accomplished by spending time with him on a daily basis. This study is designed to develop or maintain the habit of meeting daily with God, sometimes referred to as a devotional time with God. It doesn't have to take a large chunk of time, but it needs to be focused on the Scriptures (the Bible). It doesn't have to cover a lot of material or content every day, it just needs to be understood and applied to our lives.

The study days are numbered so that you can do them any day of the week, preferably one each day. However, if you miss a day, it won't matter because the days are not assigned a date or day of the week.

My approach to the study is a verse by verse exploration and application of God's Word to our lives. This is an *inductive* study, which means that we derive meaning from the Biblical text itself rather than from outside sources. The passages for each day are short, to enable you to focus more in depth on a few verses at a time. I frequently bring additional Scripture into the discussion in an effort to ensure accurate interpretation of the day's topics.

How This Devotional Study Works

1. In your Bible, look up and read the verses for the day.
2. Write the first verse for the day in the top left space under *What it Says* (Row 1, Column 1).
3. Working left to right, read the comments in the *Meanings/Principles* space (Row 1, Column 2).
4. Then, write your answers to the questions to clarify *What it Means to Me* (Row 1, Column 3).
5. Continue by writing the next verse in Row 2, Column 1, reading Row 2 Column 2, and writing answers to questions in Row 2, Column 3.
6. Continue working left to right as you go down the page.

To summarize, first read through the verses in John for the day. Then write exactly what the first verse says in the first column. (*Write each verse word for word, exactly as it appears in the Bible in column one.*) After you write out each verse, read the second column that clarifies the important information given in that verse and then answer the questions in column three related to the verse. (*Work left to right. It is important to answer each question based on the verse and its meaning in column two.*)

You may choose to either 1) print pages and write in the spaces provided or 2) enter your responses on your computer. If you use your computer you can save your work, then come back and print at any time. If your response exceeds the space allowed you can scroll the text area to see the complete text; but if you print, some of the text may be hidden.

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:1</p>	<p>People who are in positions of authority or fame may be interested in Jesus even though their peers are not, or even though it would not be considered politically correct among their peers.</p>	<p>Who has God put on my heart to pray for, so that he or she will realize the truth about Jesus and seek him in spite of a high position in life?</p>
<p>John 3:2</p>	<p>Nicodemus confessed that he and his peers knew the truth about Jesus, but Nicodemus could not come to Jesus openly because of peer pressure and disapproval.</p>	<p>How does my position in life, or my relationships with other people get in the way of being truthful with God or about God?</p>
<p>John 3:3</p>	<p>Jesus was concerned about Nicodemus and what he needed in order to enter the kingdom of God. The truth is that everyone must be born again.</p>	<p>What do I need to do to enter the kingdom of God?</p>

Day 19

Read John 3:1-5

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:4</p>	<p>People don't understand what it means to be born again. They know it doesn't mean a literal, physical birth but they often misuse the term or use it semi-correctly to label any kind of life renewal or turn around.</p>	<p>Do I know what it means to be born again in the sense Jesus meant?</p>
<p>John 3:5</p>	<p>The kind of new birth that is required to enter the kingdom of God is a spiritual one. It first requires our understanding that we are sinful in God's eyes and that repentance is required. This is what John the Baptist's message was. He called the people to repent of their sins and be cleansed.</p>	<p>Do I understand that I am sinful in God's eyes?</p> <p>When did I come to God to acknowledge my sin and turn away (repent) of it?</p> <p>Has God cleansed me of my sins?</p>

What would I like to say to God?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:6</p>	<p>Jesus continued explaining to Nicodemus the difference between physical birth and spiritual birth. Doing things in this physical body can't save us eternally. Use of all of our efforts and human endeavor only creates human endeavor. If we want our sins forgiven, if we want to be right in God's eyes, we have to do what he asks of us: believe! What God does is spiritual. Coming to God, repenting of our sin, and gaining his forgiveness through belief in Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, is what being born again spiritually is all about.</p>	<p>Am I still trying to do what is spiritual by using human endeavor?</p> <p>Do I believe that Jesus' words, his life as God's only Son born in the flesh, his death, his burial, and his resurrection are sufficient in God's eyes to take care of my sin?</p>
<p>John 3:7</p>	<p>It is hard for people to accept God's work rather than our own work to save us. Jesus insists God's way is the only way.</p>	<p>Am I willing to accept God's work on my behalf?</p> <p>Have I told God?</p>
<p>John 3:8</p>	<p>God's work is not something we can see. What he does in us when we repent of our sins and come to him asking for Jesus' blood to cover our sin so that he can forgive us, is not something that can be seen. We can't show it to people, but we know it is real and we can see the effects in our lives. It is much like the wind that cannot be seen, but the effects become visible as the wind moves things and alters things.</p>	<p>How would I describe what happened inside of me when I became born again?</p> <p>What effects of what God has done inside of me (spiritually) do I think people will see evidence of in my life?</p>

Day 20

Read John 3:6-8

What do I want to say to God?

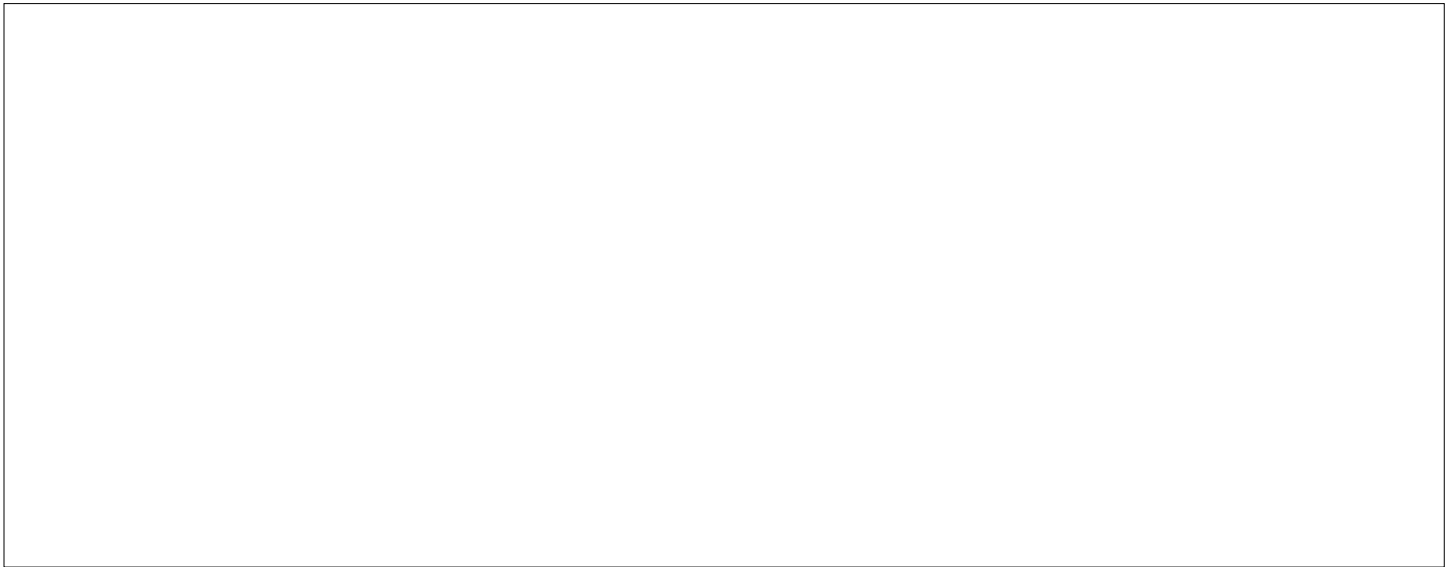
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:9</p>	<p>Nicodemus did not understand how a person could be born again. No one can go back and be physically born. It happens to us once and we can't change, undo, or redo our birth into this world. Note: Jesus was clearly not talking about reincarnation. Reincarnation is not part of God's program. Reincarnation is not a reality. (Hebrews 9:27)</p>	<p>How do I feel about having only one life to live?</p>
<p>John 3:10</p>	<p>Those who lead others spiritually should know about spiritual things.</p>	<p>Have I listened to spiritual leaders who don't understand spiritual things?</p>
<p>John 3:11</p>	<p>Jesus and his disciples were telling people what they knew to be true, but people were reluctant to believe them.</p>	<p>Do I accept the testimony of John who wrote this book about Jesus? Do I accept Jesus' testimony about himself and his Father, the one and only God who created us?</p>
<p>John 3:12</p>	<p>The fact that we each need to be born again is just a fact of life on earth. Jesus knew much more about God and about heaven, but Nicodemus would not have believed him.</p>	<p>Do I believe Jesus, when he says that I must be born again?</p>

Day 21

Read John 3:9-12

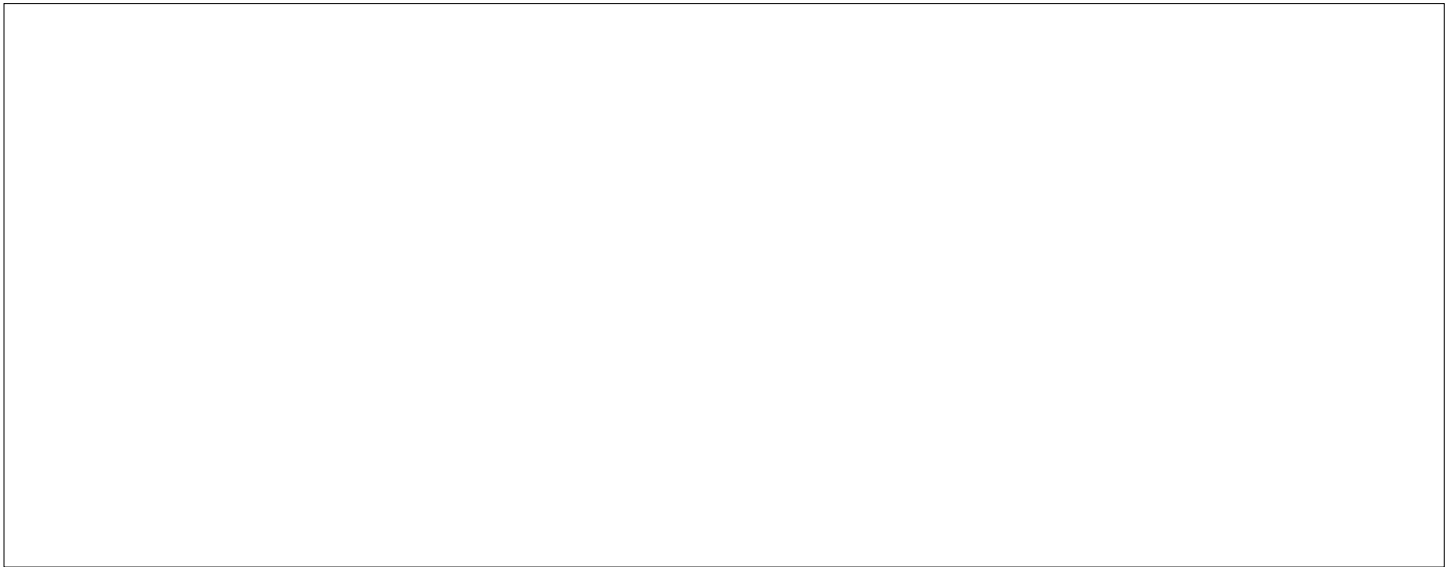
What would I like to say to God?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:13</p>	<p>Jesus was the only one who knew about heaven because he had been there before he came to earth as a man. He went back to heaven after he was resurrected. (Luke 24:50-52)</p>	<p>What has St. John told us so far about heaven and about God because of what Jesus said when he was here on earth?</p>
<p>John 3:14</p>	<p>Read Daniel 7:13-14 which describes a vision God gave to Daniel about the Messiah (Son of Man) shortly before 500 B.C. In this vision, Daniel saw God give the Son of Man authority over all people, the right to be worshipped by all people (reserved only for God), and an eternal kingdom.</p>	<p>What was Jesus claiming by calling himself the Son of Man?</p>
<p>John 3:15</p>	<p>Read Numbers 21:4-9. Just as looking up at the bronze snake saved people from the results of sin, so looking up to Jesus on the cross saves us from the consequences of our sin. God's gift of eternal salvation is so simple it only requires us to humbly believe as a child before God. (Matthew 18:3)</p>	<p>If I have looked to Jesus on the cross to save me, what consequences of sin has Jesus saved me from?</p> <p>What has Jesus given me instead of death?</p>

Day 22 ***Read John 3:13-15***

What can I praise God for?

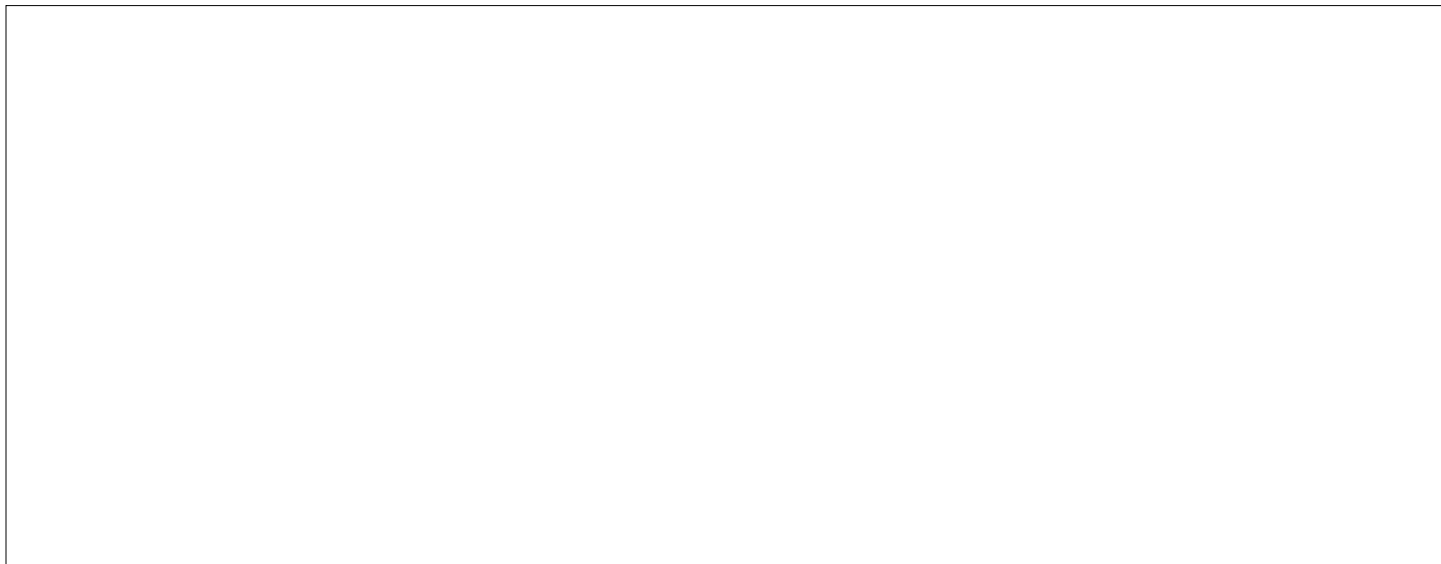
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:16</p>	<p>God does love us. To save us, God gave the most precious possession anyone could have. Jesus was and is God's Son in a special way that no one else has been or will ever be, but Jesus gave himself so that we could share his inheritance from God. That inheritance is life forever with him.</p>	<p>Based on John 3:16, how do I know God loves <i>me</i>?</p> <p>Where will I (the real me, my spirit) go when my body dies? How do I know?</p> <p>Memorize John 3:16.</p>
<p>John 3:17</p>	<p>Through Jesus, God made a way to save everyone who comes to him.</p>	<p>Do I know someone who is condemned because they have not believed in Jesus? What can I do about it?</p>
<p>John 3:18</p>	<p>Anyone in the world, of any race, who believes in Jesus has forgiveness, access to God, and life forever with him. Those anywhere in the world who refuse God's provision for them have no forgiveness, no access to God, and are condemned to die, to live apart from God.</p>	<p>Does God condemn me for my sins? How do I know?</p>

Day 23

Read John 3:16-18

What would I like to say to Jesus?

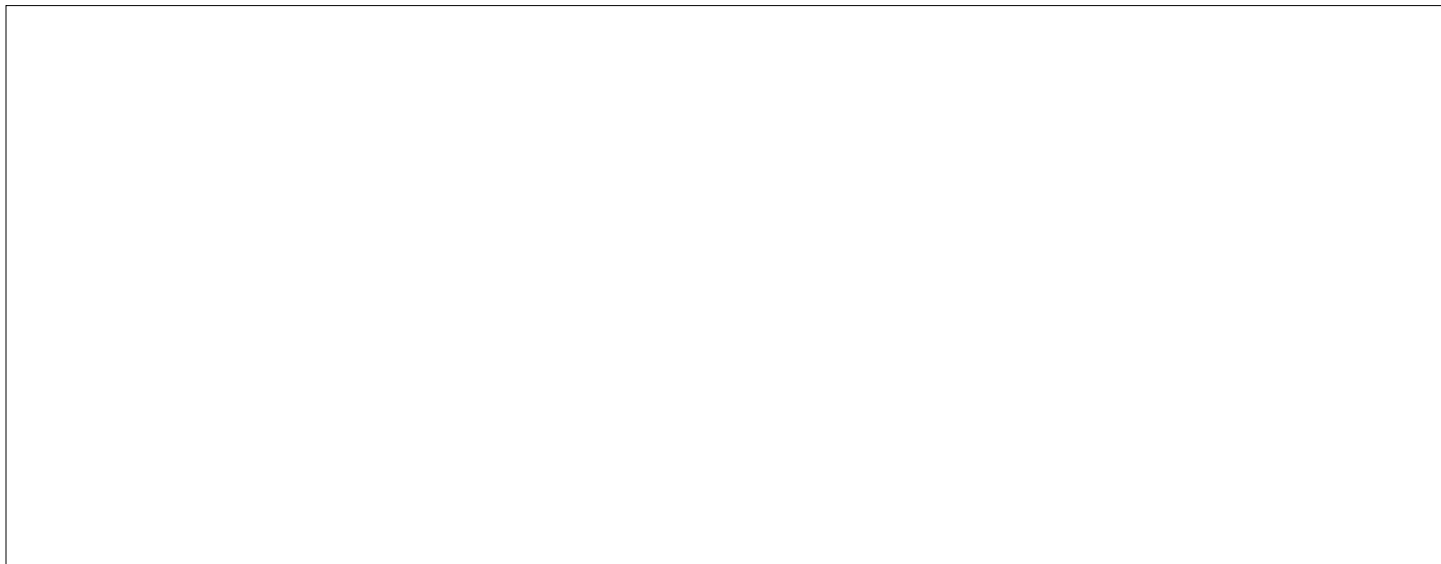
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:19</p>	<p>Jesus is the Light that has come into the world to show us the way to God. Some people choose other things rather than Jesus.</p>	<p>Is there any darkness or evil I love more than the light of Jesus?</p>
<p>John 3:20</p>	<p>Someone caught up in something that is wrong, avoids coming to Jesus, and avoids confessing and repenting.</p>	<p>Is there anything I wish I could repent of and stop?</p> <p>What can I do about it?</p>
<p>John 3:21</p>	<p>Anyone who is really seeking to live by God's truth will find Jesus.</p>	<p>When Jesus scrutinizes my life actions, what does he see? Are they compatible with God's truth?</p> <p>Do I know anyone who is seeking God, but needs me to tell them about Jesus?</p>

Day 24

Read John 3:19-21

What am I saying to God today?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:22</p>	<p>Jesus likes to spend time with us when we can be alone with him without distractions. Jesus' disciples were baptizing people as John (the Baptist) had been doing.</p>	<p>When can I be alone with Jesus, without distractions, so that I can really hear him?</p>
<p>John 3:23</p>	<p>Many people were turning from their sins and seeking God.</p>	<p>Am I aware of what God is doing in the lives of others?</p>
<p>John 3:24</p>	<p>John (the Baptist) was later imprisoned and beheaded by Herod Antipas. (Matthew 14:1-12) At this time, however, he was still doing what God had called him to do.</p>	<p>What main things do I think God calls followers of Jesus to do as long as they are alive?</p>
<p>John 3:25</p>	<p>Ceremonial washing was important to the Jewish people. They wanted to be clean before God and they thought that washing in just the right ways and times would help them to be spiritually clean.</p>	<p>How can I be truly spiritually clean before God? Read I John 1:9. (The apostle John also wrote I John.)</p>

Day 25

Read John 3:22-26

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:26</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>John's disciples were evidently concerned that Jesus' disciples were baptizing. They didn't want their teacher to have competition. (We will see more in tomorrow's reading.)</p> <p>When the time was right and Jesus was revealed, then people flocked to Jesus and John was glad because his calling from God was to prepare the way for Jesus.</p>	<p>Who can I ask Jesus to reveal himself to, so that person may know who Jesus is, believe, repent, and become spiritually clean before God?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 100%;"></div>

What should I say to God?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:27</p>	<p>John's disciples were concerned because Jesus' disciples were beginning to baptize people. John told them that it was okay because what Jesus was doing was endorsed by God.</p> <p>God is sovereign and he decides what is to be. Both Jesus and John were who they were because it was as God established.</p>	<p>What evidence in my life shows that I am allowing Jesus to be who he is, God's chosen one, the Savior of the world?</p>
<p>John 3:28</p>	<p>John (the Baptist) knew he himself was not the Christ (the Messiah) and he never claimed to be. He knew his job was to prepare the way for the Messiah.</p>	<p>How can I prepare the way for Jesus to be more active in my life?</p>
<p>John 3:29</p>	<p>John knew that God's people belonged to his chosen one, the Christ, the Messiah, not to John.</p> <p>John was only the friend of the bridegroom.</p> <p>He was full of joy to discover who the Christ was. John was happy that people were flocking to Jesus, because that was the reason for John's existence.</p> <p>John did what God had asked him to do and sent him to do.</p>	<p>To whom do the people around me belong?</p> <p>Do I want people to do what I want or what God wants?</p> <p>Does it fill me with joy when people turn to Jesus?</p> <p>How can I tell that I am doing what God asks me to do and sent me to do?</p>

Day 26

Read John 3:27-30

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 3:30 	John knew that his job was complete if people were turning to Jesus. John did not expect to become great, but rather to make Jesus great.	When is my job complete?

What would I like to say to God?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 3:31</p>	<p>John continues explaining to his disciples that he himself is just a man, of the earth, with limited knowledge and wisdom. Jesus is from heaven and is over the earth itself.</p>	<p>Who am I, and who is Jesus?</p>
<p>John 3:32</p>	<p>Jesus tells what he knows from his Father in Heaven but people reject his message.</p>	<p>What am I learning about heaven and our Heavenly Father from Jesus?</p>
<p>John 3:33</p>	<p>Those who accept Jesus know that he is truly from God and that he speaks the truth. Both John the Baptist and St. John the Apostle accepted what Jesus said and certified that it was God's truth.</p>	<p>How do I know Jesus spoke the truth?</p>
<p>John 3:34</p>	<p>Jesus speaks the words of God because God has given him his Spirit without limit.</p>	<p>Where did Jesus get his information?</p>

Day 27

Read John 3:31-36

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 3:35 	God loves Jesus and has placed everything under his control.	If I have a need or request of God, to whom should I go?
John 3:36 	If I want to be free of God's wrath, I need to accept his Son. Those who believe in Jesus have eternal life.	Am I free of God's wrath? How do I know that I will live with God forever after I die?

What do I say to God today?