

CHRISTIANITY NOW AND THEN
(PART 4)
John's Story: "Captivated by Christ"

1 John 1:1-2:3

By Pastor David Smith

June 27, 2010

When living for Jesus in the Kingdom of God captivates your life, you will never be the same.

*** Because John was captivated by the person of Jesus Christ and His cause, his life joyfully reflected the following spiritual realities that can be real in us too. Like John, we can be:**

1. Transformed by the _____ of _____.

John wrote of Jesus as the Living Word of God in John 1:1-2, 14:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.... The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

See Mark 3:17—Jesus changed the “Sons of Thunder” into men of God.

2. Captivated by the _____ of Jesus' _____.

See Luke 5: 1-11

“Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed Him. Matthew 4:19-20

3. Motivated to _____ by Christ's _____.

Jesus said: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 1 John 3:16

4. _____ that we are part of God's family.

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30-31

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13

5. Filled with _____.

Jesus said: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

6. Committed to finishing _____.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17

Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 2 John 8

What has captivated your life?

1. It has been said that true freedom is the enslavement to the right Master. What is the master of your life? What has a hold on your life and on the use of your time, talents, and treasures? Is it Jesus Christ or some self-centered or worldly centered cause?
2. John's life story tells us about his personal faith experiences with Jesus. Do you merely know about Jesus Christ or do you know Him in a personal way in which He is central in your daily life experiences? John wrote that we can know Him by faith if we believe in Jesus and by faith receive Him into our lives as our Forgiver and our Leader through life.
3. Read Revelation 21 & 22 for the final words of hope and encouragement Christ has for believers (these words were written by John).