

The earlier three [Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke] are a presentation of Jesus; this fourth is an interpretation. The other three show us Jesus outwardly; this fourth interprets Him inwardly. The other three emphasize the ***human aspect***; this fourth ***unveils the divine***.

- J. Sidlow Baxter, Explore the Book

Matthew had written primarily for Jews, Mark for Romans, and Luke for Greeks. There was a desperate need for one more gospel record. Someone needed to write for the Church.

- J.B. Phillips

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, **and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

John 20:30-31 (NIV)

"Logos" Meant:

To the Culture:

- The highest form of philosophy, truth, and living.

To the Believer:

- The peak of revelation of Divine things.
- The independent, personified, expression of God.

¹In the beginning the Word existed; and the Word was face to face with God; yeah, the Word was God Himself. ²He is the One who was face to face with God in the beginning. ³It was through Him that everything came into existence, and apart from Him not a single thing came into existence.

John 1:1-13 (Williams New Testament)

⁴It was by Him that life began to exist, and that life was the light of mankind. ⁵So the light continues to shine in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it. ⁶There appeared a man named John, sent from God. ⁷He came for the purpose of testifying, to testify to the light, so that everyone through him might come to believe.

John 1:1-13 (Williams New Testament)

⁸He was not the light; he came to testify to the light. ⁹The real light, which sheds light upon everyone, was just coming into the world. ¹⁰He came into the world, and though the world through Him began to exist, it did not recognize Him. ¹¹He came into His own world, but His own people did not welcome Him.

John 1:1-13 (Williams New Testament)

¹²But to all who did accept Him, and trust in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God, ¹³who were born of God and not of natural blood nor of physical or human impulse.

John 1:1-13 (Williams New Testament)

CHRIST THE ETERNAL WORD

The Word is Eternal and Divine

¹In the beginning the Word existed; and the Word was face to face with God; yeah, the Word was God Himself. ²He is the One who was face to face with God in the beginning.

John 1:1-2 (Williams New Testament)

The Word is Eternal and Divine

Through these **he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature...**

2 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

Application: Every time you take in a little bit of the Word of God, you are taking something in that is divine and will never change.

The Word is Creative and Life-Giving

³It was through Him that everything came into existence, and apart from Him not a single thing came into existence. ⁴It was by Him that life began to exist, and that life was the light of mankind.

John 1:3-4 (Williams New Testament)

The Word is Creative and Life-Giving

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

John 10:10

Application: The most life-giving relationship in this world is with Christ the Eternal Word.

The Word is Relational and Illuminating

⁹The real light, which sheds light upon everyone, was just coming into the world...¹¹He came into His own world, but His own people did not welcome Him. ¹²But to all who did accept Him, and trust in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God...

John 1:9, 11, 12 (Williams New Testament)





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**Page
Six**

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The Word is Relational and Illuminating

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.

Psalm 119:45 (NIV)

Application: The unchanging, life-giving, and relational Word is what keeps us in freedom and abundance.