

John 1 is the introduction to the whole Gospel of John, and the main stress of this introduction is that Christ is the Word of God—the definition, explanation, and expression of the mysterious and invisible God: [John 1:1](#) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **A** Christ as the Word of God is the great I Am, self-existing and ever-existing; He is the One who is eternal, without beginning or ending. **B** John 1 refers to Christ, with the two sections of eternity and the bridge of time, in the five greatest events in the history of the universe—creation, incarnation, redemption, anointing, and building: **1** John 1, as a prologue to the entire book of John, is an abstract of the history of the “journeying” Triune God as the Word in eternity past, ultimately becoming the New Jerusalem in eternity future. [John 1:51](#) And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man. **2** John 1 shows us in a crystallized way the eternal Word in His creating work and in His journeying across the bridge of time to become flesh for the accomplishing of His judicial redemption; to become the anointing, life-giving, and transforming Spirit for carrying out His organic salvation; and ultimately to become fully united, mingled, and incorporated with His regenerated, transformed, and glorified bride to be the New Jerusalem, the ultimate Bethel, the mutual abode of God and man. **C** In these five universal, historical events, Christ, the Word of God—as: **1** the Creator in creation, **2** the man who tabernacled among us in incarnation, **3** the Lamb in redemption, **4** the anointing Spirit in transformation, and **5** the ladder in joining earth to heaven for God’s building—defines, explains, and expresses the invisible God. **III** Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His creation: [John 1:3](#) All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not one thing came into being which has come into being. **A** The heavens declare the glory of God, / And the expanse proclaims the work of His hands. / Day to day pours forth speech, / And night to night tells out knowledge. / There is no speech and there are no words; / Their voice is not heard (Psa. 19:1-3). **B** “The invisible things of Him, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse” (Rom. 1:20). **C** What is referred to in Acts 14:15-17 and 17:24-29 serves the same purpose of revealing Christ’s creation speaking for God. [Acts 14:15](#) ...you should turn from these vain things

to the living God, who made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them; [16](#) Who in the generations gone by allowed all the nations to go their ways. [17](#) And yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good by giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness. [17:24](#) The God who made the world and all things in it, this One, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; [25](#) Neither is He served by human hands as though He needed anything in addition, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things. [26](#) And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand *their* appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling, [27](#) That they might seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find *Him*, even though He is not far from each one of us; [28](#) For in Him we live and move and are, as even some poets among you have said, For we are also His race. [29](#) Being then the race of God, we ought not to suppose that what is divine is like gold or silver or stone, *like* an engraving of art and thought of man. **III** Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His incarnation as the tabernacle of God: [John 1:14](#) And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality. **A** The Word, by being incarnated, not only brought God into humanity but also became a tabernacle to God as God’s habitation on earth among men, being full of grace and reality: **1** The law makes demands on man according to what God is; grace supplies man with what God is to meet what God demands. **2** “Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace” (John 1:16). **B** In His becoming flesh, He became the embodiment of the Triune God, bringing God to man and making God contactable, touchable, receivable, experienceable, enterable, and enjoyable. **C** He became a God-man, bringing divinity into humanity and mingling divinity with humanity. **D** The incarnation of God’s only begotten Son is also for declaring (explaining) God to man in the Word, in life, in light, in grace, and in reality: **1** The Word is God expressed, explained, and defined so that man may understand God. **2** Life is God imparted so that man may receive God. **3** Light is God shining so that man may be enlightened to partake of God. **4** Grace is God enjoyed by man so that man may share His riches. **5** Reality is God realized by man so that man may apprehend and know God. **IV** Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His becoming the Lamb of God for redemption: [John 1:29](#) The next day

he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! [Heb. 9:26](#) Since then He would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world. But now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested for the putting away of sin through the sacrifice of Himself.

**A** In His becoming the Lamb for the redemption of the lost world, Christ speaks to us how God accomplished His redemption judicially through His death as the procedure according to His righteousness. **B** The Lamb of God signifies the Word in the flesh as the fulfillment of all the Old Testament offerings to accomplish God's full redemption: **1** Christ is the reality of the sin offering, the trespass offering, the burnt offering, the meal offering, the peace offering, the wave offering, the heave offering, and the drink offering. **2** With Christ as all the offerings, we have God's full redemption, and we may experience and enjoy this redemption. **V**

Christ the Word of God speaks for God through His becoming the anointing Spirit for the transformation of God's redeemed people into stones for the building of God's house (Bethel) organically for the New Testament: [John 1:32](#) And John testified, saying, I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abode upon Him. **A**

In His becoming the anointing, life-giving, and transforming Spirit, Christ speaks to us further how God carries out His economy organically by His divine life for His divine purpose according to His heart's desire. **B** We need to be watchful to not allow anything in our daily living to replace Christ as the anointing Spirit in our spirit: **1** Christ is the anointed One becoming the anointing One and also the anointing; to live in the principle of antichrist is to be anti the anointing (anti means "against" and "in place of, instead of"). **2** To be anti Christ is both to be against Christ and to replace Christ with something else. **3** If we replace Christ with something of our own behavior and character, we are practicing the principle of antichrist in the sense of allowing certain things to replace Christ Himself. **4** We need to repent for having a daily living in the principle of antichrist, allowing culture, religion, ethics, and natural concepts to replace Christ as the inner anointing; this is to be against the anointing, anti the moving, working, and saturating of the Triune God within us. **5** We should pray, "Lord, we want to live and walk in, with, through, and by the anointing—the moving, working, and saturating of the Triune God within us." **C** The dove, the anointing Spirit,

regenerates the created man, anoints and transforms the natural man into living stones, and unites the transformed man. **D** At Peter's conversion the Lord gave him a new name, Peter—a stone, and when Peter received the revelation concerning Christ, the Lord revealed further that He was the rock—a stone; by these two incidents Peter received the impression that both Christ and His believers are stones for God's building. [John 1:42](#) He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter). **M** Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His becoming the ladder that brings heaven (God) to earth (man) and joins earth (man) to heaven (God) as one for God's building: [John 1:51](#) And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man. **A** Christ, in His being the heavenly ladder at Bethel, also speaks to us how God desires to have a house on the earth, constituted with His redeemed and transformed elect, so that He may bring heaven to earth and join earth to heaven, to make the two as one for eternity. **B** Jacob's dream is a revelation of Christ, for Christ is the reality of the ladder that Jacob saw at Bethel, the house of God: [Gen. 28:12](#) And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **1** Our regenerated spirit, which is God's dwelling place today, is the base on earth where Christ as the heavenly ladder has been set up. **2** At Bethel, the house of God, the habitation of God, which is the gate of heaven, Christ is the ladder that joins earth to heaven and brings heaven to earth; hence, whenever we turn to our spirit, we experience Christ as the ladder bringing God to us and us to God. **3** The issue of Christ as the heavenly ladder is God's building—Bethel, the church, the Body of Christ—and the consummation of this ladder is the New Jerusalem. **C** "The Lord's coming back needs a solid building of His seekers. This building will be a steppingstone, a beachhead, for Him to take the earth, and it will be mutual abode for both God and man. It will be the mingling of divinity with humanity and of humanity with divinity forever ... This building will be the ultimate fulfillment not only of Jacob's dream but also of God's eternal plan. It will terminate the bridge of time and usher in the blessed eternity in the future. We must be for that building, and we must be that building!" (John LS #5).

**CP1** Be filled with the Holy Spirit, speak the Word of God boldly in various languages and supply people with God as grace

**III** Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His incarnation as the tabernacle of God

John1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality. **A** The Word, by being incarnated, not only brought God into humanity but also became a tabernacle to God as God's habitation on earth among men, being full of grace and reality: **1** The law makes demands on man according to what God is; grace supplies man with what God is to meet what God demands. **2** "Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace" (John1:16). **B** In His becoming flesh, He became the embodiment of the Triune God, bringing God to man and making God contactable, touchable, receivable, experienceable, enterable, and enjoyable. **C** He became a God-man, bringing divinity into humanity and mingling divinity with humanity. **D** The incarnation of God's only begotten Son is also for declaring (explaining) God to man in the Word, in life, in light, in grace, and in reality. **1** The Word is God expressed, explained, and defined so that man may understand God. **2** Life is God imparted so that man may receive God. **3** Light is God shining so that man may be enlightened to partake of God. **4** Grace is God enjoyed by man so that man may share His riches. **5** Reality is God realized by man so that man may apprehend and know God.

#### Application to young people, new ones

**Testimony 1** An elderly deaf sister passed away in our district this past August. In order to hold a memorial service, we asked sister Yoriki to share her testimony in a video letter. We asked for it on short notice the day before the event was to be held, but the sister came right away and we could record the video. The content was as follows: "This sister became ill in her later years, but she never stopped meeting until the end, and even though she was weak on the outside, she was fresh on the inside. We are very fortunate to have church life. The church in Kobe purchased a villa called Rejoice Garden on Mt. Rokko 12 years ago, and the sister, along with her husband, often came to the villa for maintenance when she was still in good health. The brother is dexterous, knows a lot about machinery, and has worked together in various services. The sister was happy to help in some detail service by his side. I said several times to her, "Thank you, sister. Your husband is amazing. He is doing great and you help us a lot." But

every time she replied, "No, no. He is doing what he just can do. What we are doing is not much. We are nothing." The hymn that the sister loved, "Oh the joy of having nothing, being nothing, seeing nothing, but the living Christ in glory and His interest down on earth" fits the very sister I have observed. One never knows when one will become ill, but I thank the sister for redeeming her time while she was well, for loving the Lord, loving the Church, and for her practical service, with one accord with her husband! To the Lord be the glory!" Hearing this, I was very supplied by sister Yoriki who testified this. She probably did not have time to prepare her testimony, but the abundance of Christ instantly overflowed from sister Yoriki who is always in the presence of God and it became our enjoyment. I believe that all the brothers, sisters, and relatives who heard this testimony at the memorial service were also comforted, encouraged, enlightened, and given a dispensing of life.

**Testimony 2** Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through becoming flesh and becoming the tabernacle of God. This Christ now lives in my spirit, and through Him I too can speak for God. Last week, I was enlightened to hear the testimony of brother Yoriki when he was just saved but always took the lead to exercise the spirit and share right after the brother gave a message so that the spirit would not sink. I confessed to the Lord that I was not aggressive enough, and then I took the initiative to share in the meetings. When I exercise my spirit to speak for the Lord, words mysteriously come out. And when I speak for the Lord, I enjoy it very much.

When I was preaching the gospel at Tozanguchi, I was preaching alone after other brothers and sisters had taken one friend back to the meeting place. At that time, I met brother Godswill, who is now meeting with us. Although I do not speak English, but I read the Word of God on the flyer with him and took him to the meeting place. Later, he came to Kobe University BSG, so we all read the life study in English for him. I was silent at first because my English is not good, but I felt that I needed to be blended and I read and shared. He was surprised to see me start reading English too, even though I don't speak much English. I said that I had joy when I read and share in English, doing my best to speak God's word. I then encouraged him, who is about to study Japanese, by telling him that even when he studies Japanese, he will be able to speak with boldness if he wishes to speak for the Lord. The result of being filled with the Spirit of authority is to boldly speak the word of God in different languages.



**CP2** Repent the living in the principle of antichrist, and be transformed with the anointing Spirit for the building of God's house.

**V** Christ as the Word of God speaks for God through His becoming the anointing Spirit for the transformation of God's redeemed people into stones for the building of God's house (Bethel) organically for the New Testament: [John 1:32](#) ...I beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He abode upon Him. [1 John 2:27](#) ...You have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things... **A** In His becoming the anointing, life-giving, and transforming Spirit, Christ speaks to us further how God carries out His economy organically by His divine life for His divine purpose according to His heart's desire. **B** We need to be watchful to not allow anything in our daily living to replace Christ as the anointing Spirit in our spirit. **1** Christ is the anointed One becoming the anointing One and also the anointing; to live in the principle of antichrist is to be anti the anointing (anti means "against" and "in place of, instead of") **2** To be anti Christ is both to be against Christ and to replace Christ with something else. **3** If we replace Christ with something of our own behavior and character, we are practicing the principle of antichrist in the sense of allowing certain things to replace Christ Himself. **4** We need to repent for having a daily living in the principle of antichrist, allowing culture, religion, ethics, and natural concepts to replace Christ as the inner anointing; this is to be against the anointing, anti the moving, working, and saturating of the Triune God within us. **5** We should pray, "Lord, we want to live and walk in, with, through, and by the anointing—the moving, working, and saturating of the Triune God within us." **C** The dove, the anointing Spirit, regenerates the created man, anoints and transforms the natural man into living stones, and unites the transformed man. **D** At Peter's conversion the Lord gave him a new name, Peter—a stone, and when Peter received the revelation concerning Christ, the Lord revealed further that He was the rock—a stone; by these two incidents Peter received the impression that both Christ and His believers are stones for God's building.

### Application to businesspersons

**Testimony** I testify that the speaking of the transforming Spirit has transformed my living in the principle of antichrist into a living in the principle of Christ, and that its purpose is not for personal blessing, but for the building.

There are two things the Lord has shown me after I was saved and began to enjoy Him in the church life. **1** My

behavior is rebellious and I need to repent and submit to the Lord. **2** My being, my character must be transformed because it is against the Lord. But at the time, I was reluctant to submit to the Lord and could not easily obey Him. I also didn't understand why I needed to obey the Lord, so I thought, "Why is the Lord being this harsh only on me?" and I struggled in my natural life. I was always complaining to the Lord, especially because I didn't get used to studying pharmacy, memorizing and dissection experiments. But the Lord used the graduate school entrance exam and the national pharmacist exam during my 4th year of college to deal with me, so I was convinced and began to learn to surrender and prayed, "Lord, for a long time I struggled in the darkness, not agreeing to submit to You. Forgive me for my sin of rebellion. I take You as my Lord and King."

For my graduate research I had to do an experiment that required dexterity of fingers. As a clumsy person, the experiment was terrifying for me. Still, there was no way out for me, so I earnestly prayed to the Lord and trusted Him. To my surprise, I experimented with the Lord and got good results. I was able to overcome my weakness. [2Cor. 12:9](#) And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me. I was not very good at studying pharmacy, which was my major, but in graduate school I began to experience the Lord's power being perfected in my weakness. It was in my weakness that the power of His grace was an opportunity to be manifested. And when I wondered why I had remained in weakness and wasted time without experiencing the Lord's grace until now, I realized that I could not change my very existence by myself in any way, because I am constituted by the antichrist. I prayed, "Lord, I am a man of antichrist, a rebellious man. I not only need to be forgiven for my sin of rebellion, but I also need to be transformed."

Later, through the full-time training, I saw clearly the vision that the experience of Christ was for the building. The work of the transforming Spirit, all the experiences of Christ, are not for personal blessing, but entirely for the church building. This vision of building has strengthened me greatly and has allowed me to experience Christ abundantly in the workplace. I was able to apply Christ for the building each time the company encountered various unexpected circumstances regardless of my strengths or weaknesses.