

Chapter 34

More Wisdom From John

BIBLE

The king commanded all the people, saying, “Keep the Passover to Yahweh your God, as it is written in this book of the covenant.”¹

“But now bring me a musician.” When the musician played, Yahweh’s hand came on him.² Then the disciples understood that he spoke to them of John the Baptizer.³

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, “Teacher, what must we do?”⁴

John answered them, “I baptize in water, but among you stands one whom you don’t know.”⁵ For no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.⁶

“By so much, Jesus has become the collateral of a better covenant.”⁷ He who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked.”⁸

Then with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.⁹

COMMENTARY

¹ **2 Kings 23:21** Mencius: “If the King loves music, it is well with the land.”

² **2 Kings 3:15** British conductor Thomas Beecham: “The function of music is to release us from the tyranny of conscious thought.”

³ **Matthew 17:13** The “baptizer” facilitates the cleansing of the mind.

⁴ **Luke 3:12**

⁵ **John 1:26**

⁶ **1 Corinthians 3:11** John was fascinated by Jesus. He identified with this man who taught a message of peace and love, who had a keen insight into the human condition, who was a brilliant storyteller, and who was turned into a God-like figure by his followers. John wanted to have his hero pictured as one of the personalities on the cover of the *Sgt. Pepper* album, but the idea was rejected as being too controversial.

⁷ **Hebrews 7:22**

⁸ **1 John 2:6** If we say that God lives in us, we must live as Jesus did.

⁹ **Luke 3:18** John: “I believe you can make heaven within your own mind. The kingdom of heaven is within your own mind, Christ said, and I believe that.”

He said to them, “Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts?”¹⁰ Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding.¹¹

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”¹² Let your meditation be sweet to him. I will rejoice in Yahweh.¹³

“It is good that a man should hope and quietly wait for the salvation of Yahweh.”¹⁴ For we were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for that which he sees?¹⁵

“Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you.”¹⁶

“You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”¹⁷ In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.¹⁸

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.”¹⁹

¹⁰ **Luke 24:38** In “All You Need Is Love” John reassures us that there’s no need to be troubled, since there’s “nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be.”

¹¹ **Proverbs 3:5** In “Tomorrow Never Knows,” John recommends that we “lay down all thought, surrender to the void.”

¹² **Psalms 91:1** The “secret place of the Most High”, which can be reached through meditation, is the place in our consciousness where we are one with God. A peaceful mind offers relief from toxic emotions. “There’s a place where I can go when I feel low, when I feel blue, and it’s my mind,” John shares in “There’s A Place.”

¹³ **Psalms 104:34** Spending time with God in meditation enables us to rely more on the natural, positive qualities of our mind, the fruits of the Spirit, for our happiness.

¹⁴ **Lamentations 3:26** John: “I’ve got nothing to say but it’s ok.” (“Good Morning, Good Morning”)

¹⁵ **Romans 8:24** “Don’t you know it’s gonna be alright” is John’s hopeful reminder in “Revolution.”

¹⁶ **2 Peter 3:15** God’s patience is limitless. We are infinite beings.

¹⁷ **James 5:8** Awakening to the Lord of our being is always at hand.

¹⁸ **Philippians 4:6**

¹⁹ **Philippians 4:7** The peace of God comes from the indwelling Christ presence.

“Therefore prepare your minds for action, be sober, and set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.²⁰

“I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will have been released in heaven.²¹

“Come, you children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of Yahweh.²²

“But ask the animals, now, and they shall teach you; the birds of the sky, and they shall tell you.²³ The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.²⁴ All things were made through him. Without him was not anything made that has been made.²⁵

“For by him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and for him.²⁶

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.²⁷ He who heeds the Word finds prosperity. Whoever trusts in Yahweh is blessed.²⁸

²⁰ **1 Peter 1:13** The awakening of Christ consciousness is the ultimate revelation. We prepare our mind for this through affirmations and denials.

²¹ **Matthew 16:19** Affirmations and denials are keys to the Kingdom. Affirmations, such as “Love is all you need,” (“All You Need Is Love”) bind truth principles into our consciousness. Denials, such as “There’s nothing to get hungabout,” (“Strawberry Fields Forever”) release false beliefs from our consciousness.

²² **Psalms 34:11** “Please listen, you don’t know what you’re missing,” John preaches in “Nowhere Man.”

²³ **Job 12:7** “The wind is low, the birds will sing, that you are part of everything,” John informs us in “Dear Prudence.”

²⁴ **Proverbs 15:3**

²⁵ **John 1:3**

²⁶ **Colossians 1:16** Since God is equally present everywhere, His spirit lives within each one of us. Prayer and meditation help us to realize this Divine connection.

²⁷ **John 1:1** In the beginning I misunderstood. But now I’ve got it, the word is good,” John reveals in “The Word.” If God is good, and the Word is God, then the Word is good!

²⁸ **Proverbs 16:20** “Say the word and you’ll be free” John reminds us in “The Word.”

“In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight²⁹
Therefore with joy you will draw
water out of the wells of salvation.³⁰
Rejoice always.³¹

“Don't weary yourself to be rich. In
your wisdom, show restraint.³² It is
vain for you to rise up early, to stay
up late, eating the bread of toil; for he
gives sleep to his loved ones.³³

“For we brought nothing into the
world, and we certainly can't carry
anything out.³⁴ And the dust returns to
the earth as it was, and the spirit
returns to God who gave it.³⁵

²⁹ **Proverbs 3:6**

³⁰ **Isaiah 12:3** Joy attracts more joy,
therefore if we can stay in a joyful
state it can be very powerful. If we
are not feeling much joy, this is a
clue that we are out of alignment
and may need to change our focus

³¹ **1 Thessalonians 5:16** “Come on
it's such a joy, come on take it
easy,” urges John in “Everybody's
Got Something To Hide Except For
Me And My Monkey.” If we are
joyful always, by law we will
attract people and circumstances
that keep us in that joyful state.

³² **Proverbs 23:4** “Working for
peanuts is all very fine, but I can
show you a better time,” John, with
Paul, tells us in “Drive My Car.”

³³ **Psalms 127:2** In “Girl” John warns
against workaholicism: “When they
said that a man must break his back
to earn his day of leisure, will they
still believe it when he's dead?”

³⁴ **1 Timothy 6:7** In “Day Tripper”
John has “got a good reason for
taking the easy way out.”

³⁵ **Ecclesiastes 12:7** In “The Ballad
Of John And Yoko” John reminds
us that our spirit will return to God
who gave it: “Oh boy, when you're
dead you don't take nothing with
you but your soul.” Reincarnation
tells us that after the soul returns to
God, it eventually expresses itself
into a new body so that it can have
another opportunity to demonstrate
the truth.

“Also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy good in all his labor, is the gift of God.³⁶ I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice, and to do good as long as they live.³⁷

“Therefore, I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing?³⁸

“Not that I speak in respect to lack, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it.³⁹

I know how to be humbled, and I know also how to abound. In everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in need.⁴⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.”⁴¹

“Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself.⁴² Yes, a man will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith.⁴³

“Therefore exhort one another, and build each other up, even as you also do.⁴⁴ Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep.⁴⁵

³⁶ **Ecclesiastes 3:13** In “I’ve Got A Feeling,” “everybody had a good time, everybody had a wet dream.”

³⁷ **Ecclesiastes 3:12** In John’s “Sun King” “everybody’s laughing, everybody’s happy.”

³⁸ **Matthew 6:25** “Don’t worry,” John advises us in “Nowhere Man.”

³⁹ **Philippians 4:11** In “Rain,” John is content with whatever state he is in. “When it starts to rain, everything’s the same,” he realizes.

⁴⁰ **Philippians 4:12**

⁴¹ **James 4:10**

⁴² **James 2:17** John: “You’re just left with yourself all the time, whatever you do anyway. You’ve got to get down to your own God in your own temple. It’s all down to you, mate.”

⁴³ **James 2:18** In “Baby You’re A Rich Man” John asks “Now that you’ve found another key what are you going to play?” He seems to be saying: now that you have reached a more enlightened state of consciousness, what are you going to do about it? What actions are you going to take with this new level of understanding?

⁴⁴ **1 Thessalonians 5:11** “Don’t let me down,” John pleads in “Don’t Let Me Down.”

⁴⁵ **Romans 12:15** John: “The thing the Sixties did was to show us the possibilities and the responsibility that we all had. It wasn’t the answer. It just gave us a glimpse of the possibility.”

“When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. Or when one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.⁴⁶ Therefore, my brothers, when you *come together* to eat, wait for one another.”⁴⁷

He said to them, “Beware! Keep yourselves from covetousness, for a man's life doesn't consist of the abundance of the things which he possesses.⁴⁸ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and closes his heart of compassion against him, how does the love of God remain in him?”⁴⁹

“Don't eat the food of him who has a stingy eye, and don't crave his delicacies,⁵⁰ for as he thinks about the cost, so he is. ‘Eat and drink!’ he says to you, but his heart is not with you.”⁵¹

⁴⁶ **1 Corinthians 12:26** “If you're lonely you can talk to me,” John reaches out in “Hey Bulldog.”

⁴⁷ **1 Corinthians 11:33** Mark Hertsgaard in *A Day in the Life* describes John's “Come Together” as “a monumental Lennon anthem,” praising John's “fierce lead vocal.”

⁴⁸ **Luke 12:15** In “Baby You're A Rich Man,” John pokes fun at those who hoard their possessions: “You keep all your money in a big brown bag, inside a zoo.”

⁴⁹ **1 John 3:17** “Leave it all till somebody else lends you a hand,” John advises in “Nowhere Man.”

⁵⁰ **Proverbs 23:6**

⁵¹ **Proverbs 23:7** These verses from Proverbs were the inspiration for James Allen's classic essay *As A Man Thinketh*, published in 1902. Allen writes in his treatise: “Men do not attract what they want, but what they are...A man is literally what he thinks, his character being the complete sum of all his thoughts...A man's mind may be likened to a garden, which may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild; but whether cultivated or neglected, it must, and will, bring forth. If no useful seeds are put into it, then an abundance of useless weed seeds will fall therein, and will continue to produce their kind.”

“A rich man may be wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.⁵² The wings of the ostrich wave proudly; but are they the feathers and plumage of love?⁵³

“Don’t be overly righteous, neither make yourself overly wise. Why should you destroy yourself?⁵⁴ Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.⁵⁵ When pride comes, then comes shame, but with humility comes wisdom.⁵⁶

“Those who are in the flesh can't please God.⁵⁷ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if it is so that the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if any man doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his.⁵⁸

“The first man is of the earth, made of dust. The second man is the Lord from heaven.⁵⁹ As we have borne the image of those made of dust, let's also bear the image of the heavenly.⁶⁰

⁵² **Proverbs 28:11**

⁵³ **Job 39:13** John: “We’ve got this gift of love, but love is like a precious plant... You’ve got to keep on watering it. You’ve got to really look after it and nurture it.”

⁵⁴ **Ecclesiastes 7:16**

⁵⁵ **Proverbs 16:18** “And so it’s true pride comes before a fall, I’m telling you so that you won’t lose all,” John reminds us in “I’m A Loser.”

⁵⁶ **Proverbs 11:2** In “Sexy Sadie,” John warns us that “you’ll get yours yet, however big you think you are.”

⁵⁷ **Romans 8:8** Those who are “in the flesh” are controlled by the ego, the false self, an erroneous idea that we have about ourselves. The ego lacks spiritual discernment and puts up boundaries around us to keep us small. It likes its identity and does not want to make room for the Christ presence.

⁵⁸ **Romans 8:9** The Christ presence is the presence of God within us. It is identical in form to the God presence, but vibrates at a lower rate. It is aware of our challenges, but refuses to accept them.

⁵⁹ **1 Corinthians 15:47** The “first man” is fleshly and carnal, the “second man” is a spiritual being.

⁶⁰ **1 Corinthians 15:49** Mental imaging, or visualization, is a powerful spiritual technique.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we don't wage war according to the flesh;⁶¹ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds,⁶² throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.⁶³

“If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness.⁶⁴ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.⁶⁵

⁶¹ **2 Corinthians 10:3** Trying to get past the grip of the ego by fighting it will only strengthen it. The first step to getting free from it's control is to become aware of it's existence.

⁶² **2 Corinthians 10:4** To align ourselves with the Christ, we let go of firmly entrenched beliefs, thought patterns, and mental images that do not empower us.

⁶³ **2 Corinthians 10:5** As we bring every thought into captivity, we realize that love is the most powerful thought we can have. “The word I'm thinking of,” John shares in “The Word,” “is love.”

⁶⁴ **Romans 8:10** Christ is always in us; when we live in the constant awareness of this then we have awoken to our true nature as a spiritual being. Our faith in Christ has saved us.

⁶⁵ **2 Corinthians 5:17** “It's such a joy,” John reminds us in “Everybody's Got Something To Hide Except For Me And My Monkey,” when we learn to “take it easy” and start living from the inside, from the truth of who we really are, rather than from the outside, from our inauthentic, reactive self that always has “something to hide.” All things become new, John informs us, when “your inside is out and your outside is in.” We are in fact a new creation.

“You will no longer see the fierce people, a people of a deep speech that you can’t comprehend, with a strange language that you can’t understand.⁶⁶ But there Yahweh will be with us in majesty, a place of wide rivers and streams, in which no galley with oars will go, neither will any gallant ship pass by there.⁶⁷

“If Yahweh delights in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey.⁶⁸

“If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.⁶⁹ Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.⁷⁰

“For however many are the promises of God, in him is the ‘Yes.’ Therefore also through him is the ‘Amen,’ to the glory of God through us.”⁷¹

After he had finished speaking in the hearing of the people, he entered into Capernaum.⁷² When he got into a boat, his disciples followed him.⁷³

He took a little child, and set him in the middle of them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them,⁷⁴ “Most certainly, I tell you, whoever doesn’t receive God’s Kingdom like a little child, he will in no way enter into it.”⁷⁵

⁶⁶ **Isaiah 33:19** Living in Christ consciousness creates peaceful conditions around us. Thoughts produce after their kind.

⁶⁷ **Isaiah 33:21**

⁶⁸ **Numbers 14:8** John: “Here’s another place you can go, where everything flows.” (“Glass Onion”)

⁶⁹ **John 8:36** True freedom is found from within, by identifying in our mind with the indwelling Christ presence, the perfect Son of God. “You better free your mind instead,” John reminds us in “Revolution”.

⁷⁰ **Proverbs 6:5** “Free as a bird, it’s the next best thing to be,” John reminds us in “Free As A Bird,” the Beatles “reunion” song from 1995.

⁷¹ **2 Corinthians 1:20** God is able to say “yes” to our desires when we are in alignment with the Christ, or the God within.

⁷² **Luke 7:1** [*“He” is John*]

⁷³ **Matthew 8:23** John: “I believe in God, but not as one thing, not as an old man in the sky. I believe that what people call God is something in all of us. I believe that what Jesus and Mohammed and Buddha and all the rest said was right. It’s just that the translations have gone wrong.”

⁷⁴ **Mark 9:36**

⁷⁵ **Luke 18:17** “Won’t you come out to play?” John asks in “Dear Prudence.”

“Blessed is the man who always fears; but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble.”⁷⁶

“Surely every man walks like a shadow. Surely they busy themselves in vain. He heaps up, and doesn't know who shall gather.”⁷⁷ Yes, though he live a thousand years twice told, and yet fails to enjoy good, don't all go to one place?⁷⁸

“But Jesus said, ‘Allow the little children, and don't forbid them to come to me; for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to ones like these.’”⁷⁹

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they declared God to be just, having been baptized with John's baptism.⁸⁰ They remembered his words.⁸¹

A scribe came, and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”⁸² For you are our glory and our joy.”⁸³

The scribe said to him, “Truly, teacher, you have said well that he is one, and there is none other but he.”⁸⁴

“One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.”⁸⁵ For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”⁸⁶

⁷⁶ **Proverbs 28:14** Fear in this sense of the word means amazement or awe. Living life with childlike innocence and wonder was a favorite theme of the Beatles. Going through life with this kind of attitude rather than with a hardened heart and a weary outlook brings us closer to the Kingdom of Heaven.

⁷⁷ **Psalms 39:6** In “I'm Only Sleeping” John describes those who are “running everywhere at such a speed, till they find there's no need.”

⁷⁸ **Ecclesiastes 6:6** “Take your time, don't hurry” is John's advice in “Nowhere Man.”

⁷⁹ **Matthew 19:14** “When I was a boy, everything was right,” John recalls in “She Said She Said.”

⁸⁰ **Luke 7:29** John: “Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end.”

⁸¹ **Luke 24:8** John: “Produce your own dream. If you want to save Peru, go save Peru. It's quite possible to do anything, but not if you put it on the leaders and the parking meters. Don't expect Carter or Reagan or John Lennon or Yoko Ono or Bob Dylan or Jesus Christ to come and do it for you. You have to do it yourself.”

⁸² **Matthew 8:19**

⁸³ **1 Thessalonians 2:20**

⁸⁴ **Mark 12:32**

⁸⁵ **Ephesians 4:6**

⁸⁶ **Romans 11:36**