



# FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

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Sabbath, December 30, 2017

## 5 Simple Lessons from John The Revelator

### CHILDRENS STORY: Hear His Voice, He's Got You



Revelation 1:1-3 *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the*

*testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”* Revelation 1:9-11 *“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.”*

### **I. INTRODUCTION: MARTYRDOM**

- 1. It is estimated that more than 50 million Christians died for their faith in the Dark Ages.**
- 2. It is estimated that 1 million Christians died for their faith when the Communists seized China.**

### 3. Unnumbered thousands died as martyrs in the revolutions and civil wars on the continent of Africa.

Hebrews 11:35-39 “Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: <sup>36</sup> and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: <sup>37</sup> they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; <sup>38</sup> (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. <sup>39</sup> And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise.”



4. The word “martyr” originally meant simply witness, but as the early witnesses sealed with their own blood their testimony to the faith, the first meaning was readily merged into the second.

a. At Lyons, in A. D. 177, those who had been scourged, branded, and exposed to wild beasts humbly disowned the name “Martyrs”, preferring to confine that exalted title to Christ, and to say of themselves:

*“We are but mean and lowly confessors.”*

## B. JOHN THE REVELATOR

1. John was one such Christian who was persecuted for the sake of Jesus’ name.

a. John should have died at the hands of his persecutors.

(1) History bears out that John was boiled in hot oil.

(2) It was punishment meant to kill him; but it did not.



## **2. The Romans had a Law of Double Jeopardy.**

a. That meant that they couldn't finish him off.

(1) John survived what was supposed to be his death sentence...

(2) And the only thing they could legally do to him was to banish him.

(3) That is why and how the man we now call John the Revelator ended up on the Isle of Patmos.

## **3. The banishment of John is not the only instance in which God has made the wrath of men to praise Him.**

a. It would have been better for Satan to have never persecuted another that went on to do great exploits for the Kingdom of God – a man by the name of Paul.

(1) Satan saw to it that Paul was placed in prison, and there Paul wrote some of his most beautiful epistles.

(2) Paul's letters have done much more for the world's good than all his preaching did and could ever do!

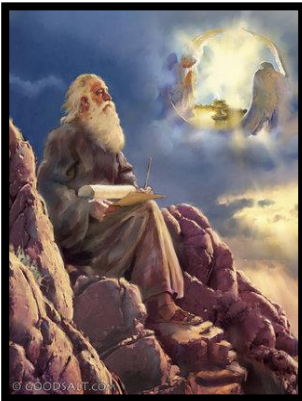
b. Long before we had audiotapes, CDs and DVDs, Paul's messages to the churches was recorded on parchment and preserved through the centuries to be read and preached throughout the entire world for the past 2,000 years!



## **4. It has been beautifully said that John's banishment from his earthly home brought him nearer to his heavenly one!**

a. There he saw a glory he had never witnessed in Jerusalem while at home in familiar surroundings.

b. Persecution and tribulation are never appreciated in the midst of it all, but without it, we would most likely never receive divine revelation!



(a) The best of John's life came during the greatest tribulation!

(b) Without tribulation we would never know victory.

(c) Without tribulation we would never know God's power.

(d) Without tribulation we would never know our own resolve to serve Him.

(e) Without tribulation we would never grow.

(f) Without tribulation we would become satisfied and stale!

1) We should thank God for tribulation!

2) ***Tribulation, the Bible says, worketh patience.***

## **5. There are five things about John in Revelation chapter 1 that relate to us today.**

a. They are five things that we never are.

b. I want to share them with you this morning.

## **II. BODY    A. YOU ARE NEVER TOO ISOLATED**

**1. The first thing I want you to know is that you are never too isolated that God cannot find you where you are.**

**2. Jesus always drew away by Himself to pray, or when He ministered to people He found them alone. God wants you to draw away and be isolated so He can talk to you!**

a. Patmos was the island to which John the Apostle was banished.



(1) It sat out at sea some 40 miles from the great city of Ephesus.

(2) It was only about 10 miles long and 6 miles wide.

(3) It was an isolated, barren, rocky island with hills rising to about 1,000 feet.

(4) It was out in the middle of nowhere, in the midst of nothing!

**2. In the darkest hours of human need, no matter where you are and how barren your situation is, God is always there!**

a. God will meet us when we cast ourselves upon His mercy and call for Him. This was true with John when he was exiled, and it is true with us in our dark exile.

**(1) It was in exile that Jacob saw God at Bethel**

*Genesis 35:7* “And he built there an altar, and called the place El-beth-el: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.”

**(2) It was in exile that Moses saw God in the Burning Bush**

*Exodus 3:1* “Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.”

**(3) It was in exile that Elijah heard the still small voice of God I**

*Kings 19:3-5* “And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. <sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. <sup>5</sup> And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.”

**(4) It was in exile that Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord by the river Chedar Ezekiel 1:3**

*Ezekiel 1:3* “The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.”

**(5) It was in exile that Daniel saw the Ancient of Days!**



*Daniel 7:1-9* “In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed...I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.”

## A. LISTEN TO THE WORD OF THE LORD:

(1) **Never buy the idea that you are the only one with a burden who is fighting for God!** Elijah was in a cave and said, “I even I only are left”, but God had 7,000 others.

*I Kings 19:18 “Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.”*



(2) **You are not the only one. God has countless others who have not bowed their knees to the gods of this world!**

**4. You are not so isolated that God doesn't know just where you are!**

a. John was stranded on an island that was as barren an isolated as could be...but John knew Jesus Christ, and Jesus met his need!

(1) *Matthew 28:20 – Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

(2) *Hebrews 13:5 – Let your behavior be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*

(3) *I Peter 5:7 – Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”*

(4) *Isaiah 41:10 “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”*

## B. YOU ARE NEVER TOO BOUND

**1. Second, you are never too bound that God cannot set you free.**

a. John was bound up and isolated on Patmos when he said, *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day.”*



**(1) John is said to be *in the Spirit* four times. These mark off the four major visions of the Book of Revelation.**

- (a) In the first, Christ came down to John.
- (b) In the last three, John was commanded to  
**“COME UP HERE.”**

**2. You are never so bound by the enemy that God cannot come down to you in revelation power and set you free!**

a. Neither are you ever so bound that you can't go up to worship!

**(1) No matter where you are and what your circumstances, you can always worship!**

**3. Paul and Silas, in jail, a dungeon, bound by chains and fetters, beaten down, sore and bone tired, began singing and**



**praising God at the midnight hour.**

a. In the midst of their worship, though they were bound, God visited them and set them free from bondage!

(1) No matter how bound you feel, worship God and He will set you free!

## **C. YOU ARE NEVER TOO LIMITED PHYSICALLY**

**1. Third, you are never so physically limited that God cannot lift you in the Spirit.**

a. Physically, John was in pain, but that could not keep him from praising God, and getting in the Spirit.

**2. John was no stranger to pain and suffering.**

a. He lived day-to-day with tribulations, trials, afflictions, persecutions, suffering and stress.

b. And every day, he sought first the kingdom of God.

(1) Day in and day out, John patiently endured and persevered against many trials, temptations and pains.

**Our sufferings and challenges are certainly not greater than his, and John praised the Lord, and the Lord spoke to him!**

**3. John was no stranger to pain and suffering, and he knew that one is never so physically limited that God cannot lift you in the Spirit.**

a. Matthew 24:13 – *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

b. Acts 14:22 – *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

c. II Timothy 2:12 – *If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

## **D. YOU ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG AND YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD**

**1. The fourth thing that I want to share with you from the beginning of John’s life from before the birth of Christ, until John’s testimony in the Book of Revelation, is that you are never too young or too old that God can’t give you a new revelation!**

a. John was a pre-born baby when he leapt for joy in his mother’s womb at the revelation that Jesus had come in Mary!

b. John was 85-years-old when he got the Book of Revelation from Jesus Christ!



**2. No matter how old or how traditional, John proves to us that you can get something fresh from God!**

a. **Never satisfy yourself with yesterday’s revelations!**

b. Living for God is a continual, growing process.

c. There should be **fresh revelation** in your daily walk with God.

d. At 85, John was told to write...

(1) The things that he had seen in vision through the Holy Ghost;

(2) The things which are; and...

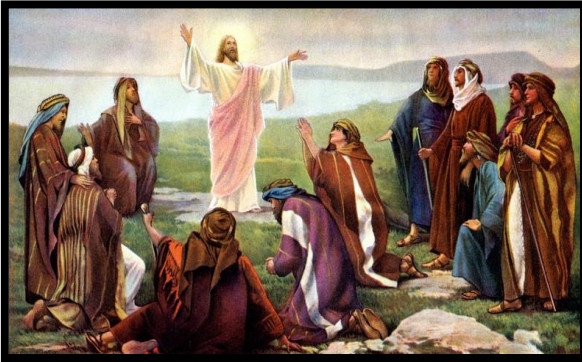
(3) The things which shall come.



**3. You are never too old to receive a fresh revelation from God that opens up the word of God to you! A fresh revelation will never contradict His Word, but it will reveal God's heart to you and make His word come alive for you.**

*1 Corinthians 2:9-11* “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. <sup>10</sup> But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”

*1 Corinthians 2:12-14* “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. <sup>13</sup> Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. <sup>14</sup> But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”



*John 14:16-18&26*

“And **I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you for ever;**

<sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot

receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. <sup>18</sup> **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.** <sup>26</sup> **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost,** whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things,** and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

I wonder, when was the last time you received something fresh from God? **Why not rest before Him, and make it be today?**

### **E. YOU CAN NEVER BE IN GOD'S PRESENCE ENOUGH!**

**1. Finally, I want you to know that you've never been there and done that enough.**

- a. John had heard from God many times but he came as a child before God and fell at Jesus' feet as though dead.
- b. Something fresh happened to John.

**2. Nothing in Scripture indicated that John had ever experienced this before, but he trusted God with child-like abandonment.**

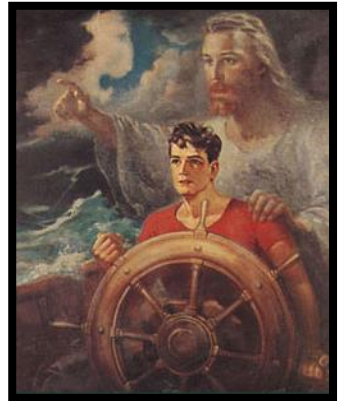
- (1) Don't ever be afraid to experience something you've never experienced before in the Holy Spirit.
- (2) Let God move afresh in your life.
- (3) Let God work His way in your life!

### **III. CLOSING: FRESH REVELATION**

1. We need fresh revelation for the day in which we live, for if we have no revelation, we have no hope!

2. If there be no revelation of the Holy Ghost, it is like navigating a rough sea with countless stars overhead to guide us, but no inner compass to show us how to sail safely to our destination.

3. Ultimately, it is only by revelation that we come to know God, and Jesus promised to come to you just as He came to John!



**John's vision is much like that of Isaiah and Ezekiel:**

- (1) There is a Throne...and only ONE who sits on that throne.**
- (2) He is Lord and God and He lives forever and ever.**
- (3) He created all things and He is coming to redeem His own.**
- (4) and He is worthy to receive glory & honor and praise, Amen!**

*Close in Prayer*

## **11. CHILDREN’S STORY: Hear His Voice, He’s Got You!**

The day had started out to be such a fun day at the water park, but now Sammy was so afraid! The waves were coming faster and higher, and Sammy felt that his boat was going to flip over at any moment and he was going to drown! Sammy froze with fear, then started to panic, screaming out, “Help! Help! Help, save me!”



Sammy’s dad heard his cries for help, “I’ve got you Sammy!” and he was right there to scoop him up with his strong arms, and show him how to balance his boat on top of the waves so that Sammy was not afraid anymore; and now he was having a lot of fun!

When they got home that night, Sammy’s dad told him, “You know Sammy, trying to live our life in this world can be rough and

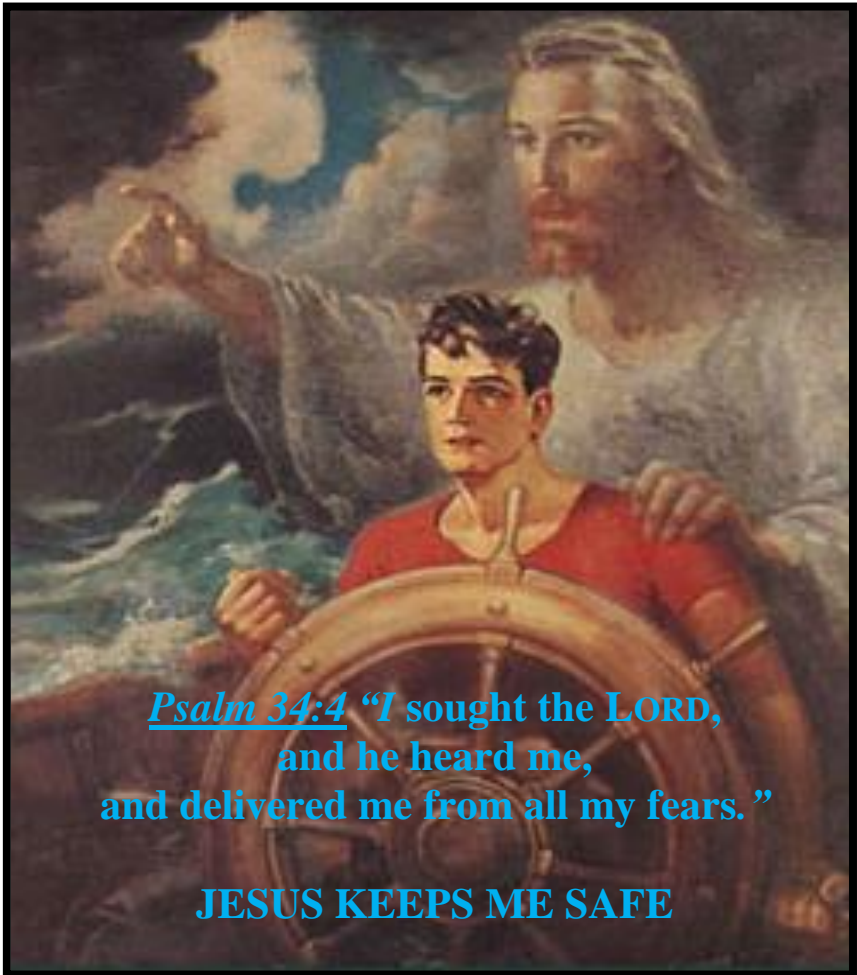


scary without Jesus to show us how to balance and guide us when the waves come too fast; do you remember how you cried out and I heard you and I came right away to help you? Our comforter, Jesus through His Holy Spirit lives in you, and He is right there to help you when you call upon Him!”

***Psalm 34:4*** “*I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*”

**Always seek the Lord whenever you are afraid, He’s got you!**

## 12. GOSPEL CRAFT PAGE



Directions:

1. Cut out picture and glue inside of a square snack plate for frame.
2. You may also glue the picture inside a large round plate and decorate like a ship's wheel.
3. Take picture of each child or find a close match in a magazine.
4. Cut out a picture of each child's face to glue over the boy's face.