

John and his brother James were in the fishing business together along with Peter and Andrew. They would have been friends before Jesus came on the scene.

James and John were called by Jesus as the Sons of Boanerges, “sons of thunder”. Mark 3:17

John began following Jesus while fishing. Matthew 4:18-22

Where were you when you answered the call to follow Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

They left everything to follow Jesus. Which is true for all believers. but we don’t realize what that means fully When we start out. As we read the life of the disciples let us remember that although many of them knew the scriptures (The Old Testament at that time). They knew less of what was going to happen than a faithful student of God’s word knows today. We are all in process. Truth is what shapes, molds and guides us.

**Intolerance of other followers outside the group.**

Being so close to Jesus may have made them think that they, and they alone could do things in the name of Jesus. But this wasn’t true.

Mark 9:38-40

Jesus is teaching and leading and guiding and here he sets his disciples straight. No one church, no particular group of people are the only group God will use. It is being done for Christ if those doing it are truly in submission to Him.

In this day and age, the fact that a person is not a particular denomination does not mean they aren’t serving Christ. However, now, many have departed the straight and narrow path.

What does it mean when Jesus says, anyone who does something “In my name...”?

To do something in the name of Jesus it must be in accordance with what He taught. Just saying you are doing it in His name doesn’t mean that you are. You must be in a relationship with Him. Matthew 7:21-23

What is missing in much teaching about the Lord Jesus is that when you are called to follow him you are called to leave your old life. Repent of sin. Matthew 11:20-24.

You and I cannot bless churches who bless sin. All churches, all Christians struggle with sin. It’s what we say about it and do about it that matters in God’s eyes. To follow Jesus is to become more and more holy. Jude 3,4

Johns Transformation.

Being with Jesus, believing in Jesus changed John. It is the evidence of true faith. The one who was a hot-tempered son of thunder, wrote prolifically about love. For him, and his brother, hot temperedness had to be dealt with in their lives. Love is not easily angered. James 1:19-21; 1Cor. 3:5

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Some notable facts:

John was the one who leaned on Jesus during the last Passover. John 18:15-16

The only member of the 12 mentioned as being at the cross when Jesus died.

Jesus entrusted his mother to John's care. John 19:26-27

John Ministered closely with Peter recorded in the book of Acts.

The name John means "favored of Jehovah" and John refers to himself as the one whom Jesus loved (5 times) . This was not an arrogant statement- he rarely mentions himself in his own gospel. It is believed it is a simple statement- revealing his humility. My life is shadowed by Jesus- I'm simply one he loves.

He wrote extensively about Love. John 3:16; 13:34-35, 14:21

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He displayed tough love. 1 John 1:6, 2:4. 2 John 10

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His thunder had been sanctified and directed against the things God was against, not his own personal feelings or impulses. Gnosticism was a major opponent to true Christianity in that day, a system which among other things taught that Jesus did not have a real human body.

This is one reason for 1 John 1:1,2, and John 1.

Johns Final Years.

He lived until around AD 100 well into his 90's. He outlived His own brother who was the first of the apostles to die other than Judas Iscariot. Acts 12:1-2.

The Lord said some things interesting about John's death at the end of Johns gospel. John 21:20-23