

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## Suggestions for Meditations on the Gospel According to John

by Elsa M. Glover

**I**t will be helpful to one who is trying to understand the Gospel according to John to first give some thought to the creative Trinity and its various aspects of manifestation. In the Supreme Being, the creative Trinity is described in terms of Power, the Word, and Motion. In the God of the solar system, it is described in terms of Will, Wisdom, and Activity, or the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Christ is the Son, and Jehovah is the Holy Spirit. (See *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, pp. 177-182 and 374-376, for more information on the creative Trinity.)

If one had never eaten a walnut and wanted to know how walnuts taste, it would be far more preferable to actually eat a walnut than to listen to someone describe its taste. Similarly, if one wants spiritual understanding, it is far more preferable inwardly to experience it than to listen to or read what others say on the subject. Such inward experiences can be achieved through meditation on spiritual subjects. Many methods of meditation can bring results. Those who believe they need more direction in their meditation, however, may find it beneficial to focus the mind on a particular question and seek, through meditation, to find an answer. Hence, we give, in the following paragraphs, various quotations from John's gospel and questions to help direct meditations on these quotations.

The person who meditates should not be in a hurry to answer these questions. Consideration of one or two questions per

day probably is sufficient. It is wise to consider each question from all possible aspects and to get as complete an answer as possible. There is no one "right" answer for any of the questions. Every answer that seems right to the meditator probably conveys some aspect of the Truth. He should have faith that the Spirit Within can lead to the Truth.

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."* — John 1:1

What is a "word"? What is the significance of words to men in the present day? What was the universe like when only God and the Word were present?

*"The Word was in the beginning with God; all things were made through it, and without it was not anything made that was made."* — John 1:2-3

Do men need words (spoken or unspoken) when they create things? As we view Creation, can we see evidence of the fact that the Word was involved in the creation of all things?

*"In it was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not."* — John 1:4-5

Why are men in darkness? In our everyday lives, can we see only forms around us, or can we see life within the forms? How can seeing the "life" act as a light to lead us out of darkness?

*"To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor*

of the will of man, but of God." — John 1:12-13

Was our origin in our parents? Are we formed from our thoughts and feelings? What influence does the God Within have on our formation?

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth."*  
— John 1:14

Christ is the representative of the Word, or second aspect, of the creative Trinity. What evidence have we from His life that He partook of the grace (harmonizing power) and truth (omniscience) of God? Consider the following passages from John 5:8-9; 9:1-7; 1:47-48; 4:39; 8:14; 13:38; and 18:4.

*"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"* — John 1:23

What is the difference between a wilderness and a city? Are we currently in a spiritual wilderness? Do we wish to build roads in our spiritual wilderness along which the Christ easily can travel?

*"I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him."*  
— John 1:32. See also John 14:27

The dove is the symbol of peace. Why does the uniting of the individual consciousness with the All-consciousness bring peace?

*"He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."* — John 1:33

What type of consciousness would one attain by being totally immersed in the third aspect of the creative Trinity, the Holy Spirit? (See Mark 16:18 and John 14:26.)

*"Christ turned water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana."* — John 2:1-11

What is the difference between water and wine? What kind of power would be needed to achieve the transformation of water into wine? Is there any circumstance in Nature today in which water is turned into wine?

*"Christ drove those who sold oxen*

*and sheep and pigeons, as well as the money-changers, out of the temple and told them, 'Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade.'* — John 2:14-16. In the same scene in Matt. 21:13, Christ is quoted also as saying, *"My house shall be called a house of prayer."*

If we consider our own bodies as the temple of God (see I Cor. 3:16), do we fill the temple with thoughts of trade, or do we make it a house of prayer? What would Christ think of the thoughts with which we fill our minds most of the time?

*"Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* — John 3:5-6

Can we in our thinking distinguish between that part of ourselves which is born of flesh and that part which is born of Spirit? Do we know where and how each part of ourselves originated?

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* — John 3:16

If we consider ourselves as born of the flesh, will we have eternal life? If we consider ourselves as born of the Spirit, will we have eternal life?

*"Whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*  
— John 4:14

What sort of feelings do we have when we are thirsty? Do we have similar feelings with regard to things other than water? Have we been given anything that we will be able to keep forever? (See Cor 13:8-13)

(To be continued)

