

**John 1-3-5**  
**Introducing Jesus part 2**  
**The power of Jesus!**

**Preamble:**

**Prayer:**

**Sermon introduction...**

When you hear the word power, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

Maybe political power?

Maybe you thought of financial power (Jeff Bezos has a net worth of 200 billion dollars, giving him tremendous financial power)?

Maybe you thought of military power (Joe Biden, our commander in chief, has tremendous military power)?

Maybe you thought of someone who has huge muscles, like the world's strongest man (Oleksii Novikov in 2020).

Maybe you thought of a powerful car with 800 horsepower.

Maybe you thought of a power tool.

Hopefully, after this sermon, when you hear the word power, you will think of Jesus. We are still in the prologue to John's gospel. In last week's text, John introduced the identity of Jesus. In this week's text he introduces the power of Jesus.

It is hard to think of a more relevant topic. We desperately need access to the power of Jesus. Many of us feel overwhelmed by our problems. No matter how hard we try we can't seem to find enough power to overcome our anxiety, loneliness, depression, lusts, lack of self-control, and feelings of failure. How many of you would like more power in your life???

This text provides hope...

In verses 3-5, John highlights *the power of Christ!!!* Power to do what?

*Power to create.*

*Power to give life.*

*Power to overcome.*

**First, power to create.**

*We learn a few things about Jesus' power to create in verse 3. Consider...*

**The scope of his power!**

**John 1:3 (ESV) — 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

John tells us that God created all things “through him.” This means that Jesus was the agent of creation (cf. 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2-3; Rev. 4:11; Eph. 3:9). In other words, Jesus was the member of the trinity who created all things. If Jesus created all things than Jesus is eternal.

But what does “all things” mean in the Greek? It means all things.

This is confirmed by other texts in the Scriptures...

**Colossians 1:16 (ESV) — 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.**

See also Acts 17:24; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 4:11; Acts. 4:24; 14:15; Acts 17:24-25; Isa. 45:18; Rev. 10:6; Heb. 11:3

This means that Jesus created everything visible and invisible. All the planets, in all the solar systems, in all the galaxies in all the universe.

The laws of nature, the laws of mathematics, the structure of the atom, and all the angels and demons.

Everything (I mean everything) that currently exists in the universe, he created.

### **Illustration:**

The universe is massive...

“Light travels so fast that it can go around our little planet seven times in one second. A light year is the distance light can travel at this speed in the course of a year. In that case a light year is the distance of six trillion miles.

The nearest star to our solar system within our Galaxy is over four light years away or 25.2 trillion miles away.

Some stars are one thousand times the size of our sun even though the sun is 332,000 times larger than the earth.” (Sam Storms)

Many astronomers believe that our universe is composed of over 200 billion galaxies—on the low end. And in our galaxy, there are over 100 billion stars trillions of light years apart. And again, we are just one tiny galaxy in a vast universe composed of at least 200 billion Galaxies.

Astronomers estimate that there is over one billion trillion stars in the observable universe.

Million, billion, trillion, etc... These numbers often mean little to us. But a billion trillion is an incomprehensibly, astronomically, gargantuan number.

What is a trillion???

### **Let’s measure a trillion in time**

How long ago is a trillion seconds? If you count backwards...

1 million seconds = 12 days ago

1 billion seconds = 31 years ago

1 trillion seconds = 30,000 B.C.

### **Let's measure a trillion in height**

In decades past, our government printed thousand-dollar bills. If you stacked thousand-dollar bills...

1 million dollars = 4 inches high

1 billion dollars = 364 feet high

1 trillion dollars = 63 miles high

There are over one billion trillion stars in the observable universe. Jesus Christ created them all!

*This text highlights...*

*The scope of Christ's power!*

*It also highlights...*

### **The nature of Christ's power!**

**John 1:3 (ESV) — 3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

This last phrase essentially means that Jesus made everything out of nothing. In other words, He did not use previously existing materials to create. He made everything that was made. He created all things ex nihilo.

This is taught elsewhere in Scripture. Consider...

**Genesis 1:1 (ESV) — 1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The phrase "heaven and Earth" is called a merism in Hebrew. It means everything, that is the entire universe.

**Colossians 1:16 (ESV) — 16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

**Hebrews 11:3 (ESV) — 3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Because God created the entire universe out of nothing there is no matter in the universe that is eternal. All that we see—the mountains, the oceans, the stars, the earth itself—all came into existence out of nothing when God created them.

If we deny creation out of nothing, we are saying that something else besides God is eternal. In other words, something else besides God shares some of the attributes of God. This challenges God's independence or self-existence (aseity). Furthermore, if matter existed apart from God what right would God have to rule over it.

Scripture teaches that God created all things out of nothing. But what is nothing???

Stop and think about nothing? You can't can you? Some of you ladies are thinking, nothing is what guys think about most of the time???

What is nothing?

Nothing is the absence of all properties.

Nothing is no thing.

Nothing is *not* empty space

Nothing is the absence of everything, including space.

Nothing, according to Aristotle “is what rocks dream about.”

Before Christ created there was nothing, no time, no space, no matter, no air, no water, no gravity, no laws of nature, nothing...

### **Objection-**

This is nonsense! How can God create out of nothing??? This sounds more like science fiction or fantasy than reality.

Einstein proved that the universe came into existence out of nothing with his theory of general relativity ( $E=Mc^2$ ).

When Einstein first worked the math for his famous theory of general relativity he was terrified by the theistic implications of his conclusions. If his math was right, the universe and time itself had a beginning, which means that something outside of time, space, and matter must have created the universe. This terrified him so much that he fudged the math with his “cosmological constant.”

Later he referred to his fudge as, “the biggest blunder he ever made in his life.” (GCS, 32) Since Einstein, the theory of General relativity has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt do the 5<sup>th</sup> decimal point.

No one rejects Einstein’s theory. Among other things his theory teaches that time, space, and matter must have had a beginning because they are all dependent on each other or co-relative to each other. In other words, you can’t have time, without space, and without matter and vice versa. Here is the takeaway—Einstein proved that before the universe came into existence, there was nothing, no time, no space, and no matter...

**The great Stephen Hawking** wrote, “almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning...” (Stroebel, 107)

This is exactly what John 1: 3 teaches.

### **Application:**

What kind of God are we dealing with?

A God of unlimited, breathtaking power!!!

More power than we could ever imagine with our finite minds.

We can’t even create a pizza out of nothing, Yet God created the universe out of nothing—billions and billions of stars.

Let me ask you a question. Is there any problem you are facing, that God can’t handle??? No!

I know we often feel stuck in our problems. There seems like no way out. But we are dealing with a God of unlimited power.

But we have to humble ourselves and ask him for help!!!

*God has power to create, but he has power to do so much more... this brings us to the second point.*

*First, power to create!*

## **Second, power to give life!**

### **But what kind of life? Eternal life!**

**John 1:4 (ESV) — 4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John uses the word life thirty-six times in his Gospel, far more than any other NT book. He loves highlighting the theme of life.

In fact, this is why he wrote this gospel.

**John 20:30–31 (ESV) — 30** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The word that John usually uses for life is the Greek word “zoe” not the Greek word “bios.” The word “bios” refers to everyday life—as in that tree is alive or that raccoon is alive. Or my grandmother is still alive. But the word “zoe” refers to the supernatural spiritual life given to human beings who are alive physically.

The life that John has in mind is a quality of life that we can experience right now through our relationship with the triune God.

**John 10:10 (ESV) — 10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

It is often called eternal life.

**John 17:3 (ESV) — 3** And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

This is not a thousand-year life.

Or a million-year life.

Or a billion-year life.

It is eternal life, which means it will last forever.

Although it begins the moment we make Jesus Lord of our lives through faith and repentance.

Jesus brings life to dead things!

### **Illustration:**

Many years ago, the evangelist Harry Ironside was preaching to a large crowd on the streets of downtown San Francisco.

A famous atheist approached him and handed him a card. The card said, “Sir, I challenge you to debate me on the question of atheism verses Christianity in the academy of Science Hall next Sunday afternoon at 4pm.”

Ironside read the card to himself and then he read it out loud for all to hear. Then he said, “I’m very interested in this challenge. I will debate Mr. so and so on one condition. He must promise to bring with him to the debate two people (one male and one female). They both must prove that their old way of life was a total mess. And then upon hearing the gospel of atheism their lives were forever changed and altered. Furthermore, I want to hear them both say, ‘As a result of rejecting Jesus and embracing atheism I found the power to change all of my evil ways. Now I live a more virtuous, joyful, purposeful, and happy life. The sins I once loved I now hate. All because of his atheism.’”

Then Ironside said, “I will bring with me 100 men and woman who used to live deplorable lives, but they have been gloriously transformed by believing the gospel of Jesus Christ. I will bring these men and women with me onto the platform.”

At this, the atheist walked away and Ironside never saw him again. (R. Phillips, John, 19)

Ironside was not making the point that Atheists can’t be moral people. He was simply making the point that the gospel of Jesus Christ brings life, abundant life, and with it comes power for change.

### **Illustration:**

People often think that turning to Christ will rob one of joy and life. But the exact opposite is true. Turning to Christ vastly increase our capacity for true Joy.

British pastor G. Campbell Morgan tells the story of meeting a man who had been converted through his father’s ministry. This man had been a non-Christian most of his life. A few days after his conversion, Morgan saw him in the garden. He was holding something very small and gazing at it in wonder. Morgan asked him what it was. In a voice full of wonder and awe the man showed him a leaf from a tree and exclaimed “The beauty of God.” He had been awakened to the wonder of life in God’s world.

On the other hand, Charles Darwin turned his back on God. His biographer explains that as Darwin aged and grew more committed to secularism, he lost his capacity for joy. Darwin admitted that he no longer got anything out of poetry, music, or art. Life lost its flavor. He lived in a world without wonder of joy.

Jesus came that we might have life, abundant life!!!

### **Application:**

Abundant life is only found in Jesus Christ.

**John 1:4 (ESV) — 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

Yet so often we look for it elsewhere.

We hope to find life in the acquisition of more things.

The accumulation of degrees.

Well behaved children or grandchildren.

Marriage, long vacations, the perfect body, hours of entertainment.

Yet none of these things has the power to bring life.

**St. Augustine famously said,**

“Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.”

We need to constantly be reminded that real life is found in Jesus Christ. It is not found in things, power, or status, it is found in our relationship with the triune God. But this relationship must be cultivated.

Are you cultivating this relationship?

*Dave, I experience life sometimes, but I often feel overwhelmed by darkness. This brings us to the third point...*

*First, power to create!*

*Second, power to give life!*

**Third, power to overcome!**

**What must be overcome? Darkness!**

**John 1:4–5 (ESV) — 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The ‘darkness’ in the gospel of John is not only the absence of light, but it is the presence of evil (cf. 3:19; 8:12; 12:35, 46; 1 Jn. 1:5, 6; 2:8, 9, 11). (Carson)

The revelation that God brings, which is known as light, sheds light on our evil deeds of darkness.

People don’t like God’s light because it exposes their evil deeds. They would rather remain in the darkness where they can nurture their sins.

There seems to be a lot of darkness these days!!!

The darkness of greed.

The darkness of pride, bitterness, unforgiveness, and envy.

The darkness of political corruption.

The darkness of gender confusion and sexual deviancy.

The darkness of drug addiction, abortion, and sex trafficking.

The darkness of depression, chronic illness, and loneliness.

The darkness of secular humanism, atheism, and scientific materialism.

We don’t have to look outside of ourselves to see darkness, we just need to look in the mirror. We all have pockets of darkness that we don’t want exposed.

The darkness seems too smoother us at times.

**Illustration:**

It began as just another drizzly day in Spokane, Washington, but by its end, November 19, 1996, produced one of the region’s worst ice storms in 60 years.

Trees came crashing down everywhere under the immense weight of the ice. The mayor of Spokane declared a state of emergency as over half the city’s residents lost electricity—their worst power outage in 108 years. Three days after the storm, 100,000 people in the surrounding county were without power, and six days after the storm, 20,000 were still without power. Some area residents were without electricity for up to two weeks following the record-breaking storm.

This ice storm remains one of the most severe on record in the area.

I remember ice storm well. I was home from college on thanksgiving break. The thing I remember most was the darkness. During the winter months it gets dark around 4:30 pm. When it gets dark and there is no electricity you can't do anything. You can't read, play games, watch television, or surf the web. We were all bored to tears. The darkness seemed to suck all the joy out of life.

I'm a similar sense, spiritual darkness destroys spiritual life, and we are powerless to do anything about it. Is there any hope? Yes!

*What must be overcome? Darkness!*

**Who overcomes the darkness? The light of life!**

**John 1:4-5 (ESV) — 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

John reminds us that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. In other words, Jesus shines his light into the world and the darkness tries to put it out, destroy it, or extinguish it. Yet, the darkness will never succeed.

The darkness formed an angry mob to kill Jesus, but he walked right through them (Luke 4:29-30).  
The darkness attacked Jesus teaching repeatedly, but he could not be silenced.  
The darkness falsely accused him.  
The darkness beat him, whipped him, and mocked him.  
The darkness nailed him to a cross.  
The darkness enveloped him in a cold, dark, tomb.

But nothing can extinguish the light of Christ. Three days later, the light of the world rose victoriously from the grave destroying the powers of darkness.

Not even the darkness of death, the devil, and his demons could extinguish the light of Christ.

Darkness will never prevail.

The Roman emperors could not extinguish the light of Christ.  
The birth of Islam could not extinguish the light of Christ.  
The renaissance could not extinguish this light.  
The enlightenment could not extinguish this light.  
The communist regimes of the twentieth century could not extinguish the light of Christ.  
The new atheist can't extinguish the light of Christ.  
Nothing can extinguish the light of Christ.

Trying to extinguish the light of Christ is like trying to extinguish the light of ten thousand suns!!!

Jesus Christ has overcome the darkness.

**Application:**

Has he overcome the darkness in your life?



At conversion the light of the gospel shines into our hearts. John Wesley famously describes what this looks like in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He writes,

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night:  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light:  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.<sup>1</sup>

Do you know this light?

This light is named Jesus Christ. Jesus came to bring overcome the darkness of sin.

If we are Christians, the darkness may be thick at times, but the darkness will never extinguish the light of Christ. How do we know? Because Jesus Christ rose from the grave and now lives inside of us. If we truly belong to him, nothing can keep his gospel light from shining brightly through us, not even death.

Jesus has tremendous power. Power to do what?

*Power to create.*  
*Power to give life.*  
*Power to overcome.*

Let's pray...

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<sup>1</sup> Boice, J. M. (2005). [\*The Gospel of John: an expositional commentary\*](#) (p. 49). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.