

1. Our LifeLines verse for October 23 will be Philippians 2:13.
2. LifeLines will meet through Monday, November 13!

## LifeLines October 16, 2023

### Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

#### John 1:12

**But to all who received Him, who believed  
in His name, He gave power to become children of God.**

#### WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

#### CONTEXT

Our verse is an excellent summary of the gospel. In John's first verses, he makes it clear that Jesus is identical to God & co-creator with God.

#### DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

##### AMP

But to as many as did receive & welcome Him, He gave the right (the authority, the privilege) to become children of God, *that is*, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, & rely on) His name.

##### CEB (Common English Bible)

But those who did welcome Him, those who believed in His name, He authorized to become children of God.

##### CEV

Yet some people accepted Him & put their faith in Him. So He gave them the right to be the children of God.

##### CJB

But to as many as did receive Him, to those who put their trust in His person & power, He gave the right to become children of God.

##### GW

However, he gave the right to become God's children to everyone who believed in Him.

##### KJV

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

##### MSG

But whoever did want Him, who believed He was who He claimed & would do what He said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves.

## NIV

Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

## NLT

But to all who believed Him & accepted Him, He gave the right to become Children of God.

## NLV

He gave the right & the power to become children of God to those who received Him. He gave this to those who put their trust in His name.

## SELAH

### BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

***But to all who received Him...***Receiving Him is accepting Him as the Word become flesh, the Messiah, Savior, Redeemer, Christ. It's receiving the grace of His fullness, righteousness, forgiveness of sin, sanctification & an incorruptible inheritance, as joint heirs with Christ. What an inheritance!

***who believed in His name...***No one can claim any of God's gifts until He believes! Faith in Jesus' name means trusting Him, His sacrifice & salvation. We believe in the name of Jesus & are partakers of His divine nature through the Holy Spirit in us.

***He gave power...***This power or right is reserved for those who receive Him & no one else. These privileges transcend every human right or freedom. God gives us power to be like Him so we are free from sin! Sin makes us like the devil who has sinned from the beginning. Jesus gave us power to continue His ministry, to do good & heal all who are oppressed by the devil. He gave us power to overcome sin, to heal & to destroy the work of the devil.

***to become children of God...***To be a child or son of God is a great blessing & honor. The Greek term, *exousia* (ex-oo-see-ah) describes this right or power as an entitlement of spiritual honors given to all believers on the basis of being part of God's family. The Spirit of God witnesses that believers are indeed children of God, & God's grace secures this blessing. *Power runs in His family!*

## SELAH

### RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

Psalm 8:5-6, Yet you have made them (mortals) a little lower than God, & crowned them with glory & honor. You have given them dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under their feet.

Matthew 3:17, And a voice from heaven said, "This is My Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 10:40, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes Me, & whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me."

Matthew 12:50, "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother & sister & mother."

Luke 10:19, "See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes & scorpions, & over all the power of the enemy; & nothing will hurt you."

Luke 18:17, “Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

John 14:12-14, “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do &, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in My name you ask Me for anything, I will do it.”

John 14:26, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything, & remind you of all that I have said to you.”

John 20:31, But these (signs which Jesus did) are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, & that through believing you may have life in His name.

Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; & you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea & Samaria, & to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 10:38, How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit & with power; how He went about doing good & healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Romans 3:24, They are now justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus for all who believe.

Romans 8:1, There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Roman 8:14, For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Romans 8:15c-17, When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, & if children, then heirs, heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

1 Corinthians 1:18, For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:30, He is the Source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, & righteousness & sanctification & redemption.

2 Corinthians 6:18, “And I will be your Father, & you shall be My sons & daughters, says the Almighty.”

2 Corinthians 12:9, But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for (My) power is made perfect in weakness.” So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Galatians 3:26, For in Christ you are all children of God through faith.

Galatians 3:29, And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Ephesians 1:4, Just as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy & blameless before Him in love.

Ephesians 1:11, In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of Him who accomplishes all things according to His counsel & will .

Ephesians 2:6-7, And raised us up with Him & seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:6, That is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, & sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:6-7, For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of My hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power & of love & of self-discipline.

1 John 3:1, See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; & that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

1 John 3:2, Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when He is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.

1 John 5:1, Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, & everyone who loves the parent loves the child.

## **SUMMARY**

What a gift we've been given! We have faith! We know the risen Lord! It is through union with our Lord Jesus that we've been brought back into communion with the Living God. There is no other name in heaven or earth that has the power to seek & to save that which is lost.

All who receive Christ, through faith, become God's children. This honor brings rights, privileges, entitlement & spiritual power (exousia). These spiritual honors are given to all believers on the basis of faith, & all this makes us part of God's family. Nothing we do earns us a place in God's family. Only by grace have we been saved through faith, & not of our own doing, but as a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).

Trusting in Jesus' name, we accept Him as the incarnate Son of God who came to earth to be our substitute for sin. Receiving Him, & believing in His death, burial, & Resurrection procures our salvation; & Jesus gives us power to become brothers & sisters, joint heirs with Him. We are born again into the family of God.

## **CONCLUSION**

It's almost overwhelming that God grants us entrance to His family! We don't become members of His family based on our deeds or works or bloodline. It isn't *our* blood that gains us entry; it's *His*. It isn't a determination of *our* will that gains us entry, it's *His* will.

We have access because of the power of the blood of Jesus. We can't win God's favor through our blood, our flesh, or our will – only through the broken flesh & blood of Jesus, God the Son & the will & love of God the Father.

“...to all who received Him, who believed  
in His name, He gave power to become children of God.”

***Thanks be to God!***

Let John 1:12 be a *LifeLine* for you!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

*LifeLine!*

Take a minute or two & write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:

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