

Sunday September 20, 2026

*John _____ change while the Lord Jesus brought the _____
to change.*

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

POP QUIZ

1. Why did John the Baptizer repeatedly say that Jesus ranked ahead of him?

- A. Jesus began His ministry first
- B. Jesus belonged to the priestly tribe
- C. Jesus existed before him
- D. Jesus had performed more baptisms

2. What does Jesus' preexistence reveal about Him?

- A. He was the greatest prophet
- B. He is God and existed before creation
- C. He became divine at His baptism
- D. He was created before the angels

3. What does the doctrine of the hypostatic union teach?

- A. Jesus alternated between being God and being human
- B. Jesus was human but possessed divine power
- C. Jesus was God but only appeared human
- D. Jesus is truly God and truly human in one person

4. What did John mean when he said, "I didn't know Him"?

- A. He had never heard of Jesus
- B. He did not know which man God would identify as the Messiah
- C. He did not believe the Messiah had come
- D. He had forgotten that Jesus was his relative

5. Why did John come baptizing with water?

- A. To prepare Israel for their Messiah through repentance
- B. So that he could establish a new religion
- C. So that Israel would make him its leader
- D. So that he could replace the temple sacrifices

6. What is the main difference between John's ministry and Jesus' ministry?

- A. John preached to Israel, while Jesus preached only to Gentiles
- B. John performed miracles, while Jesus baptized people
- C. John preached change, while Jesus brought the power to change
- D. John offered forgiveness, while Jesus demanded obedience

7. What sign did God give John to identify the Messiah?

- A. Fire would fall from heaven
- B. The Jordan River would divide
- C. A voice would call John's name
- D. The Spirit would descend and remain upon Him

8. What aspect of Jesus' character was emphasized through the imagery of the dove and Isaiah's bruised reed?

- A. His gentleness toward broken and vulnerable people
- B. His authority over earthly governments
- C. His separation from sinful people
- D. His judgment of unrepentant nations

9. What did Jesus' baptism publicly inaugurate?

- A. His divine existence
- B. His messianic ministry
- C. His membership in Israel
- D. His forgiveness from sin

10. Why is it significant that the Spirit "remained" upon Jesus?

- A. The Spirit had never worked through anyone before Jesus
- B. Jesus temporarily received the Spirit for one miracle
- C. Jesus is the promised Messiah who possesses the Spirit continually
- D. Jesus needed the Spirit to become the Son of God

11. How did John's baptism differ from Jesus' baptism with the Holy Spirit?

- A. John's baptism guaranteed salvation, while Jesus' baptism symbolized repentance
- B. John's baptism was for Gentiles, while Jesus' baptism was for Jews
- C. John's baptism gave eternal life, while Jesus' baptism gave spiritual gifts
- D. John's baptism was an outward sign, while Jesus gives inward spiritual life

12. After witnessing God’s promised sign, what did John testify about Jesus?

- A. Jesus is the Son of God
- B. Jesus is Israel’s greatest teacher
- C. Jesus is a prophet like John
- D. Jesus is the new high priest

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Monday — The Lord’s Preexistence

- 1. How does knowing that the Lord existed before creation deepen your understanding of His identity and authority?
- 2. What area of your life are you struggling to place under the authority of the Lord who created and sustains all things?
- 3. How does the truth that the Lord is truly God and truly man strengthen your confidence in Him as your Savior?

Tuesday — Recognizing the Lord

- 1. What is the difference between knowing facts about the Lord and personally knowing Him through faith?
- 2. Why did John need divine revelation rather than family connections to recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah?
- 3. Are you relying on a religious background, family heritage, or church involvement instead of personally trusting in the Lord?

Wednesday — John’s Ministry and Our Waiting

- 1. How does John’s willingness to preach, baptize, and wait challenge you to remain faithful when God has not revealed the next step?
- 2. Where might God be asking you to obey what He has already revealed instead of demanding additional answers?
- 3. How does the key point, “John preached change while the Lord brought the power to change,” shape your understanding of spiritual transformation?

Thursday — The Spirit Descended and Remained

1. What does the Spirit's descent upon the Lord reveal about His identity and messianic mission?
2. How does the Spirit remaining upon the Lord distinguish Him from others in the Old Testament?
3. In what ways do you need the Holy Spirit's wisdom, strength, and understanding to live faithfully this week?

Friday — The Lord Baptizes With the Holy Spirit

1. Why can't outward religious activity cleanse the heart or give spiritual life?
2. How does the Lord's baptism with the Holy Spirit fulfill God's promise to give His people new hearts and place His Spirit within them?
3. What evidence of inward transformation should be visible in the life of someone who has received the Holy Spirit?

Saturday — Seeing and Testifying

1. How did John move from "I didn't know Him" to "I have seen and testified," and what produced that certainty?
2. What truths about the Lord have you personally seen demonstrated through Scripture and God's work in your life?
3. Who needs to hear your testimony that the Lord is the Son of God and the only One who can give spiritual life?