

Sent From God

John 1:6-8 | Ryan Pfeiffer | December 14, 2025

INTRO. We ended with this incredible line last week... v5 The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

John powerfully illustrates what we all have felt... there's a struggle/ battle. Then get to v6 There was a man... Wait... where's the Light?!

If we skip to vs 9 doesn't it read better... "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world"

But no... verse 6... seems to take us on a detour/ side quest... There was a man sent from God.

People sent from God are essential to how God's light shines in the darkness. In this cosmic battle between Light & Darkness... you have a critical role.

FOCUS. John represents for us our place in this real battle.

With 3 key words John unlocks our destiny: Sent. Witness. Only.

SENT. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

Notice it's not "sent to..." but "from"... what's this telling us?

It's interesting how John uses the word "Sent" ἀποστέλλω (apostello):

- The Father sends the Spirit. John 14:26. Whom the Father will send in my name.
- The Son sends the Spirit. John 15:26. Whom I will send to you from the Father...
- The Father sends the Son. John 20:21 As the Father has sent me...

Then we read John 20:21b... I am sending you... The Son sends YOU.

It's a way of describing our participation in the oneness of Godhead!

It's about how our life on this earth is meant to be a partnership w/God.

Imbuing our deepest identity and purpose... with divine origin.

Here's a mystery and a wonder... Theosis— "The Word became flesh to make us partakers of the divine nature... so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God."

Imagine carrying with you into every area of life... I am sent from God...

- Into our family
- Our work
- Our team
- Our neighborhood.

WITNESS. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

Now we get what we are sent for...

This idea of being God's witness runs deep in the Bible.

Isaiah 43:13 You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "that I am God. 13 Yes, and from ancient days I am he".

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...

It's a role that we are fully empowered to live out through the Spirit.
What an incredible responsibility... v7 so that through him all might believe.
There are people in your life that will come to believe through you.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God has prepared people to receive Him through you.
You have a critical role in the light overcoming the darkness.

Practically... Praying for others, opening up spiritual conversation, inviting people to experience Christian community, serving them, loving them.

ONLY. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

First... tell us- You're from God. You have an awesome responsibility.
Here in v8 John is saying but don't take yourself too seriously!
You are only a witness to the light... It's not about us!

"It's not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment... If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose." – Rick Warren.

If we don't take ourselves seriously enough... we get passive... God will do it.
If we take ourselves too seriously -> anxious, arrogant, burned out...
That's the reason for John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit...
Our fruitfulness depends on our remaining in Jesus...

When we believe the lie it's all about us... Darkness can overcome us:

1. We shrink back feeling unqualified... thinking it's about our skills, gifts.
2. We think we have to have all the answers...
3. We fear what people will think of us...

BUT when we remember we are not the light... being a witness isn't heavy...

- It's simply being honest with others about the most important thing to us
- It's pointing people to Jesus with humility
- It's knowing we can't save anyone... but Jesus can save everyone.
- We can be patient with the process of people coming to faith...