

"Impala Faith"

John 1:1-5; 20:30-31
1/4/15

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(Impala px??)

The African impala can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance of greater than 30 feet. Yet these magnificent creatures can be kept in an enclosure in any zoo with a 3-foot wall. The animals will not jump if they cannot see where their feet will fall. John Emmons.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Simply put, there is a two-fold purpose of John's Gospel:

- **FAITH in Jesus Christ.**

It begins with what we call "saving FAITH"

- **LIFE from that faith.**

It culminates in a life "CENTERED" on Christ.

Definition of Impala Faith

(aka Impala Syndrome)

The inability or refusal to free oneself in spite of more than adequate ability.

With Jesus, this means,

Fulfilling faith and abundant living is little more than a step but you prefer tepid confinement in faith over total confidence in Him.

Many believe in Jesus as a person of history.

But in our humanity, we have a natural resistance to:

1. **COMPREHENSIVE FAITH in him.**

We struggle with:

- The UNSEEN.
- The MYSTERY of the trinity and incarnation.
- ACCEPTING God's love.

2. **CENTERING or BASING our life on Him**

To John, eternal life begins now. Jesus secured our eternity but impacted our present. He was,

- Our SACRIFICE as well as forgiver.
- Our CREATOR as well as savior.
- Divine as well as human.
- Master of LIFE as well as Master Teacher.
- Light and life:
Bright and PIERCING
Full (10:10) and FIRM (6:32ff)

Closing prayer

Heavenly Father, help me in 2015 to fully experience what John meant when he said, **believe** *that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have **life** in his name.*