

# Daily Reflections



## THE BEGINNING OF THE FOURTH GOSPEL

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

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### An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.*

*But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only-begotten Son, full of grace and truth.*

## Reflection

The Prologue of the Fourth Gospel describes the mystery of the person of Jesus. In poetic splendor we hear about the Word or *Logos* (Greek) who was from the beginning. As I pondered the beautiful poetry of the Prologue, I wrestled with the mystery day and night, wondering what I might say to reflect the awesome majesty of these Johannine words about the Eternal Word or *Logos* who existed at the very beginning. I offer these few thoughts:

The Word of God or *Logos* is more than speech: it is describing God in action, creating and revealing God's own self to the world. The first verse of the Prologue reminds me of Gen.1: "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...*". I also remember our Wisdom tradition expressed in Prov. 8:27-30: "*When God established the heavens, I, Sophia, was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep...then I was beside him as a master worker; and I was daily God's delight.*" When John wrote the opening words of the Prologue, he thought of Jesus as "divine." This may not be easy to understand, but as we read the rest of John's Gospel, we are encouraged to "try to deepen our understanding of the uniquely close relationship Jesus had with the Father." (Fr. Felix Just, SJ, Scripture Professor)

The Prologue also speaks of *a man named John sent from God*. John the Baptist came into the world to prepare the way for Jesus, the Light of the World. John actually laid down his life for Jesus by following his own vocation to be a witness for him. When Jesus came into the world, his own people did not accept him, even though the world had been created through Jesus, the *Logos* or Word of God. Yet, all those who did accept Jesus received power from him to become children of God. When the Word became Flesh, he humbly made his dwelling among us and we saw his glory. We witnessed Jesus, *the Father's only-begotten Son, full of grace and truth.*

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In the Beginning  
Photo by Sister Teresa Yoon, CSJ

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## For Pondering and Prayer

Take some time to contemplate the Prologue (John 1:1-18). Notice any words that attract your attention. Allow yourself to be in awe or wonder at the profound words in the Prologue: the amazing generosity of God, giving us his Beloved Son to pitch his tent among us to show us how to Love each other.

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