

Review

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life.

John is testifying a firsthand experience of seeing, knowing and being with Jesus Christ and what he witnessed. John based his evidence of what Jesus said of himself, that He was the Son of God.

John 19:35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

John touched Him with his own hands. There was no denying His humanity. The Word became flesh. Jesus was not an illusion as some false teachers were claiming! John and the disciples had seen His nail wounds giving proof of Jesus resurrection.

Luke 24:39 “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

The Word of Life never ceased to be God but took on a genuine human nature/body to give proof of His existence so that all who believe in Him would be saved. Jesus is the Word of God embodied and He alone possesses this eternal life.

John 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Why is what John is testifying to important for us today?

By faith we understand what we do not see. Through faith we believe Who He is! Faith comes by hearing the word of God and we are reminded of His wonderful promises!

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 John 1:2 The life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us--The life was manifested:

The life was manifested.

Manifested: To render apparent, appear, manifestly declare. Of a person: Expose to view, to show one's self, appear, to become known, to be plainly recognized, thoroughly understood.

The One who was concealed was made clearly visible. In the Scriptural sense the word manifested is more than to appear. A person may appear in a false guise or with disclosure of who he truly is. Jesus was revealed by His words, deed and in every way. He was revealed in His true character by Who and what He was- The Messiah and the Savior of the world!

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

Hebrews 9:26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

2 Timothy 1:10 And which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The One who was in the heavens came down to earth and showed Himself to man in the flesh, paid the penalty of sins that we deserved, rose again and has given us eternal life. The wonder and glory of the gospel message never changes throughout time. This gift of grace is secure throughout eternity!

We have seen: To stare at, to discern clearly (physically or mentally); to experience; behold, perceive, take heed.

Acts 2:32-33 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

Bear witness: To be a witness, affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration, bear record, testimony

John 15:27 "And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

John 21:14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Act 1:22 "Beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

Declare to you: To proclaim, to make known openly, bring word, tell

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

How do we know that Jesus Christ is the One true God?

Psalm 33:4-5 For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in truth.

Jesus said in John 16:12-15 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Why must we abide in this truth?

2 John 24-25 Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

That eternal life with the father and manifested to us:

Eternal life: Without end, never to cease, forever, everlasting

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

That which

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

We have seen and heard

Acts 4:20 “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

We declare to you

1 John 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Psalm 2:7 “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’”

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand.

That you also

Romans 15:27 It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.

May have fellowship with us

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Biblical fellowship- Koinonia- a having in common, partnership, being united in purpose, and serving alongside each other. Our fellowship with each other is based on our common fellowship with Jesus Christ.

What does true Biblical fellowship look like?

Scripture commands us to be devoted to one another and honor one another (Romans 12:10), live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8), accept one another (Romans 15:7), serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13), be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32), admonish one another (Colossians 3:16), encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13), spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24), offer hospitality (1 Peter 4:9), and love one another (1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11; 3:23; 4:7; 4:11-12).

Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ

Why is it important to have fellowship with our Lord?

God the Father (Parent)- He is the Father of the stars, the heavenly luminaries, because He is their creator, upholder, ruler. He is the Father of all rational and intelligent beings whether angels or men because He is their creator, preserver, guardian and protector. He is the Father of Christians, as those who through Christ have been exalted to a specially close and intimate relationship with God, and who no longer dread Him as a stern Judge of sinners, but revere Him as their reconciled loving Father. He is the Father of Jesus Christ, as One whom God has united to Himself in the closest bond and intimacy, made acquainted with His purposes, appointed to explain and carry out among men the plan of salvation and made to share also in His Divine nature by Jesus Christ Himself, by the apostles. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 John 2:23-24 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

John 17:21-22 “That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Philippians 2:1-2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

1 John 1:4: And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

Joy- cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight: gladness, “joy delight” (overflowing) to rejoice

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

What spiritual matters can we be joyful for?

Only our Lord can fill us with true joy. Salvation is cause for joy and fellowship with Jesus brings continuous joy.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls- Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

2 Corinthians 1:24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

Ephesians 3:19 To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Philippians 1:25-26 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our circumstances cannot take this joy. Our joy is strengthened when we remember that, no matter what the circumstance we find ourselves, God is with us and He is Sovereign over all. Let's remain steadfast in knowing that God is our strength and comfort, He is Faithful, He is Good, and He is Able!

2 Corinthians 6:10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

2 Corinthians 7:4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

James 2:2-3 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Philippians 2:17-18 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

May the joy of God's salvation and completeness in our lives be revealed in our lives! Looking forward with all joy towards the blessed hope-the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. All glory, honor and praise be to Him!