

"I have seen Jesus!"  
 "We Proclaim Jesus"

Title: *You Mean I Can have Fellowship With God?*  
~~What is Fellowship?~~

Text: I John 1:1-4

I John is a tremendous book. This book discusses the great doctrine of Assurance. How do I know that I am saved? How do I know that I am really a Christian? I John was written to teach the doctrine of assurance. It is very similar to the Gospel of John. It was written by the Apostle John. The style is similar. The opening is very similar.

*out* The Gospel of John was written, according to John 20:31, "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in his name." So, the Gospel of John was written to persuade people to believe in Jesus and to receive him as Lord and Saviour.

But, I John was written to assure Christians of their salvation. The doctrine of assurance is the message of I John. You will find the purpose stated in chapter 5 verse 13. Turn there, please. I John chapter 5 vs 13. Here we find the purpose of I John. Notice what it says: "These things, I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God."

Notice, that he is writing to Christians. Those who believe. And his purpose is this: "that you may know." Now, the word "know" is the word for "experience". It is not just the accumulation of facts within the head, but by personal experience you may know that you have eternal life.

*out* "These things I have written to you that you may know"...be confident, have assurance, that you may know that you have eternal life.

Now, that is the over-all purpose of I John...But there are several other purposes. If you would notice I John chapter 1:4, you will see another reason for this letter. John says, "These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete." We will discuss this today. It is referring to the context of verses 1-3. That your joy may be complete. And it is interesting to note that we have the present tense of the word "write." We are writing these things right now, so, that your joy may be complete. In chapter 5 verse 13 the word "write" is in the past tense. "These things I have written."

You will find a third purpose for this book in chapter 2 verse 1. John writes, "My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin." This deals with the content of chapter 1 verse 5 thru chapter 2 verse 2.

There is a fourth purpose. It is found in chapter 2 verse 26. John writes: "These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you." And John is dealing with false teachers in the assemble of believers.

So, John wrote this letter for one basic over-all purpose. And that is to assure us that we have eternal life. So that, we will have confidence that we know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we are Christians.

And then John gives us three secondary purposes:

- (1) That our joy might be full -- 1:4
- (2) That we sin not -- 2:4  
and
- (3) third, that we be careful of those who would deceive us -- 2:26

Now, let us come to chapter 1 and verses 1-4.

(Read 1:1-4)

Prayer

Our Father in heaven, we believe with all of our hearts that this is your Word. We read that the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." You know the difference, Lord, between those two things which are so hard for us to understand. You know, Father, what we are like. And you know that your Word will not return void; but will accomplish what you please. And so, Father, we ask that your will will be done. We pray that we shall know beyond a shadow of a doubt whether or not we have fellowship. That we will know, from our study of I John that we have eternal life. Guide us in this study, we pray, in the name of Jesus...Amen

(1A) The General theme of chapter 1 is fellowship.

(1B) And, first of all, we want to look at the meaning of the word "fellowship?..." The word is thrown around quite a bit. In fact, it is used in the Bible in many different ways, But, the idea of enjoying one another's companionship is not the concept of Fellowship in the N.T.

LET ME REPEAT THAT. The idea of enjoying one another's companionship is not the concept of "Fellowship" in the N.T. It ~~doesn't~~ mean <sup>more than that</sup> ~~that at all.~~

*omit* Often times when Christians gather together we say we are going to have "Fellowship." Well, it is probably a word meaning problem. But, the truth of the matter is that according to the gospel of John you already have that fellowship whether you get together with company or not. You already have fellowship.

*It means that - But it means far more than just enjoying one another's companionship.*

*out*  
FELLOWSHIP IS SOMETHING WE POCCESS. IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE PRACTICE. And this is very, very important.

The word "FELLOWSHIP" comes from two words in the original *Greek* language. And basically as it is put together it means "to share in common." ~~A basic root word which was often used in the days of our Lord~~

For example, when we refer to the language which was spoken in the Roman empire in the days of our Lord, we refer to it as "KOINE GREEK." It is different from "CLASSICAL GREEK" as was used in the writings of Greek scholars. And it was different from modern Greek of today. It was called "Koine Greek." Meaning "Common Greek." It was the language spoken by the average citizen ~~in~~ within the Roman empire.

The word "Koine" is the root word of the word "Fellowship." It is something "we share in common." As a matter of fact the word "Fellowship" is constantly used of "PARTNERSHIP." Paul often referred to his "Partners in the Gospel" who were co-laborers with him. He used the word "Fellowship." They are those who have fellowship. They share something in common.

(2B) Now, ~~to understand~~ what is involved in "Fellowship"? *What is it that we share in common?* ~~The only passage in the Bible which teaches it clearly is I John chapter 1 verse 1-3. Here we learn exactly what is involved in the question of "fellowship."~~

(1C) *accends to vs 1*  
First of all, Fellowship involves a Person. A person as discribed in Vs 1. as being "THE WORD OF LIFE." It is referring to Jesus Christ. And there are two things emphasised in Vs 1 and 2 about this person.

Fellowship involves a person. You leave the person out and you have no fellowship. And there are two important things being taught *about the person*

(1D) Number one, *Jesus* He was real and he was here. *His Reality* It is not a figure of the imagination. And John goes to a great deal of trouble to prove to

us that Jesus was a real, historical person who lived on earth/ And he *does this in the followings ways*

(1E) Vs 1 says, "What was from the beginning"..... This takes us back to the Gospel of John chapter 1. "IN the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. And the word became flesh, and dwelt amongst us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Notice, whatever the WORD is...it became "flesh." "In the beginning was the Word." And in I John 1:1 it simply says, "What was from the beginning."

THE POINT IS THIS: Jesus was not only at the beginning of time--but He has continued to exist from all eternity.

He has not had a beginning or an end. He was from the beginning as far as our viewpoint. He was there when it all started. He was there when the worlds were created. And the Bible clearly teaches in the Gospel of John chapter 1 verse 3 that Jesus created all things. "All things came into being through Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

Dear friends, if you have a viewpoint of Jesus which does not count Him as the creator of all life and this world, your viewpoint is not Biblical. Jesus was there in the beginning. He has had no beginning or end. He is from the Beginning.

(2E) Also, John says in Vs 1.."WHAT WE HAVE HEARD." This is very interesting in the Greek language. Because the word that is translated "HEARD" means "Something happened in the passed and is still continueing today."

We would say something like this: "BOY! I shall never forget hearing about good old Tom, and it is still ringing in my ear."

John is saying that we have heard the word of life. We heard Jesus and the impression is still ringing in our ears, today. And we have never been the same since. That is what Jehn is saying.

"all things came into being through Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

If you have a view point of Jesus Christ which does not count him as the creator of all life and this world, your view point ~~is~~ not biblical.

Jesus was there. He has had no beginning or end. ~~HE IS FROM THE BEGINNING.~~

~~Because you hear it~~ <sup>about John</sup> Now, back to I John, Please. ~~He~~ <sup>John</sup> says: "What was ~~from~~ the ~~beginning~~, <sup>with</sup> what we have heard." This is very interesting in the Greek.

Because the word that is translated "heard" means "something happened in the passed and <sup>yet</sup> is still continuing on today."

<sup>about Tom</sup> We would say something like this: " Boy, I ~~will~~ <sup>shall</sup> never forget hearing ~~that~~ and it is still ringing in my ear." John is saying "that we have heard ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> Word of Life." We heard ~~him~~ <sup>you</sup> and the impression is still ringing in our ears, today. We have never been the same since. That is what John is saying.

<sup>me</sup> You know, when I understand this concept it makes me wonder what those words must have been that came from the lips of Jesus Christ. Those words that caused John to say : "It is still here and I can still hear it." "And it is making a difference in my life."

(35) But John goes still further to drive home a point on who Jesus is. He says; "what we have seen with our eyes." And again he is using a tense which means "WE SAW IT." And the impression is still a present reality. We saw Jesus with our own eyes.

Now, why is John emphasising this? Why? You see, when John wrote I John, he was the last ~~apostle~~ living apostle. All others had been martyred. John was the only one alive at 100 A.D. He was the last "eye witness" apostle. And there were many people dening that Jesus had ever really been here. John says: "Now wait amminute. I am alive and I have seen ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup> And I am telling you that I have seen ~~it~~ <sup>him</sup> and I shall never forget what my physical eyes have seen."

(4E) But, John isn't satisfied. He uses another phrases. "That which we have "beheld" or "looked upon." It is interesting that we get our "word" "theater" from this word. "Theater" which means "to watch as a spectator." The word is used in the Gospel of John chapter 1 verse 14 ~~where~~ it says: "We ~~be~~ beheld his glory." And the idea is an <sup>"</sup>intents <sup>"</sup>gaze upon Jesus Christ. <sup>NOW</sup> And, I believe, if Jesus should come back today. Many of us who know him as Lord and Savior would not be able to take our eyes off of him.

\* John is saying that we not only saw him with our physical eyes but ~~The~~ image we saw was so overwhelming that we "gazed upon him." We were transfixed.

5E John goes one step further. He says: "And our hands handled." We have touched him. We handled him. It is interesting <sup>that this</sup> word is used in Luke 24:39 when Jesus after his resurrection appeared to his disciples and they thought he was a ghost. How can this be? And Jesus said: "Handled me and see." That is no doubt the exact event that John was referring to. Our hands have handled Jesus. And we found that Jesus was not a ghost. He was flesh and bones and we did touch him and we saw him eat. He was a real historical person.

John writes all of this to simple says that FELLOWSHIP involves a historical person who lived - Jesus Christ.

*Dear Friends,* If you have ~~an~~ view point <sup>of Fellowship</sup> that comes short of the person of Jesus Christ who actually lived, you are not ~~an~~ on the right track.

You know, isn't it amazing how many of us can have fellowship with one another and never mention Jesus Christ? Never talk about him. Never really thing about him. AND WE CALL IT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. THAT IS RIDICULOUS. We may be having a good time, and it may be a good social occasion. But call it what it is. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES A HISTORICAL PERSON. IT IS CONCERNED WITH JESUS CHRIST.

(6E) ~~And John writes in 1 John 1:2 that "the life was manifested, and we have see and bear witness and proclaim to you."~~

(2D) Then secondly, after unfolding to us the reality of Jesus, John tells us how He was revealed. He says, Vs 2.. "the life was manifested to us." The word "manifested" means to "put on public display."

*Peter James John*  
Now, what does John Mean? I believe John is referring back to the Mount of Transfiguration where Jesus reveal all that He really was. He was transfigured. John saw his glory. The Gospel of Matthew tells that story. And I believe that is what John is referring to in our passage. The life of Jesus was mainifested. And I was there. I was an eye witness. I know who Jesus is. He is God. And all of his glory was displayed and I shall never forget it.

Notice, John says "the life was minifested." In John 14:6, Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth, and the Life." Dear friends, there is no life apart form Jesus Christ. He is life. And He said that "no man comes to the Father put by me." The characteristics of life that each of us so desperately need is found in a historical person---Jesus Christ. IN HIM IS LIFE.

So, Christian fe@lowsip involves the person - Jesus Christ.

That is why we often refer to COMMUNION as "FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE LORD'S Table". We are sharing something in Common....WHAT?....OUR REMEMBERANCE OF OUR SAVIOUR.....who died on the cross for our sins.....who rose on that third day for our justification....and who promised that one day he would come back to earth for the believer....

To experience the real meaning of communion is to enjoy the fellowsip of Jesus through personal knowledge. And that happens, only, when you have onfessed your sin, and ask Jesus into your life.....

Shall we prepare for Communion through prayer



Now, what does John mean? There was one <sup>event</sup> ~~occasion~~ recorded in Matt chapter 17 on the mount of Transfiguraion where Jesus reveal all that he really was. He WAS TRANSFIGURED. THEY SAW HIS GLORY. <sup>Matt</sup> ~~Peter~~ writes about it. and I believe that John writes about it - right here. The life was manifested. I was there. I was an eye witness. I know who Christ is. He is ~~the~~ God. All of his glory was displayed and I shall never forget it.

Notice, he says "the life was manifested." In John 14; 6 Jesus said: "I am the way, and the truth, and the What?" "The Life." There is no life apart from Jesus Christ. He is the life. And he said that "no man comes to the Father put by me." The characteristics of life that each of us so desperately need <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ found in a historical person - Jesus Christ. ~~in~~ In Him <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ life. *Fellowship involves a Person. STOP*

II

(2C) But, secondly, Fellowship invloves more than a person. It involves a ~~an~~ POSSESSION according to Vs 2 John writes: " And the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life." And John is talking about the "Word of life" which we have seen and proclaim and now do you possess eternal life? Do you possess

To have fellowship as a Christian is to have something in common with one another. You share it. You are in a partnership. Now, what is it? ACCORDING TO JOHN IT IS ETERNAL LIFE. That which ever Christian ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> is eternal life. If you are really a Christian, <sup>tonight</sup> ~~today~~, if you have believed on Jesus Christ and have repented of your sin and now you are trusting and serving Him, YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. IT IS A PRESENT ~~PRESENT~~ POSSESSION. It is yours *and because of that - Fellowship is possible*

Next time someone invites you to have fellowship, you just ~~just~~ tell them right out - "Sorry, I already have it." Eternal life - It is a possession. John describes it by saying that it was "with the Father(v2)

We have eternal life with the Father. And it is ours right, now. Not in the future. But right now. Eternal life. The ability to live forever.

Man has always wanted to live forever. Well I can tell you how to do it. By placing your faith in Jesus Christ who gives to you HIS life. He puts his life into you. You will then, the moment you believe in Christ, have the ability to live forever.

Eternal life is not something that God gives to you when you die. Eternal life is not something that is beyond the grave. It is going on right now. It is a present possession. I know I am going to live forever because I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour and his life lives within me. I possess eternal life. This leads me to the third point.

STEPS  
(3C)

Fellowship not only involves a historical person, it not only involves a possession called eternal life, PUT IT INVOLVES A POSITION.

I am in Christ therefore I have something. What do I have? I HAVE FELLOWSHIP.

In Verse 3 John writes: "<sup>That which</sup> ~~what~~ we have seen and heard we <sup>declare unto you.</sup> ~~preclaim~~ to you ~~also~~, And we <sup>declare</sup> ~~preclaim~~ this for one reason; FELLOWSHIP.

John is not writing to an particular church or group of people. He is writing to all christians so that they may know that they have FELLOWSHIP.

"Fellowship with Us (that is the apostle) and with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ IN ETERNAL LIFE.

You see John was a good witness - he was a good soul winner, if you please, and John cared that people have eternal life.

And John wrote this letter that we might have fellowship. You can not have any fellowship until you have that which fellowship possession. And it is eternal life. That is why John writes. He wants all to have fellowship with God.

*of course*  
And that is my purpose, ~~this morning~~ *in this series*. My purpose is that everyone here today would have eternal life.

I wonder this ~~morning~~ *this evening*: Are you haveing fellowship with the Father? Have you accepted Jesus? Do you have eternal life? Have you possessed it? You cannot have fellowship apart from Jesus Christ.

He was real. He lived and he died that we (you and I) might have life (Christ life within us). John writes that ~~those~~ *Those* who have the Son (Jesus Christ) have life and those who do not have the son do not have life.

*Then* We have fellowship with one another because *we* possess eternal life. And it is a position which makes us "in Christ". We are with the Father and with his son, Jesus Christ. We are in Christ, his life is within us, the moment we believe.

And this knowledge of our position in Christ should bring JOY to your hearts. Vs 4 "These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete?"

My friends, STOP trying to ~~live the christian life~~ *earn Salvation*. There is nothing we can do to earn the favor of God. Nothing. Salvation is through faith *Only* the grace of God. TRUST GOD -- BELIVE HIM -- AND *Then* YOUR JOY WILL BE COMPLETE.

Shall we pray )