

Series: 1 John

Title: The Word of Life Manifested

Text: 1 John 1: 1-4

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When we read a book about history from someone who gives a first-hand account, we receive that witness as true because they were an eyewitness. Why not receive eyewitness accounts from the word of God without question? This book not only gives us eyewitnesses but those eyewitnesses were inspired by God to record the word they wrote.

For you who do not believe, would it help if you heard an eyewitness account from someone who saw and heard Christ Jesus himself? The one writing 1 John was an eyewitness. John, the son of Zebedee was an eyewitness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, he was inspired by God to write what he saw and heard. So you and I would be wise to listen to what John has to say.

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, of the Word of life; 2: (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3: That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4: And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

John gives eyewitness testimony to the Word of Life. If God saves a sinner, it will be through the declaration of a faithful witness. John saw and heard. He declares this Word of Life that he witnessed. God gave this Word of Life to some to whom John preached and they declared this Word of Life to others. On the gospel spread, God saving whom he would, on down to believers in our congregation and others around the world. All of us in this congregation who are born of the Word of Life, declare we unto you what we have seen with the eye of faith and what we have heard with the ear of faith. Here is our message:

Proposition: *Eternal Life is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the eternal God.*

Doctrine is important. We are taught the doctrine of depravity, election, particular redemption and so on. But life is not by knowing doctrine. Eternal Life is having the Son of God.

1 John 5: 11: And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

So let's hear John's witness of the Word of Life, Christ Jesus.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS GOD

1 John 1: 1: That which was from the beginning,...of the Word of life...that eternal life, which was with the Father

The Lord Jesus is God. He existed as God's Son before the world was made. John declares Christ Jesus is eternal God. He is God from the beginning, from before the earth was made, from before anything was created. Genesis 1: 1 says "in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." When John says the Lord Jesus was from the beginning, he is talking about the beginning before that beginning of creation. He speaks of eternity before anything was made.

John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2: The same was in the beginning with God.

Then, after that, came Genesis 1:1. It was Christ, the Word of Life, who created all things.

John 1: 3: All things were made by him;

Before the world was made, the Word was! That is eternal language. Before, the Lord Jesus possessed a human body, Christ existed as the Son of God, the everlasting Jehovah, the eternal I AM. He is Wisdom spoken of in Proverbs 8.

Proverbs 8:22: The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23: I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

When Micah declared that the Lord Jesus Christ would be born in Bethlehem, he said, "whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting" (Mi 5: 2). God's elect were chosen in Christ and blessed with all spiritual blessings where and when?

Ephesians 1: 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,...

So John bears witness that Christ is God. Christ is the Word of Life. He is himself eternal Life. He is God and was with God before anything was made.

THE WORD OF LIFE WAS MADE FLESH

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, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

The same Son of God, the Word of Life, who with God before creation, was made flesh and dwelt among us. John says that Word of Life which was from eternity was made flesh—the *LIFE was manifested, that eternal life which with the Father, was manifested unto us.*

John 1: 14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John says that when they heard Christ Jesus speak, they heard the Word of Life speak. He is saying that when the Lord Jesus walked among them, they saw and their hands handled eternal God, the Word of Life, Christ Jesus. God appeared in human flesh. John said they saw him, heard him, looked upon him and touched him. John is not the only witness. Christ called many more: such as Paul, Peter, James, Matthew, Mark, Luke and on and on.

He is called the Word of life because he is eternal God, he is eternal Life.

Hebrews 1: 8: But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

But why did God come in human flesh? Why did the Word of Life take flesh? He came to be made under the law, to give himself under the justice of the law in place of his people, that he might justify his people and give life to his fallen elect people. The Word of Life said,

John 10: 10: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. 11: I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

God's elect sheep are often referred to as "the world" because we are scattered all over the world throughout all generations. It does not mean all sinners without exception. God came in human flesh to reconcile his sinful, elect people scattered throughout the world to himself.

2 Corinthians 5: 19: To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;...

How can God be just not to impute our trespasses unto us?

2 Corinthians 5: 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Why did the Son of God take human flesh? The Word of Life came into the world to redeem his people from the curse of the law so that God could send the Spirit of his Son into our hearts and regenerate us into his family. Like as a child is born into a family so God's elect are born-again into the family of God. The Spirit of God gives us communion with God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4: 4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6: And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7: Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

WHY IS JOHN DECLARING THIS?

1 John 1: 3: That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4: And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

John preached Christ. We preach Christ. We bear witness to sinners who do not yet believe "*that ye also may have fellowship with us.*" John's desire is the desire of every believer. Above all things that we could desire for lost sinners, our chief desire is that "*ye also may have fellowship with us.*"

"Fellowship" is far more than gathering and visiting together with believers—"truly our fellowship is with God our Father and with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord." "Fellowship" is being inseparably united with Christ, by Christ the Life abiding in you.

John 17: 22: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Fellowship is by having the Light of Christ, in spirit and in truth, within us. It is by being cleansed of all our sins by the blood of Christ.

1 John 1:7: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

True fellowship has nothing to do with physical and biological relations between sinners. This is true fellowship-- "*truly our fellowship IS WITH GOD OUR FATHER AND WITH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.*"

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord
She is his new creation
By water and the Word

Elect from every nation
Yet one o'er all the earth
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth

One holy name she blesses
Partakes one holy food
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued

We preach Christ the Word of Life that "*your joy may be full.*" There is no joy except being in union with Christ our Life, robed in his righteousness. Joy is being partakers of Christ and all his blessings. True joy is having fellowship with the Father in Christ as sons of God. It is to "to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Eph 3: 19).

Isaiah 61:10: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Romans 4: 7: Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8: Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Scripture says that no man can take away this joy. Every other joy can be taken away. In 2008 we saw the stock market crash. Many people saw their joy vanish because their money vanished. But if we have Christ then no matter what happens in this life, we still have true spiritual joy because we still have fellowship with God our Father in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Habakkuk 3:17: Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19: The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

Psalms 103: 2: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4: Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5: Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

There is but one true joy. It is having fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. This is the one lasting joy. It is knowing Christ and being found in him--perfect and complete in Christ's person and work. We preach the gospel of Christ because we want sinners--you who are yet lost--to have this fullness of joy.

Being in union with Christ does not mean that we cease to suffer trouble in this life. In fact, if need be, God sends us trials. He does it to purge the dross in us and refine the faith God has given us which is more precious than gold that perishes. Yet, even in the worst of tribulation, through faith in Christ, God's child has great joy because we are in fellowship with God our Father and his Son Christ Jesus. As the Lord saves us out of the trial, we experience a foretaste of our final salvation. Peter wrote, "In whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1: 8-9).

This fellowship with God our Father and his Son Christ Jesus is true joy. It is only through faith in Christ. Believe on Christ today. Continue believing on Christ unto the end. "*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,*

that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

Amen!