

THE WORD OF LIFE

1 JOHN 1:1-4

INTRODUCTION

John the apostle begins his first epistle in a most striking way. He does not bother with the standard preliminary greetings found in most letters. Instead, just as he did in the gospel that he penned, he jumps with both feet into the very heart of life and its meaning. He is eager to share the message that a life of communion with God is available to all who will receive it. And it's all made possible because Jesus, the Word of God, the Word of Life, has come to this earth. He came to seek and to save the lost. He came to reveal the life of the Father and to impart this life to all who would believe in Him. He came that we might have fellowship with God. So John begins his first letter describing this incredible, life-changing experience with Jesus, God come in the flesh, THE WORD OF LIFE...

I THE WORD OF LIFE EXPERIENCED

V1

- 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;
- **From the beginning – that which is eternal , that which has always been (Jesus, the Word of God)**
 1. "In the beginning God created..." - GEN 1:1
 2. "In the beginning was the Word." - JHN 1:1
 3. "Before Abraham was, I am." - JHN 8
 4. "I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning... - REV
 - **Experienced – emphasizing the truth and reality of Jesus: heard, seen, examined, & handled**
 1. When they heard Jesus speaking, they were hearing the voice of God.
 2. When they looked at Jesus, they were looking at God.
 3. When they touched Jesus, they were touching God.
 - **Word of Life – the LOGOS: the source, purpose, and provision of life**

II THE WORD OF LIFE EXPRESSED

V2

- 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;)
- **God was manifested in the flesh**
 1. "...the Word was God..the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.." - JHN 1:1,14
 2. "Not robbery to be equal with God..took upon Him the form of a servant.." - PHP 2
 3. "God was manifest in the flesh." - 1 TIM 3:16
 - **The disciples are first-hand witnesses**
 1. John now reflecting on this incredible experience:
 - a. Hearing and seeing God.
 - b. Examining and touching God.
 2. Through Jesus:
 - a. Men can see God - "...he who has seen me has seen the Father..." (JHN 14:9)
 - b. Men can have eternal life - "...this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." - JHN 17:3

III THE WORD OF LIFE EXCLAIMED

V3-4

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.

■ **A declaration of experience: fellowship, communion, sharing in the life of God**

1. We have divine life: "...partakers of the divine nature..." - 2 PET 1:4
2. We are partakers of God's nature, having His interests and purposes at heart
3. We are calling on God as sons who cry "...Abba Father..." - ROM 8:15

■ **An experience that can be shared (fellowship)**

■ **A fellowship that brings the fullness of joy**

2. This joy is a deep inner happiness
3. It is a state of complete satisfaction and great expectations
3. It is a state of complete well being, having a sound mind, love, and power
4. As David said: "...In thy presence is the fullness of joy..." - PSA 16:11

CONCLUSION

Fellowship with the Father has been made possible through Jesus, our Savior. And this fellowship is what life is all about. It is the essence of eternal life. Sin has separated man from God, but God sent His Son into the world to restore sinful man back into fellowship. And those who believe in Christ and have been born again are able to commune with God. They are able to hear, see, and touch God through the indwelling Holy Spirit.