



Proclaiming the Word of Life

Complete Joy

You cannot impart what you do not possess. Do you really know what you possess in Christ? John reaffirms the core of Christianity in this letter.

Introduction: John uses a key word in both his gospel and this letter—it is the word for ‘word’ in the Greek: Logos. Using ‘logos’ impacted both the Jews and Greeks as it had significant spiritual meaning to both.

- **To the Greek:** Logos was the sum total and free exercise of the divine energies—in other words—who ever God was, he was the ‘Logos.’
- **To the Jew:** The KJV English Bible has 255 occurrences of the phrase, “the Word of the Lord.” God created by the power of His word. Gen 1:3. The ‘logos’ the word was God speaking.

A. The Reality of the Word of Life 1 John 1:1a

1. From the beginning:

- a. **John 1:1:** The time before the creation of the world.
- b. **1 John 1:1:** The incarnate Messiah—His birth.

B. The Experience of the Word of Life 1 John 1:1

John now details his first hand experience with the Lord.

1. **Heard:** The Word of Life was speaking throughout the OT through signs, wonders, the prophets and even audibly. (*Deut 5:22*) King Zedekiah sought out Jeremiah. (*Jer 37:17*)—Here John is affirming that He and the first apostles had heard Jesus speak—they were there.
2. **Seen:** The first apostles had seen Jesus and His works with their own eyes. They were eyewitness to the Word of Life.
3. **Looked upon:** The Greek here means to gaze at or study something until you understand it. The three years that the apostles spent with Jesus were a continual teaching experience.
4. **Handled:** John indicates that they had actually touched Jesus. Thomas, Mary and the woman with the issue of blood all touched Jesus. John includes this to make sure that no one would conclude that Jesus was simply a spirit or a ghost. He was a real person.

C. The Joy of the Word of Life 1 John 1:2-4

John’s purpose for writing this letter was that the readers might have fullness of joy. We can describe that joy three ways from the text:

1. **Joy of eternal life:** 1 Joh 1:2 This recaptures a portion of John chapter 1. (*See sidebar*)
2. **Joy of fellowship:** 1 Joh 1:3 Jesus prayed for us, “...that they all may be one.” *John 17:21*. Our full joy is being one with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit and one another.
3. **Joy of the Word of life:** Psa 119:47 “And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love.

1 John 1:1-2 (NKJV)

: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—

: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—

: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.

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

Jeremiah 37:17 (NKJV)

:17 ...then Zedekiah the king sent and took him [Jeremiah] out. The king asked him secretly in his house, and said, "Is there any word from the LORD?" And Jeremiah said, "There is."

John 1:12-14 (NKJV)

:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

:13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

:14 And the Word became 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.