



**1 JOHN**  
**Chapter 1**  
**June 30, 2010**

**John was part of the “inner circle” of disciples who witnessed:** The raising of Jairus’ daughter; the Transfiguration; being with Jesus further in Gethsemane; and the Olivet Discourse.

- He was the first to follow Jesus (John 1:35-37);
- He was the closest to Jesus during the Last Supper (John 13:22-25);
- He followed Jesus to his trial (John 18:15);
- He only went to Jesus’ cross and was given a direct command from Jesus to care for Jesus’ mother (John 19:26-27);
- He outran Peter to the empty tomb and was the first apostle to believe in Jesus’ resurrection (John 20:1-8);
- He was the first to recognize that it was Jesus appearing to them in his Galilean visitation (John 21:7).

John wrote his gospel somewhere around 80-85 A.D. These three letters were written in about 90-100 A.D. from the city of Ephesus making them some of the last documents of the N.T. to be written.

The church at Ephesus had been founded about 52 A.D. by Paul on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:19-21). The church then flourished and became a strong spiritual community under the ministry of Apollos, Priscilla, and Aquila (Acts 18:24-26).

**Outline**

- I. **God Is Light** (1:5), Chapters 1:1–2:2
- II. **God Is Love** (4:8), Chapters 2:3–4:21
- III. **God Is Life** (5:12), Chapter 5

**Chapter 1**

**1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life** – One of three places to speak of the beginning Cf. Gen 1:1; John 1:1-3.

**2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us** – Jesus is Eternal Life!

**3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ** – Fellowship = (*koinōnia*) *partnership, participation, communication, communion, distribution, fellowship.*

1. Grounded in the testimony of God’s Word.
2. Mutual, depending on the unity of believers.
3. Renewed daily through the Holy Spirit.
4. Demands adherence to truth.

**4 We write this to make our joy complete** – Cf. John 15:10-11; 16:24; 17:13; Gal 5:22.

**5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all** – Cf. Job 9: 32-34.

- (1) God is light;
- (2) God is love; and
- (3) God is life.
- (4) God is Spirit – Gospel of John 4

Cf. Genesis 1:3 ; John 8:12; 1 Timothy 6:16; Matt 17:2

**7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin** - Notice, John does not say: If we walk *according* to the light. He said if we walk “in” the light. Purifies is in the present tense - continual cleansing Cf. (Romans 3:23) (John 13:10).

**9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness** - The word confess (*homologeō*) literally means “the same thing said.”