

# The Word Of Life

1 John 1:1-4

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. 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. 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. 4 We write this to make our joy complete. (1 John 1:1-4 (NIV))

A question as we begin our adventure into this Book of 1st John . . . “How can God accomplish the impossible mission of bringing “Himself”, the incomprehensible omnipotent, omniscience, omnipresent God, out from His realms of the completely “Supernatural Spirit world” over into the realms of “natural man”, and do it in such a way that man is able to “see” Him and to rationally consider His existence?”

The answer . . . God did all of that in the Person of the Lord Jesus. And here in these precious infallible words of scripture, John bears personal witness to God’s miraculous incarnation. Listen!

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. 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. 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. 4 We write this to make our joy complete. (1 John 1:1-4 (NIV))

This is the Lord Jesus, as He came from His eternal glory within the Trinity in heaven to, as these scriptures tell us, “dwell among men”, to dwell with us. This is “Immanuel”, “God with us”!

And no, though I can read and say and believe these words, I cannot truly comprehend the wonder of it all. Because just as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are Spirit, so also the Lord Jesus is a Spirit, and He is as vast and as omnipresent as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, so vast that He too, as a Spirit, spans all of the universes that exist in the heavens.

Consider these thoughts with me for a moment! Jesus was, and is, a member of the eternally existent Trinity. Verses 1 and 2 clearly declare that He was with God the Father “in the beginning”. He existed there long before He was born in the flesh.

And we are told in John chapter 1 that He is the One in the Trinity who actually created everything that was created . . . the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth and everything on it. Those words of John 1,

2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. (John 1:2-3)

And in Colossians 1, we read,

16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:16-17 (NIV))

As we try to visualize Jesus, our thoughts usually reduce down to that average-looking man who once walked the ground of Israel. And that truly was Him. But we must always keep in mind that that was not all that Jesus was, and that He still is. The Lord Jesus is God and He is Spirit, so vast and so omnipresent that He, at this very moment, spans the length and breadth of all the universes of the heavens.

And no, you and I can't fathom Him. Our rational understanding can only go to the extent afforded by our ordinary human senses, our hearing, seeing, touching, smelling and tasting. But Jesus is so much, much more than our senses can define. He is all that these scriptures say He is and infinitely more.

Another question . . . How then, with all this being so, about God's infinite nature being so unfathomable to our human mind, can we even begin to “know” Him? Thanks be to God, He made provision for that also. He first sent His Holy Spirit into the world. And yes, the Holy Spirit would come more fully later, after Jesus returned to His glory in heaven. But even before Jesus was born, the Holy Spirit came to prepare the minds of men for the revelation of the coming Lord Jesus. We can read about that all throughout the laws and the prophets, and especially in the New Testament.

But even more clearly, the Holy Spirit's presence and work is described in those familiar verses in 1 Corinthians 2, where we are told that for any “spiritual truth” to be received, it must be made known to us through the Holy Spirit. Those words,

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things

we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.  
(1 Corinthians 2:12-13 (NASB))

This truth has been evident from the beginning. For a person to even begin to receive and accept the presence of God, the reality of Him must be conveyed to us by the Holy Spirit, else we will remain as blind as the rest of the world.

And then next, after God the Father sent His Holy Spirit to us, in His vast love and wisdom, He sent forth His Son, the Lord Jesus into the World, John 3:16.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
(John 3:16 (KJV))

And now today, we have these words in 1st John 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. 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. 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. 4 We write this to make (your and) our joy complete.  
(1 John 1:1-4 (NIV))

Jesus humbly set aside His glory in heaven and came to dwell among us in a human form, in a body exactly like yours and mine, experiencing our frailties and our weaknesses. And then, by His death, burial and resurrection, He has brought redemption to our souls.

Another question that I've pondered as I have read these words penned by the Apostle John, both here in these three epistles and also in the Book of John is this . . . Besides our needing to comprehend the perplexing concept of Jesus being a "Spirit", here in these scripture passages, and especially in the Book of John, we encounter another incomprehensible concept about the Lord Jesus, that of Him being the "Word" of God. The "Word" of God! Why does the Holy Spirit call Jesus the "Word"?

Again, those words in John chapter 1. Turn there with me!

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and

the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And then in verse 14 of John 1,

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
(John 1:1-5, 14 (ESV))

Here, Jesus is being introduced to us as the “Word” of God. I have often wished that the Holy Spirit had first used the Name “Jesus” in the few verses of this passage, because even for a seasoned reader of these scriptures, the way that this passage is phrased, can be confusing.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4 (ESV))

And it’s only in verse 14, that we learn the true identity of “the Word”. He is the Lord Jesus!

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 (ESV))

I don’t know why the Holy Spirit chose to form these words in this manner, but I know that before any person can ever hope to understand any of the words in these scriptures, the Holy Spirit has to be in them interpreting the words. And that is possibly the reason why. These scriptures are only intended for the minds and hearts of God’s beloved children and not for the learned “secular scholars” who might desire to decipher their meaning.

Here, in John 1 and also in our passage in 1st John 1, the Holy Spirit seems to desire that we know more about “who Jesus actually is and what He does”, rather than for us to simply know His name. And one of the understandings that I have gained by the Holy Spirit using the Name “Word” is that Jesus is the “Voice” of God, the discernable “Voice” that comes forth out from the “Trinity”. He is the “spoken Word of God”, the “Voice” that continually goes out into all the world, described in Psalm 19.

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. 4 Their

voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.  
(Psalm 19:1-4 (ESV))

And as John 1, tells us, in the beginning, this all-powerful, all-knowing “Voice of God”, “The Word”, simply spoke and by the power of the words of His mouth, everything that now exists came into being. By His simple utterance of the words “let there be”, everything, light, and the earth, and all that lives upon the earth, and all of the heavens suddenly came into being. For six days, Jesus spoke words, and from the breath of His mouth, everything that exists was born into being. This six days was the only “big bang” that ever took place. This “Word” of God, the Lord Jesus is magnificent beyond comprehension!

And here in our passage in 1st John, the “voice”, the “Word” of God is being addressed once again, here being called the “Word of life”. The “Word of Life”! Listen again, 1st John 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. 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. 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. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.  
(1 John 1:1-4 (NIV))

Here, the Holy Spirit wants us to immediately understand that the “Word of Life” is Jesus and that He is “God”. Not as the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Mormons and others want to wrongly declare, that Jesus was just a man who was chosen by God to be our Savior. But rather, Jesus is God and He was present long before mankind was ever created.

And for those people who need “evidence” to bolster their faith, the Apostle John, testifies over and over that he and others personally heard, saw and touched this “Man” Jesus.

1 That . . . 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. (1 John 1:1 (NIV))

John is stating emphatically that God the Son, the eternal Spirit, the Lord Jesus, came among us as a mortal Man. And John is testifying to Jesus’ physical presence because

he personally saw and heard and touched Jesus. And John even went so far as to lay his head on Jesus' bosom. That folks, is solid "eye-witness" testimony.

And also in verse 1, the Holy Spirit made another declaration about Jesus. He called Jesus the "Word of Life". And it is so very important that we grasp His intent in this particular Name. As we read in John chapter 1, in Jesus there is life, eternal life. And for us to have this life that He has brought to us, we must have Him. Later on, in 1st John 5, the Holy Spirit will tell us

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (1 John 5:11-12 (NASB))

Jesus is the "Word of Life" and if you and I are to have eternal life, we must first have Jesus.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (1 John 5:11-12 (NASB))

And here, John also declares one of the great blessings of us having this "Word of Life" living with us. Because He lives within us, we can have blessed fellowship with other people who also have Jesus living within their hearts. Verse 3,

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. 4 We write this to make (your and) our joy complete. (1 John 1:1-4 (NIV))

When believers are willing to join together in oneness in their churches, in their families and in their neighborhoods, there are blessings beyond measure. It is just as Jesus prayed in John 17,

21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (John 17:21-23 (ESV))

And again, here in these words of 1st John, beginning in verse 3,

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. 4 We write this to make (your and) our joy complete. (1 John 1:1-4 (NIV))

Folks, the “Word of Life” given to you and me in our salvation fills us and gives us blessing beyond measure. The sweet fellowship that we have with other believers makes our daily life so very pleasant.

May I close with one last thought concerning this blessed fellowship we have with other believers. This is the reason why God commands you and me to always choose a “life mate”, a husband or wife who is a believer, just as we are, and to not be “unequally yoked to an unbeliever”. Living in such intimate closeness with our wife or husband requires that we be one with Christ, one with each other and in “one accord”. And this is the only way for that to take place, for us to be bound together with the presence of the Spirit of Christ dwelling within us. With Him in us, we can be “one” and in “one accord”. Listen as we close!

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. 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. 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. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

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