

A photograph of a dirt path leading through a forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The path is covered in fallen leaves and leads towards a bright light source in the distance.

*The Letters of* JOHN  
Walk in *The Light*

Setting the Stage

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our[a] joy may be complete.” 1 John 1:1-4

## About the Author

- most agree, not explicit
- 3 reasons I believe it's John
  - a) Early Christian Writers Agree
    - Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian
  - b) Author is an eyewitness to Christ
    - 1:1, heard, seen, looked and touched
  - c) Style, Language, Themes
    - reads with gospel of John closely

## Pictures of John

- John 21:24 “This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.”
- John 13:23 “One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side”
- John 19:26 “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” 27 Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.”

- John 20:24 “Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.”

Theme – Desires you to walk in the Light

John 3:20-21 “For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

- knowing God changes you, live in light

Sets the Stage in verses 1-4

Simple Observations

1. Christ Existed Eternally (vs.2)

- Eternal life that was with the Father

- creation, plan of redemption, return – eternal

- John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

- Manifested

- became man, seen and experienced

- Phil. 2:5-7 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men”

## 2. Christ Became a Man (1)

- visible, human form
- vs.1 – saw, looked upon, touched with our hands
- a) lots of struggle around this
  - argue great spiritual leader but God become man? How does that happen?
  - 2 John 7 “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

b) has some deep implications

- around the authority and power of Jesus
- around our response & surrender
- around the light and truth we walk in

### 3. Fellowship with the Father reality

#### a) experienced by John

- fellowship (koinonia), sharing significant things in common with others connecting you in life and purpose
- brings great joy

#### b) basis for this is Christ

- not common interests alone, or even shared experiences, but walking with the Father through Jesus work on our behalf

#### 4. Clear about His Desire in Writing

##### a) Testify to the truth

- eyewitness, experienced this, enjoy fellowship

##### b) Desire you to have this fellowship

- know the joy, have the eternal

##### c) Joy may be complete

- loves them, desire for them to know Christ
- rejoice in the life that will bring – in the light
- celebrate the eternal truth

## So What

1. Review these Theological truths
  - investigate doubts, come to truths to stand on
2. Ask for a deep desire for growth in fellowship
  - growing in discipleship, walking in the light, joy
3. Be open to Holy Spirit in this series
  - convicting of truth we need to respond to
  - enabling you in walking
4. Communion