

1 John 1:1-4

The Word of Life is Eternal Life

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. - Pray

Many people today are searching for Life and meaning in life.

A) Harrison Ford – who is one of the most successful actors ever in Hollywood –
➤ his movies have grossed over \$ 2Billion –

B) He was quoted as saying once in an interview – “You only want what you aint got”.

C) The interview asked him – what don’t you have
1) Without hesitation he responded – PEACE – I don’t have peace

“I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer.” — Jim Carrey

Bieber expressed on Instagram, “Hey world that glamorous lifestyle you see portrayed by famous people on Instagram; don’t be fooled thinking their life is better than yours, I can promise you it is not!”— Justin Bieber

Lady Gaga - I used to wake up every day and remember I was Lady Gaga — and then I would get depressed," She added - I was peeling all the layers of the onion in therapy," "So as you dig deeper, you get closer to the core, and the core of the onion stinks."

D) So many famous people are empty – achieved goals success and fame – not REAL LIFE

The apostle John wants us to understand that Real life is POSSIBLE –

A) It’s found in the Word of Life – Jesus - Title of our message today is - The Word of Life is Eternal Life

B) Before we break down this passage lets meet the Author

C) Author: John: One of the Disciples of Jesus
➤ One of four fishermen among the Disciples, along with his brother James and Peter and his brother Andrew.

D) James and John were the sons of Zebedee
➤ Jesus would later dub them as the Sons of Thunder- Call down fire from heaven on a town that rejected Jesus

E) Chill out guys – you don’t know what spirit you are of – but that is not my spirit – not my heart.

John was a prolific writer in the New Testament – He Wrote

- The Gospel of John
- The book of Revelation
- The epistles of 1,2,3 John

A) Matthew, Mark, and Luke are Synoptic gospels

1) They tell the Story of Jesus from different points of view for different audience

B) Matthew Wrote to the Jews – Jesus as the Messiah and King

C) Mark wrote to a Roman audience – focus Jesus the servant – his miracles

D) Luke wrote to the Greeks and focus is on the Humanity of Jesus

E) John is called a Didactic gospel - wrote to the Christians –

1) Singular focus – Jesus was Divine God in Human flesh

John tells us some interesting things about himself in his gospel

A) He could run faster than Peter John 20:4- first to the tomb

B) He was the disciple whom Jesus loved John 13:23- Favorite

C) He was the only disciple at the foot of the cross John 19:25-27- take care of my mom – treat her like she was your mom.

John has a spiral writing style in 1 John

A) He writes in a series of revolving topics that he keeps circling back around and building on.

B) It can feel like he is being repetitious until you realize that he is building upon what he said earlier

1) We will see this as we go through the book.

C) Also important to note the Context of John's writing

Roman persecution against Christians had become really intense

A) Many Christians were being Martyred –

B) John will talk about a prevailing Anti-Christ spirit that was prevalent

C) Rome was also extremely wicked culture

- Men were exalted and in power
- Women and Children were marginalized

D) Sexual Promiscuity including Homosexuality was rampant and accepted as the Norm

That was the world that the Christians were living in to whom John was writing.

A) Interesting – He doesn't say one word about overthrowing the GOVT or revolting against....

B) Instead he describes a life full of meaning and purpose

1) that would stand in great contrast to everything that was the norm in that Culture

C) And John Describes a Joy – in the midst of difficulty.

D) Big idea for today: Jesus is the Word of Life –

3 things connected to this big idea.

- **This life is to be experienced**
- **This life is to be shared**
- **This life results in fullness of Joy**

Start with the Big idea Jesus is the Word of life

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

The Word is one of John's favorite descriptions of Jesus

A) Reason was in the Greek Culture – they recognized that there was an order to the Universe

B) There was a principle of reason for everything that exist - a non-descript force an essence or wisdom

C) They referred to this force or essence of wisdom as THE WORD – THE LOGOS

Now the JEWS took the Greek concept of the logos one step further.

A) The Greek Philosopher Plato said behind everything there's a perfect thought (The logos),

B) The Jews said that behind the perfect thought there must be a thinker.- God Yahweh

C) John says – Jesus is the Word – He is the Logos – notice how he describes it - That which was from the beginning

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 nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Jesus is the Word of life

- Jesus was in the Beginning
- Jesus was manifested or revealed in the flesh
- ² the life was manifested

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. John 1:14

The Word (the Logos) that was with God and was God – that Created everything – but on Flesh – became human

A) He was manifested – he was revealed

B)John says We saw him, touched him, ate with him.

C)The Most powerful testimony is an EYEWITNESS testimony.

John and the other disciples spent 3 years with Jesus walking with him – eating – doing life together

A)They heard him teach – watched him do miracles – walk on water – raise the dead – feed the multitudes

B)Then they watched him get arrested – John was at the foot of the Cross watched him die

C)But three days later – they saw him Risen from the dead!

1)Not just the Apostles – but over 500 eye witnesses

The Resurrection is the key to the Christian Faith

A)If Jesus didn't rise again from the dead – no reason for us to be here – pointless – THERE ISN'T MORE – there is nothing

B)We might as well be at home watching football – or at the beach – if Jesus didn't rise from the dead

C)When I was a Sophomore in High School – I was a Christian – I was challenged – why do a Believe this

1)Good Question – Why – Parents ? A pastor? Friends?

Did a Deep Dive into the Theology of Christianity

A)Quickly discovered – Everything hinges on the Resurrection.

B)If Jesus didn't Rise from the dead – Liar and a Lunatic – claiming to be God and the only way to Salvation

C)All the evidence points to the Rez. – Empty tomb

He didn't really die – He swooned

A)Take the Skeptic – Beat with a Cat of Nine tails – unrecognizable – Nail to a Cross – Hung on the Cross for 6 hrs

B)Spear to the heart – Wrapped up like a Mummy – Tomb – Stone weigh several tons

1)Some how was revived – rolled the stone away fought off the guards

C)The Disciples stole the body – Didn't become Famous – or Rich – persecuted

D)All died Martyred deaths – Sawn in two – Crucified – heads cut off
Not one denied

The Greatest legal minds have sought to disprove the Resurrection only to become followers of Jesus

A)Since Jesus has Risen from the dead – that means I can believe the Bible

B)Not confused about Gender – Jesus said – Made them Male and female

1)Not confused about Marriage – Man shall leave.... Wife

C)Don't have to doubt that a guy named Jonah spent 3 days in the belly of a big fish –

➤ Jesus talked about Jonah as a FACT

When you experience the power of a Resurrected Jesus – it changes everything.

A)When I was 10 yrs old my dad who was nothing close to being a Christian – got radically saved

B)Transformation - though not over night was incredible – Quit Drinking – heavy drinker –

1) Tony you don't need that –
2) 4 33 gallon trash cans

C)He was angry a lot –short fuse – suddenly Really nice – started treating my mom great

D)Impact – Jesus is Real

John wants us to Know – Jesus is the Word of Life – a real historical person.

A)Same way we know George Washington was our 1st president and Abe Lincoln was our 16th President – helped end Slavery

B)Donald Trump was our 45th President and our 47th president – Historical Record

C)John is declaring that Jesus was a real Human being – Manifested in the flesh

This was important to note because there was a heresy circulating at that time called Gnosticism.

A)Gnostics comes from the term to Know – it is the opposite of being Agnostic

B)An Agnostic says if there is a God he is unknowable

C)The Gnostics said the opposite – Oh we can know – in fact we have superior knowledge ‘

1)The Gnostics had this weird theology about Jesus

The Gnostics said that Jesus was born a mere human being until the time of his Baptism –

A)When Jesus was baptized the “Christ Consciousness” (Very new age) came upon him and stayed on him until his death

B)On the Cross the Christ Consciousness left him and he died a mere human being and didn’t rise from the dead

C)Gnostics also taught that all matter was evil and so some even taught that Jesus was a Phantom –

1)didn’t leave foot prints

John is writing to refute that – Jesus was Fully Human

A)We saw him – listened to him – touched him – ate with Him – he was manifested in the Flesh – Fully Human

B)But also Fully Divine – THE GOD MAN – He was in the beginning with God.

C)Not a Force - After the Resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples - Luke 24:39 recorded- "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

D)Later He also ate food – Ghost or Phantoms don’t eat food

So Jesus is the Word of Life

A)This life is to be experienced V.1-2

B)Jesus wasn’t Just a Historical – He is personal

C)John and his brother James were out fishing one day when Jesus showed up on the shore

1)Called them to leave their boats and follow him

D)For John everything changed that day!

Notice how John 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

A)Notice John doesn’t say that Jesus brings eternal life –HE DOES- but that he is eternal life.

B)Eternal life – Speaks of a Quality of Life

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent John 17:3

C)Know is Ginosko – relationship – a depth

D)John experienced eternal life – that deeper richer quality of life living in relationship with Jesus

E)Really the Difference between being just a Believer and a Disciple

Jesus said the goal is to make Disciples not just believers – Go into all the world and make not converts

A)Greg Laurie is right – Every Disciple is a believer but not every believer is a Disciple

B)I would describe a Disciple as being someone who is all in when it comes to Following Jesus

C)Child at the pool – Dad – Jump I will catch you

Picture a little boy standing on the side of pool - looking nervous - My grand kids

A)That little boy doesn’t understand all the dynamics of distance and gravity

B)All he knows is his dad is standing in the pool saying trust me - jump - I will catch you.

The first time he is cautious –

A)But pretty soon – he is running and jumping – big smile – FUN

B)Dad is moving farther and farther back - the little boys faith is growing with every jump

1)Pure Joy -

C)He jumps because he trust his dad

All in Mentality says – Lord I will jump - I will take that step of faith – I will let go of ...

A)My fear & need control - because I trust you.

B)Some Christians are saved – going to heaven –

1)but they are like the person who has their feet in the water first step – not swimming

C)Not really experiencing the full life in Christ

D)Others are like the person sitting on the edge – legs in the water

E)Jesus wants you to be ALL IN

A DISCIPLE KNOWS – I HAVE BEEN RAISED FOR MORE!

A) Jesus is the Word of Life

➤ **This life is to be experienced V.1-2**

➤ **This life is to be shared V.3**

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.

B)The day that John was called to follow Jesus – Fishers of men

C)Prior to that every day was about where catch fish – how to provide and get ahead

NEW PURPOSE – CATCH MEN

A)John is so excited about his relationship with Jesus he wants others to experience Him as well.

B)Fellowship = to share in Common.

C)Life is funnier Shared – Josiah at trampoline park
New best friend sharing in common – Jumping

Football fans share in common a love for their team.

A)Joy when the team wins – Sorrow when they lose

B)Find something amazing – you want to share it right – Restaurant – Coffee shop – special place

C)I grew up not far from Disneyland when I was a kid – back before going to DL cost a Fortune

1)We went all the time

When I got older – grew out of the Disneyland faze – wasn't that exciting anymore – didn't go for years

A)Then we had kids and kids were in Elementary school – suddenly we wanted to take our kids to Disneyland

B)Something is special to you – you want to share it – Guys is there anything more special than Jesus

Mission: Know Jesus and to make Him Known

A)Believer – Fall in love with him and Become a Disciple

B)if Disciple – Know your identity in Jesus – your place in his Kingdom

C)Not a Believer – We want you to come to know Him

1)BECOME A DISCIPLE

D)Experience eternal life – REAL LIVING

LAST THING JOHN TELL US

Jesus is the Word of Life

➤ **This life is to be experienced V.1-2**

➤ **This life is to be shared V.3**

➤ **This life results in a Fullness of Joy**

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

A)Happiness vs Joy – Happiness is based on happening

B)Joy is that inner sense of Peace – I know who I am I know to who I belong – I know why I am here – I know where I am going

C)Joy is a deep sense of contentment and gladness – that originates from your relationship with God

Remember John is writing during this time of intense Persecution

A)Christians are being Killed by the 1,000's

B)Living in the midst of a culture that is very Anti-Christ – against Jesus

C)An Immoral culture – way worse than what we are experiencing today.

John Says We are experiencing so much Joy in following Jesus

A)We want you to experience that as well

B)We want your Joy to be Full!

C)We have been MADE FOR MORE!

Jesus the Word of Life is Eternal Life

A) We experience that life by being ALL IN

B) Not just Believers – Disciples – All IN – following Jesus. – AMEN? – PRAY

Not a Believer: Jesus died – rose – lives – life to you
Prodigal – 2025 come home 2025 follow Jesus

Believer but not a Disciple?