

1 John – God is Love: Week One

What it Means to Have Fellowship

Day Two: The Word of Life

Today we will focus our attention on John’s descriptive title for Jesus in the first verse of Chapter One.

Fill in the blank (1 John 1:1)

“...what we (he and the other eye witnesses) have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the

_____.

Don’t you find it interesting, that John doesn’t use the name of His friend and Lord - **Jesus**? Although he doesn’t give you His actual name, it is very clear that he could be describing no one else but the Lord Jesus. Think about this - he had already written the Gospel of John when he wrote this letter. The Gospel of John reveals many names that Jesus or others used to describe Him. John had quite a few options in choosing the right title for this letter!

Names like the following: (Look them up!)

John 1:34 _____

1:36 _____

1:41 _____

1:45 _____

1:49 _____

1:51 _____

6:35,48,51 _____

8:12, 12:46 _____

10:7,9 _____

11:25 _____

14:6 _____

15:1,5 _____

20:28 _____

Each descriptive name of Jesus tells us something unique about Him, don't they? None of these 14 names were chosen by John to describe the One whom He was writing about in 1 John. He chose the name, "Word of Life" intentionally.

After looking up all of the names above, why do you suppose John chose "Word of Life"?

I think that none of those names adequately expressed the picture of Jesus, that John wanted us to see. It's not that Jesus isn't those other names too. If we take each of those descriptions, mix them together and add "Word of Life", maybe we will begin to get a glimpse into the Son of God-Son of Man, who is far beyond our human comprehension. Remember how John introduced Jesus in his Gospel?

Read John (the Gospel) 1:1-5, 9-14

What are we to understand about the "Word", and the "Life"?

1. By describing Jesus as the "**Word**", we are reminded that Jesus is eternal. He was with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the Beginning – the Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End.
2. We are reminded that God created the world by **speaking** it into existence.
3. We are reminded that Jesus is Omnipotent – all powerful. His Words have unlimited power and authority. John heard Jesus **speak powerful words** like, "Be still!" to the wind and waves, and they obeyed Him! (Mark 4:39) or "Lazarus, come forth!" and the dead man walked out. (John 11:43)
4. Look up 1 Peter 1:23-25a and fill in the blanks.

"For you have been born again, not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the _____.

For "All flesh is like grass, and all it's glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower fall off, but _____."

Jesus Himself is the all-powerful Word, and His seed – His imperishable seed – is what saved us. We are born again because we believed the Word of Life. Jesus Himself is the Word of Life – "and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14) The Word of Life is also powerfully working and growing stronger in you as you read it today.

5. Read Matthew 4:4 and fill in the blanks.

*“Man shall not live by bread alone but on _____
that proceeds out of the _____.”*

We need the Word (Scripture) to nourish the impenetrable seed of Life that Jesus planted in us when we were born again. Picture the image in Ezekiel of the dry bones. When we placed our faith in Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God breathed Life into us, that Seed was planted, and the dry bones began to have life again.

6. Read Hebrews 4:12 and fill in the blanks.

*“The _____ is _____ and _____ and sharper
than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both
joints and marrow and able to judge the _____ and _____ of the heart.*

God’s Word is not only alive, it is Life! Jesus is the Word of Life.

I think John used the “Word of Life” title to convey to us that Jesus cannot be understood by human reasoning or senses. The only hope of understanding the Son of God, is to understand Him through spiritual discernment and hear what He is saying with spiritual ears and receive truth from Him as He reveals it to us. Paul said, “In Him, we live and move, and have our being”. (Acts 17:28)

This One that John is describing as “the Word of Life” wants to have fellowship with us. That means if we want to have fellowship with Him, we will need to know Him on His terms – not ours. **We can’t discern the things of the Spirit while we are carnal or fleshly-minded.**

7. Read Romans 8:5-6 and fill in the blanks.

*“For those who are according to the flesh _____ on the things of
the _____, but those who are according to the _____,
on the things of the _____. For the _____ set on the flesh is _____.
But the _____ set on the Spirit is _____.”*

We need to determine to set our minds on the things of the Spirit. That is the key to walking with Jesus, the Word of Life.

In closing, let's read what Jesus spoke to the unbelieving Jews in John Chapter 8:

*"I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because **My word** has no place in you." John 8:37*

*"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because **you cannot hear My word.**" John 8:43*

*"**He who is of God hears the words of God;** for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God." John 8:47*

What can you do if you are not yet (born again) "of God?"

Believe in Jesus. Believe in His death on the cross and His resurrection. Pray and ask Jesus to be the Lord and Master of your life. Repent, and ask His forgiveness for your past sins.

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13

"If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." Romans 8:10-11

*"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the **Word of Christ.**" Romans 10:17*