

THE PURPOSE OF OUR SALVATION ...



... FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD

THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN IS ABOUT US KNOWING THE THINGS WE SHOULD KNOW IF WE BELIEVE ...

1. God wants those who truly believe in him to be certain and confident in their faith.

A. Know that if we truly believe then we have eternal life.

- (1 John 5:13 ESV) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

B. Know we are in God.

- (1 John 2:5–6 ESV) But whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

C. Know there are many antichrists.

- (1 John 2:18–19 ESV) Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

D. Know that we will be like him one day.

- (1 John 3:2–3 ESV) Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

E. Know that we have passed out of death to life.

- (1 John 3:13–14 ESV) Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

F. Know love.

- (1 John 3:16 ESV) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

G. Know that God abides in us.

- (1 John 3:24 ESV) Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

H. Know God listens to us.

- (1 John 4:6 ESV) We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

I. Know we abide in him and he in us.

- (1 John 4:13 ESV) By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

J. Know that we love the children of God.

- (1 John 5:2–3 ESV) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

K. Know we have eternal life and know that he hears us in whatever we ask.

- (1 John 5:13–15 ESV) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

L. Know that the person who has been born of God is not an unrepentant, practicing sinner.

- (1 John 5:18 ESV) We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

M. Know that we are from God and the world lies in the power of the evil one.

- (1 John 5:19 ESV) We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

N. Know that the Son of God has come and that we may know him who is true.

- (1 John 5:20 ESV) And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding,

so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

THE PURPOSE OF THE WITNESS ...

2. John states his purpose for writing three times in the letter.

A purpose is the reason for which something is made, done, created, or exists.

A. John did the same thing in the Gospel of John in clearly stating his purpose.

- (John 20:30–31 ESV) Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

That by believing Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, you may have life in his name.

B. He wrote these things so that our joy, with the apostles, may be full and complete.

- (1 John 1:4 ESV) And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

C. He wrote these things that we may not sin but teaches us what happens if we do sin.

- (1 John 2:1 ESV) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

D. He wrote these things so that we may know that we have eternal life.

- (1 John 5:13 ESV) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

This seems to be the main overriding purpose.

E. The teaching in the letter gives us the information we need to be assured by God that we have eternal life.

- i. This will be evident by our joy in fellowship with the apostles, the Father and his Son.
- ii. By trusting Christ in our battle against sin.
- iii. By confirmation of our saved state by the Spirit of God through the word of God.

THE CREDENTIALS OF THE WITNESS ...

3. John was a firsthand witness to the reality of the One who is the word of life, 1:1.

- (1 John 1:1 ESV) 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.

Looked upon ... θεάομαι [theaomai] – to behold, look upon, view attentively, contemplate; to gaze upon something that stimulates the moral and mental faculties in an impressive, even often astonishing, way.

Living in a world of lies and pretense we need rock solid proof of what is true as to how we may have eternal life. And that is how the Apostle John begins his letter ... with eyewitness, objective, studied, historical proof—a real, factual, and authentic part of history as opposed to myth, legend, or fiction.

A. God, as the Son of God, came to earth and John knew him by the concrete evidence.

B. John gives witness to that by directing our attention to the fact that he heard him speak, he saw him with his own eyes and he looked upon his life and touched him with his hands.

C. John identifies this Person as the word of life.

D. The Word that John spoke of in John 1:1 he now reveals as the word of life.

E. The word of life was from the beginning speaking of his eternal nature.

F. The Word was in the beginning which likewise spoke of his eternal nature.

- (John 1:1–4 ESV) 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.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS ...

4. John testifies to the historicity of the word of life being made visible and seen by and openly identified to be the eternal life, 1:2.

- (1 John 1:2 ESV) 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.

A. The word of life was brought into sight and made visible on earth.

Manifest ... φανερώω [phaneroō] – to appear; to come into sight or view; to make visible; make known what has been hidden or unknown, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way; make actual and visible, realized; to make known by teaching; expose to view.

- (Colossians 1:15 ESV) **He is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of all creation.
- (John 1:14 ESV) **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 14:8–9 ESV) Philip said to him, “**Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.**” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

B. The apostles saw the word of life made actual and visible, they testified to this and proclaimed to us their conclusion—that the word of life is eternal life.

C. This manifestation to the apostles of the word of life as eternal life was the work of the Father.

THE DECLARATION OF THE WITNESS ...

5. Eternal life is fellowship with God, 1:3.

- (1 John 1:3 ESV) 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.**
- A. John stated that this information regarding the One that they had seen who was the word of life and who is eternal life had been made known to them.
- B. They did this so they could have fellowship with others who have eternal life and fellowship with God.

THE REASON THE WITNESS WRITES ...

6. John, in agreement with the other apostles, wrote these things so that we may have the complete joy of fellowship with God and other believers, 1:4.

- (1 John 1:4 ESV) And we are writing these things **so that our joy may be complete.**

A. John wrote that our joy (χαρά [chara]) may be made complete (πληρώω [plerōō]).

B. The joy of our salvation is a deep, lasting spiritual joy that is unlocked through fellowship with God and Jesus Christ

C. The joy of our salvation is grounded in the historical reality and eyewitness testimony of the Gospel.

D. The joy of our salvation is an enduring happiness that transcends external circumstances.

E. The joy in our salvation is a fullness of joy meaning it is not partial or anemic but joy supplied by God in abundance.

- (Psalm 16:11 ESV) You make known to me the path of life; **in your presence there is fullness of joy**; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

F. Our joy is full because it is the joy of Jesus in us.

- (John 15:11 ESV) These things I have spoken to you, **that my joy may be in you**, and **that your joy may be full.**

CONCLUSION: THIS LETTER IS A GREAT PLACE TO TEST OUR FAITH ...

- (2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV) **Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.** Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

How might we test ourselves?

Do we know the things that God says someone who truly believes in him should know. Two words for know are used.

Do we have the correct information?

οἶδα [oida]– to know; to be cognizant or aware of a fact or a specific piece of information.

Do we live by the correct information?

Γινώσκω [ginosko] – to know experientially; to learn to know by doing, come to know.