

Where Fellowship with God Begins

There is a difference between relationship and fellowship. A son is always his father's son; that relationship never changes. But fellowship can fluctuate. It can be broken and restored.

So it is with you and God. The moment you believed in Jesus, God forever adopted you into His family. Your relationship is permanent and secure. But your fellowship with God can fluctuate. It can be hanging by a thread, or it can be thriving.

This book is for any Christian who wants to grow deeper in their intimacy with God. John uses the word fellowship four times in chapter one alone, and throughout the book he describes fellowship with God as knowing God, abiding in God, and seeing God.

But where does Fellowship with God begin?

**FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD BEGINS WITH
KNOWING THE REAL JESUS.**

Who is the real Jesus? John gives us 5 answers.

Answer #1 – The Real Jesus is the Source of Life (v. 1)

"That which was from the beginning." He is talking about a message of life wrapped up in a Person, the Word of Life, the life, the eternal life, **Jesus.**

Jesus not only is from the beginning (the beginning of everything), but John had been preaching the truth about Jesus from the beginning of the church age.

Jesus is not just someone who talks about life. Jesus IS life. He is the source of it. Before anything existed, He was there.

Colossians 1:16 says by Jesus all things were created.

John 1:3 says apart from Jesus nothing was

made that has been made.

Your life is not an accident. You exist because He brought you into existence. You are known by Jesus, loved by Jesus, and made by Jesus. And the same Jesus who gave you physical life is offering you life that never ends.

Answer #2 — The Real Jesus Became One of Us (vv. 1–2)

"That which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands."

John heard Jesus, saw Jesus, and touched Jesus. Someone once said there is a difference between seeing Jesus and gazing upon Jesus.

Seeing Jesus — looking to Him in faith for salvation — is how you are saved.

Gazing upon Jesus — studying Him, fixing your eyes on Him over time — is how you grow.

Seeing Jesus saves you. Gazing upon Jesus sanctifies you.

We could not come up to God's level. So in love, Jesus came down to ours, bridging the gap so that sinful, finite humans could have fellowship with the perfect, holy, infinite God.

Answer #3 – The Real Jesus is the One Who Can Give You Eternal Life (v. 2)

"The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life."

Life on earth is a gift, but it has an expiration date.

Eternal life is different; it is living forever in fellowship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the life your soul was made for.

Counterfeit Jesuses cannot offer you that life. But the real Jesus can. It is a gift; you cannot work for it, earn it, or pay for it. Receive it by faith in Jesus. Believe who He is — the eternal One who became a man for you.

Believe what He did — He died for your sins and rose from the grave, paying your debt in full.

Believe in Him — and the moment you do, you have eternal life right now, forever.

Answer #4 — The Real Jesus is the One Who Brings You Into True Fellowship (v. 3)

"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."

John's motive is an open invitation — “come one, come all, come now, come as you are.”

Fellowship with the Father can only come through knowing the real Son. Whoever has the Son has

the Father also, but whoever denies the Son does not have the Father. The real Jesus brings you into true fellowship with God and His family.

Answer #5 — The Real Jesus is the One Who Can Give You Complete Joy (v. 4)

"And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."

Joy is the inner contentment of the soul that stands with you through all the ups and downs of life, because you know that you are right with God and God is for you.

Complete joy is not found in a comfortable life or getting everything you want. It is found in knowing the real Jesus, walking in fellowship with Him, and pointing others to Him, and having fellowship with them.

God is in the business of restoring joy to people who have lost it. He is the God of eternal joy, and

a life centered on Jesus is the source of complete joy.