

A glowing lightbulb is the central focus of the image, set against a dark blue background. The lightbulb is illuminated from within, casting a warm, golden glow. The glass of the bulb is clear, revealing the internal filament and the base. The lightbulb is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its glow extending towards the center. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Walk in the light

Exposition Lite 1 John Part 1
John 1:1-4 (Of fellowship and the word)

1Jn 1:1-4 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, of the Word of life; (2) (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) (3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (4) And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

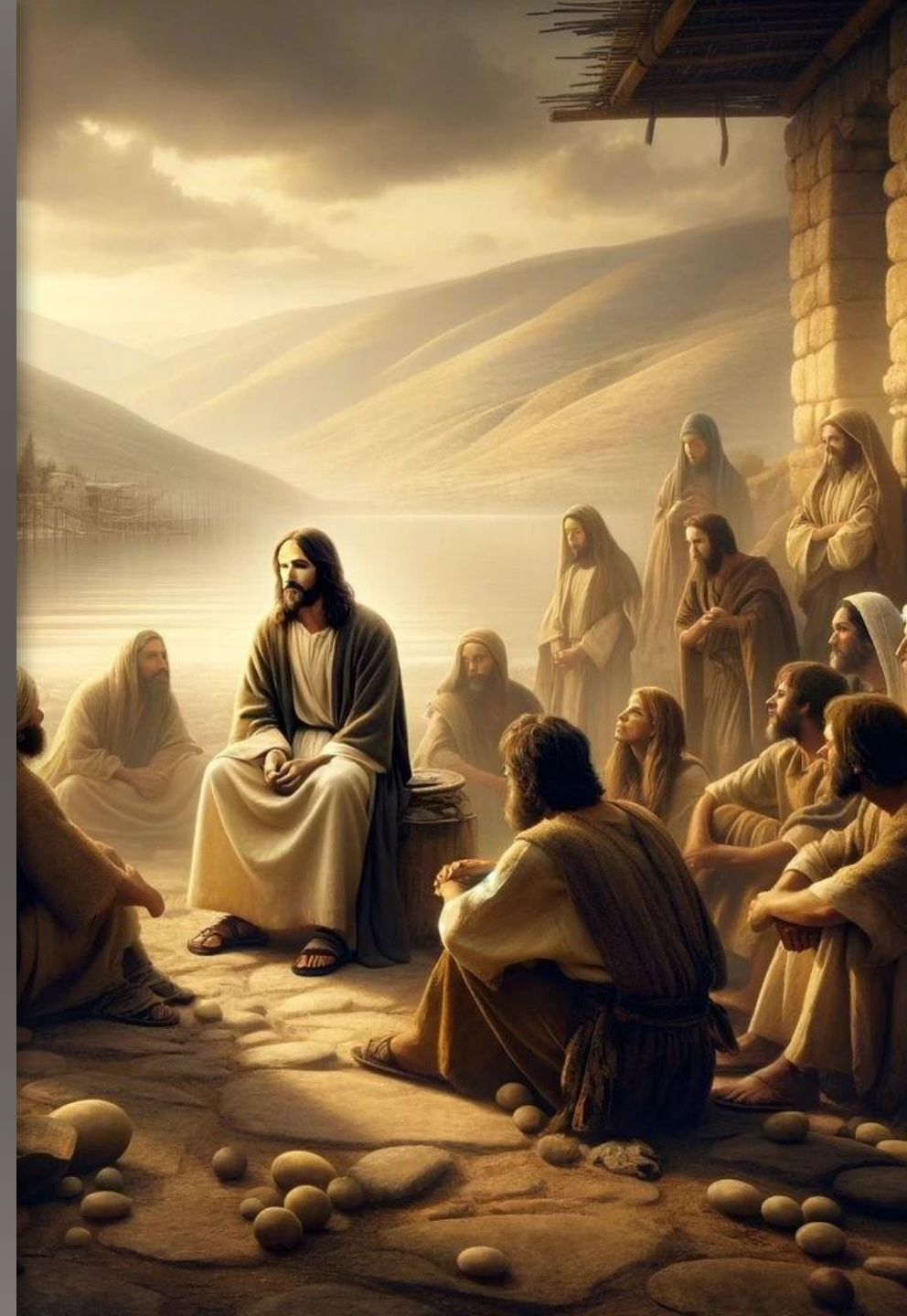


A little Context

- Why? The writings in 1 John deal primarily with:
 - False Teaching (Christ's Incarnation)
 - And Christ's Messiahship
 - Fellowship, community, faith and reason, covenant and redemption, and ethics and morality.
- Written around 80-90 AD most likely
- By: John it is presumed.
- To: Christians in Asia most likely around Ephesus. (Universal Epistle?)

Verse 1

- 1Jn 1:1 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, of the Word of life;
- Might be reminded of John 1:1
- Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- That which was from the beginning...
 - Clearly, we are talking about the incarnate Christ.
 - Establishing the subject and authority by which the epistle is written.



Verse 1 continued

... We HEARD...

- Accounting for John's hearing of the teachings that Christ delivered to them all.
- The Parables
- The Sermons
- Not to mention the countless hours John would have spent listening at Jesus the Christ's feet.

... Have SEEN...

- Seeing is truly believing right?
- Watched Jesus eat, drink, speak, heal, raise the dead, and perform a myriad of miracles.
- These things are establishing the eyewitness accounts of Jesus the Christ's incarnation, and John's apostleship.

... Have TOUCHED...

- Hands have held.
- Where sight and sound can deceive, touch often is a more reliable witness.
- That why in stories often when confronted with the unbelievable there is an attempt to reach out and physically contact the subject.

Concerning the word of life...

- Heard, Seen, and Touched... because Jesus was not just some idea, nor mythology. He was physical and real, corporeal.
- Word of Life because Jesus contained life within himself, resurrected from the dead so that he might be, “the firstborn from the dead.” (Col. 1:18)
- ...because he has life in himself, as God, as the Mediator, and as man, and is the author of life, natural, spiritual, and eternal, it must be understood as he, the Word, is made manifest in the flesh; for he, as the Word, or as a divine person, or as considered in his divine nature, is not to be seen nor handled: this therefore is spoken of the Word, or of the person of Christ, God-man, with respect to his human nature, as united to the Logos, or Word of God; and so is a proof of the truth and reality of his human nature, by several of the senses. –John Gill-



Verse 2

1Jn 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

- Φανερώω (phaneroō) to make manifest or visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way.

Might also remind you of... Joh 1:14 And the Word was made 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.

- Γίνομαι (ginomai) to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being.

Life was made manifest over word made flesh?

Why in this case manifest over made?

Verse 2 cont.

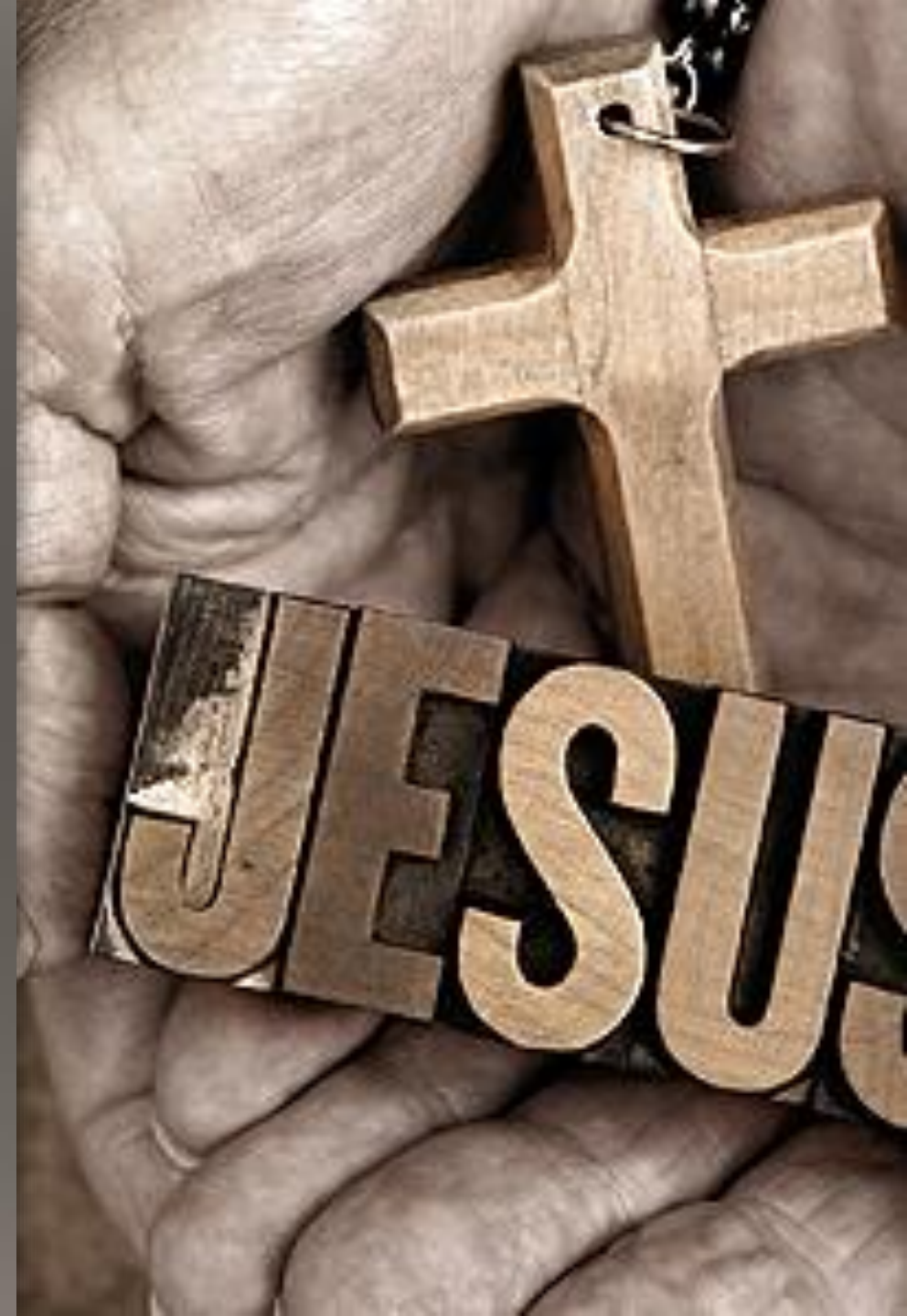


- Why manifest over made here?
- Manifest- to show something clearly, through signs or actions:
- Made- produced in the stated way or place:
- In John its about that which was to come being made in flesh to dwell with man, it was all about Emmanuel, God with us.
- In 1 John its all about that which was made (not being contested) being manifested or clearly demonstrated to be all that is claimed (It was life manifested).
- Because we heard him, saw him, touched him.

Verse 3

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

- That which we (the witnesses) have seen and heard declare (bring tiding or report) unto you...
 - What/ who they witnessed was Christ, Emmanuel, the word made flesh, the word of life.
 - This is the essence of the gospel, that an incarnate Christ sacrificed himself for our sins so that we might be redeemed.
 - One could say this is not only about Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, and Jesus the Word, but also about the Gospel that was manifested in Him after his death, burial, and resurrection.
- Why declare it?
 - So that you might have fellowship with us...
 - Us being the apostles and other witnesses in Christ.
- What is fellowship?





That you may have fellowship

What people think...

- Potlucks, small groups, fellowship halls, activity centers, church sports teams, activities together.

What it actually is...

- Κοινωνία (koinōnia) fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse, the share which one has in anything, participation, intercourse (communication), fellowship, intimacy, the right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office), a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship.
- Fellowship as a partnership, under the manifested gospel in the made person of Christ.

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Without the Manifest life of Jesus, the Christ
We have no fellowship or partnership
And nothing to fellowship for.

So, Christ is the essential component in the fellowship of
Believers as they partner in the Gospel of Christ.

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