



1 John: Awakened to Love

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“An Expert Witness”

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Key Verses: 1 John 1:1-4

Key Thought: As the Elder experienced and partnered with Jesus, we— too— can experience and partner with Jesus, which completes our joy.

Points to Consider:

- Background:
 - i. The author identifies himself as the “Elder” (see 2 and 3 John). Similarities with the Gospel of John suggest that he had also written that Gospel.
 - ii. The author explains *why* he wrote (see 1:4; 2:1, 12-14, 21, 26; 5:13). Evidence within the sermon suggests that the author is confronting false teachers (who had departed from the faith) in the hopes of persuading his hearers to remain in the faith— confident of God’s salvation.
- 1:1-2: The Elder experienced Jesus in the sense that he knew Jesus in the flesh. → The authority of the Apostles stems from their personal experience of God incarnate.
- The Elder partners with Jesus as he proclaims him to the hearers.
- The Elder affirms that he has “fellowship” with God and that the purpose of his proclamation is that the hearers would also have “fellowship” with God (even though they did not know Jesus as he knew Jesus).
- “Fellowship” refers to sharing in the life of God.
- Sharing in the life God and leading others to also do so completes our joy.

Discussion Prompts:

- Discuss the significance of our faith as rooted in personal experience of historical events. How does this inform what it means to have “faith” in God?
- What is your experience of sharing in the life of God?
- (How) can your experience encourage the faith of others?
- What opportunities do you currently have to partner with Jesus?
- Describe an experience of joy from sharing in the life of God and/or leading someone to share in the life of God.