

Conviction: The Word of Life

Encountering the REAL
Christ and the PURSUIT
of complete joy.



Knowing Eternal Life

True Belief in Jesus - Doctrine

The letter focuses on defining the identity of the real Jesus, providing a secure foundation for faith amidst a world filled with shifting cultural values and confusion.

Living Among the Family - Love

John emphasizes how believers are meant to treat the family of God, grounding our spiritual identity in our relationships and community rather than fleeting emotions.

Walking in His Commands - Obedience

We demonstrate our faith by how we walk in God's commands, moving beyond our own fluctuating feelings to find joyful certainty through consistent, faithful action.

Throughout this letter John will test our faith in three key areas

Are we on target??

Right Doctrine

Testing our faith by examining exactly what we believe about the reality of Jesus Christ today.

Faithful Obedience

We test our faith by observing how we walk consistently in the specific commands of God daily.

Encountering Jesus

The prologue serves as the foundation where real encounters with Jesus spark our spiritual growth.

Active Love

Faith is demonstrated through the practical way we choose to treat and serve one another daily.



Echoing the Word of Life and Creation

John crafts a purposeful connection between his Gospel and 1 John, reinforcing that the Jesus of history is truly the God of eternity. He insists that the eternal pre-existent Christ and the historical Jesus are one and the same.

Theme	Gospel of John (1:1-14)	1 John (1:1-4)
Beginning	In the beginning was the Word	What was from the beginning
Identity	The Word (Logos)	The Word of life
Life	In him was life	Eternal life revealed
Evidence	We observed his glory	We have seen and touched

A Battle Against Ghostly Faith

In the late first century, the early church confronted proto-Gnosticism, a movement that threatened to distort the true nature of Christ by stripping away His humanity and replacing faith with elitist, secret knowledge. John's writings serve as a direct challenge to these illusions.

01

False teachers claimed Jesus only seemed human, arguing that God could not possibly touch or dwell within the physical, evil material world.

02

This movement offered exclusive, higher knowledge to an elite few, effectively replacing the simplicity of faith with complex, intellectual arrogance.

03

If Jesus lacked a true human body, His death was merely a simulation and human salvation an illusion, a lie John wrote to forcefully shatter.

Dismantling Claims of False Teachers

John utilizes the reality of the incarnation to systematically refute Gnostic influencers, proving that assurance arises from resting in a revealed Person rather than pursuing hidden, secret knowledge.

Gnostic/False Claim	Apostolic Counter-Truth
Jesus only "seemed" human	"What we have... touched with our hands"
Salvation is "secret knowledge"	"We testify and declare to you" (Public truth)
Physical bodies don't matter	Real fellowship happens in physical community
Spirit is good, matter is evil	The "Word of Life" became flesh and revealed

Sensory

Evidence of Physical Reality

John emphasizes the undeniable physical presence of the Son of God by using four distinct sensory verbs, confirming the Word of Life was a tangible person, not an abstract idea.



Heard

They listened to his teaching, his laughter, and his sighs, confirming his living voice.



Seen with eyes

This was not a vision or a dream; they witnessed him with clear, direct ocular evidence.



Observed

The Greek indicates a focused, prolonged gazing; they studied his life deeply over time.



Touched with hands

The ultimate proof; they held him, leaned on him, and felt his physical resurrection scars.

Growth

The four-stage progression from the historical witness of the apostles to the fullness of joy found in shared community life.



The apostles personally heard, saw, and touched the incarnate Word, grounding faith in reality.



This life-changing personal encounter compels the apostles to publicly testify and declare truth.



The primary goal of apostolic preaching is Koinōnia—drawing others into a shared, unified life.



The ultimate result is a fullness of joy, arising from right standing with God and one another.

Koinonia: Without meaningful relationship we are wrecked!

More Than Friendship

True fellowship goes beyond casual social ties to encompass shared life, truth, and a common purpose found only in Christ.

Communion with God

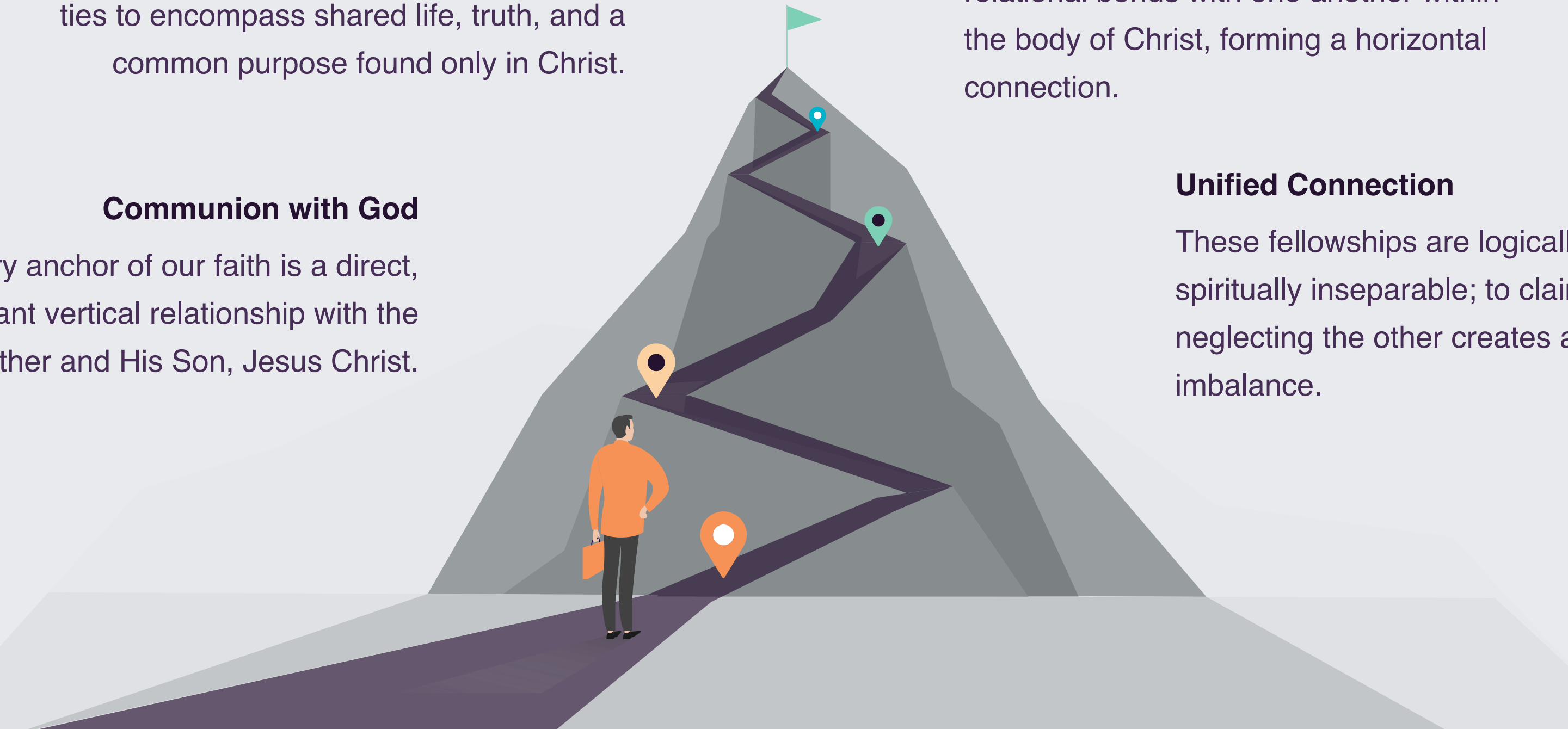
The primary anchor of our faith is a direct, vibrant vertical relationship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Church Community

Believers are meant to experience deep, relational bonds with one another within the body of Christ, forming a horizontal connection.

Unified Connection

These fellowships are logically and spiritually inseparable; to claim one while neglecting the other creates a spiritual imbalance.



01

Joy vs. Happiness

Happiness relies on fleeting outward circumstances, whereas joy is anchored in deep, unshakable conviction regardless of the external situation or environment.

02

Shared Joy

John emphasizes that his joy as a teacher only becomes truly complete when his students are walking in the truth of the real, historical Jesus.

03

The Chain Reached

The path to joy follows a specific, unbreakable chain: the real Jesus leads directly to genuine fellowship, which then blossoms into deep, unshakable joy.

04

Protecting Joy

This promise sets the stage for the letter: every following instruction regarding doctrine, love, and obedience exists to protect and sustain this complete joy.

Transitioning from spectators to witnesses

What will you do with the Word of Life this week?



Taking Your Next Step

This week, focus on practical actions to deepen your faith through connection, sharing, and self-reflection on your personal relationship with Jesus.

Share Your Story

Take one specific step this week to share your personal Jesus-story with at least one person.

Commit Daily

Continue these small, intentional steps to strengthen your faith and maintain daily connection.



Build Fellowship

Engage in real fellowship through coffee, joining a small group, or having honest conversation.

Self-Audit

Ask yourself: Is my faith actually resting on the real Jesus as he is revealed in scripture?