

## Shared Life and Full Joy (1 John 1:1-4)

With church communities shaken by the actions of one-time followers of Jesus who have now embraced something else, the Apostle John writes to bring a little clarity and a whole lot of assurance. Maybe you've been shaken by the actions of others. Maybe you've started to drift away from faith in Jesus. Regardless of your experience in the past or present, John invites us into the breathtaking wonder of the shared life and full joy he experienced first-hand in Jesus.

### 1. Eyewitness announcement | **"We saw it happen!"** (1 John 1:1-3)

V1 *That which was from the beginning.* (Pause)

It's an echo of John 1 + reminiscent of Genesis 1. John 1:1-4, 14-18 = new creation

The one who has always been, the uncreated one; the eternal, stepped into space and time.

*...which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes....* (Pause)

Matthew 13:16-17; 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:20

*Which we looked upon and have touched with our hands.* (Pause)

*Concerning the word of life = "a message that has been embodied in a person – the person of Jesus Christ."*

V2 *the life was made manifest* (made known; put on display; publicly seen).

### 2. Open invitation | **"We want you to share in it!"** (1 John 1:3-4)

koinonia = FELLOWSHIP / partnership / SHARING. This is about RELATIONSHIP with the living God. There has always been a deep sharing of life and love between God the Father and God the Son. That relationship / sharing has been extended to us.

V4 *and we are writing these things so that our joy (and yours together) may be complete (satisfied; fulfilled).* John 15:8-11

Shared life = relationship / Full joy = glad rest

## QUESTIONS

1. Think of an unusual experience you have had – an amazing place you visited, an incredible meal you ate, a remarkable person you met. How would you go about explaining it to people who have *not* had the same experience?
2. Have you ever been so shaken by the actions of someone else that it's caused you to lose your grip or at least doubt what you believe? What does John communicate in VV1-4 that would help someone in that place?
3. Read 1 John 1:1-4. How are the opening verses of this letter reminiscent of Genesis 1? Also read John 1:1-4; 14-18. What do you think John trying to communicate by this similarity?
4. Why is John's eye-witness, first-hand experience so important? Consider Acts 1:8; 4:20
5. What does John say about Jesus that only an eye-witness could say?
6. What does John say are his reasons for writing this letter?
7. This fellowship or "sharing" John describes is truly breathtaking. What are we invited into? What does this tell you about God (his character and his desires)?
8. Joy is often seen as something based in circumstances. How might our lives be impacted if we understood joy could be rooted in the immovable, unshakable truth of Jesus? How can we deepen that joy today?
9. It seems that John's joy is in some way incomplete unless it's shared with others. Have you experienced the joy of sharing Jesus with others? Of seeing others experience him?