

A stylized teal feather graphic is centered on a dark teal background. The feather is oriented vertically, with its base at the bottom and its tip at the top. The text "1 JOHN" is overlaid on the middle of the feather in a light orange, serif font. The "1" is positioned to the left of the "J", and the "O", "H", and "N" are spaced out to the right. The feather has a long, thin shaft at the bottom and a large, rounded, textured head at the top.

1 JOHN

1. Believers are the audience

This is a letter about discipleship / maturity / sanctification, not salvation

2. Abiding is the requirement

Those abiding in Christ (“walking in the Spirit”) will experience what John teaches here

I JOHN

Outline (J. Vernon McGee)

I JOHN

1. God Is Light (1:5), Chapters 1:1–2:2
2. God Is Love (4:8), Chapters 2:3–4:21
3. God Is Life (5:12), Chapter 5

Why did John write?

I JOHN

1. 1 John 1:4 – JOY
2. 1 John 2:1 – GROWTH
3. 1 John 2:12-14 – REMINDER
4. 1 John 2:26 – WARNING
5. 1 John 5:13 – ASSURANCE

Why did John write?

I JOHN

1. 1 John 2:3 – “by this we know that we have known him”
2. 1 John 2:5 – “by this we know that we are in him”
3. 1 John 3:16 – “by this we have known love”
4. 1 John 3:19 – “by this we will know that we are of the truth”

Why did John write?

I JOHN

5. 1 John 3:24 – “by this we know that he abides in us”
6. 1 John 4:2 – “by this you know the spirit of God”
7. 1 John 4:13 – “by this we know that we abide in him and he in us”
8. 1 John 5:2 – “by this we know that we love the children of God”

1 John 1:1-4 (NASB)

I JOHN

“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.”

1 John 1:1-4 (NASB)

I JOHN

*“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— **what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also**, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.”*

Prologue – 1 John 1:1-4

I JOHN

We proclaim also to you...

- what was from the beginning
- what we have heard
- what we have seen with our eyes
- what we have looked at and our hands have touched
- what we have seen and heard

Prologue – 1 John 1:1-4

I JOHN

We proclaim...

WHAT? about the Word of Life

WHY? – “so that”

- you too may have fellowship with us
- our joy may be made complete

Conclusion

I JOHN

John wrote this letter to fellow believers. His goal was to share as much as possible about his personal experience with Christ (“the Word of life”) and relationship with the Father with the hope that (at least) two results would occur. First, he wanted his readers to have close fellowship with him. Second, he wanted to be able to celebrate (“joy”) their spiritual closeness to both him and God.

Application

1 JOHN

1. How would you describe your experience with Jesus thus far?
2. What area(s) of spiritual growth are you most excited about learning from 1 John?

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