

God's Amazing Book

Journey Through the New Testament

TESTS FOR ASSURANCE

A Quick Look at the First General Epistle of John

1:1-4		1:5 God Is Light				3:10	3:11	5:12 God Is Love				5:13-21
Prologue: The Word of Life	Walk in the Light	Obey the Command of Love	Know Your Spiritual Status	Be Warned of Enemies of the Faith	Live Like Children of God	Love One Another: Part One	Test the Spirits	Love One Another: Part Two	Obey God and Experience the Victory of Faith	Believe in the Son and Enjoy Eternal Life	Conclusion: The Confidence and Characteristics of the Child of God	
	1:5 2:2	2:3 2:11	2:12 2:14	2:15 2:28	2:28 3:10	3:11 3:24	4:1 4:6	4:7 4:21	5:1 5:5	5:6 5:12		
These things I write that:	Joy may be full	May not sin			Not be deceived				Know you have eternal life			
	Satisfaction	Sin Less			Safety				Security			

Source: Dr. Danny Akin

John is saying that Jesus Christ is God's communication to us. Jesus is the noun of God, the verb of God, the adjective of God. Jesus articulates God.

When you look at Jesus Christ you see the love of God. - Jerry Vines

It is a family letter from the Father to His "little children" who are in the world. With the possible exception of the Song of Solomon, it is the most intimate of the inspired writings. - C. I. Scofield

Although advanced in age and probably the sole surviving apostle and original disciple of Christ, John continues to be actively involved in ministry. As the last remaining apostle, his words are highly authoritative among the churches of Asia Minor. In this letter (as well as in 2 and 3 John) he writes to these churches with a pastor's heart. It has been some 50 years since Jesus physically walked the earth. Most of the eyewitnesses of Christ's ministry had died by now, but John was still alive to testify about Jesus. He had walked and talked with Jesus, had seen Him heal the sick and

Fast Facts on First John

Written by? John

Written to whom? Surrounding Asian churches (possibly the 7 churches of Rev. 2-3)

Written when? A.D. 85-100

Written why?

1. To promote in the child of God true joy (1:4)
2. To prevent the child of God from committing sin (2:1)
3. To protect the child of God from those who would lead them astray (2:26)
4. To provide assurance of salvation for the child of God (5:13)

raise the dead, had watched Him die, and had witnessed His resurrection and ascension to heaven. John knew God - he had experienced fellowship with Him and watched Him teach, serve, and minister to others. **Now, out of concern for a new generation of believers, John wants his readers to know they have assurance of the indwelling God through their abiding relationship with Christ.** In simple terms, he describes what it means to have fellowship with God. At the same time, he warns that false teachers have entered the churches, denying that Jesus had actually come in the flesh. They openly reject the incarnation of Christ, and John writes from personal experience to correct this error. ¹

Evidences of Salvation (Proofs You Are Saved)

1. 1 John 2:3-4 – Are you **Steered** by the Word of God?
2. 1 John 2:15 – Are you **Separated** from the World?
3. 1 John 2:19 – Are you **Steadfast** in the Christian Life?
4. 1 John 3:9 – Are you **Sanctified** from the Power and Practice of Sin?
5. 1 John 3:14 – Are you **Saturated** with God's Love?
6. 1 John 3:17 – Do you have **Sympathy** for the Lost and Needy?
7. 1 John 3:24; 4:13 – Are you **Sealed** by the Holy Spirit?
8. 1 John 5:13 – Have you **Surrendered** yourself to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT 1 John²

1. 1 John contains no greeting or opening address.
2. John uses the affectionate term of "little children," in reference to believers, a total of nine times - more than any other New Testament writer.
3. 1 John contains two of the three great "God is" statements that John gave (1:5; 4:16).
4. 1 John contains many contrasts: light and darkness, love and hatred, truth and falsehood, Christ and antichrists, and so on.
5. 1 John contains no quotations from the Old Testament.
6. **In 1 John, the word "know" and its equivalent are used more than thirty times (John's refutation of Gnosticism: to know).**
7. 1 John makes a dozen references to Jesus in this brief epistle, and His name is found in every chapter.
8. 1 John provides one of the most definitive statements on worldliness (2:15-17).
9. 1 John is one of only two books in the Bible to use the term "antichrist" (see also: 2 John).
10. In John's three epistles, the word "truth" is a key word, which is found some twenty times.

LIFE LESSONS FROM 1 John³

1. Love is a mark of your fellowship with God.
2. You are commanded to love others as Jesus did.
3. You must resist sin, and when you do sin, you must confess your wrong to God.
4. Fellowship with God is a promise, but it is also a responsibility for how you are to live your life.

Seven Contrasts in 1 John

1. Light vs. darkness (1:5 – 2:11)
2. The Father vs. the world (2:12-17)
3. Christ vs. the antichrist (2:18-28)
4. Good works vs. evil works (2:29 – 3:24)
5. The Holy Spirit vs. the spirit of error (4:1-6)
6. Love vs. Pious Pretense (4:7-21)
7. The God-born vs. the natural-born (5:1-21)

¹ Jim George, The Bare Bones Bible Handbook, "First John".

² Jeff Lasseigne, Highway 66 (Santa Ana, CA: Calvary Chapel Publishing, 2004), "First John".

³ Jim George, "First John".