

“That You May Know”

Faith And Fellowship

1 John 1:1-10

Introduction: At the end of his first epistle John tells us why it was written: *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God” (1 Jn. 5:13).*

So we may be assured that the things in First John are there for us to believe and to have confidence in our spiritual condition. Our study will investigate some of the things that were written for us to know.

I. Basis Of Our Faith (1 John 1:1-4).

- A. Begins like the Fourth Gospel (*Jn. 1:1-3*).
 - 1. A statement of the deity of Jesus.
 - 2. Both look at *“the beginning.”*
- B. Here is also mention of evidence obtained by physical senses.
 - 1. *“Heard, seen, looked upon, handled” (1 Jn. 1:1).*
 - 2. Thus, our faith has the assurance of eye, ear and hand witnesses.
 - a. Jesus, after His resurrection, told the disciples *“see” and “handle”* that they might know (*Lk. 24:39*).
 - b. Hence, John could say like Peter, *“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables. . .” (see 2 Pet. 1:16-21).*
- C. It is possible for our physical senses to deceive us; courts often prefer more than one witness.
 - 1. Paul mentions over **five hundred** witnesses (*1 Cor. 15:5-8*).
 - 2. The apostles did not deliver anything by hearsay, human tradition or conjecture.
- D. Through the testimony of the eye, ear and hand witnesses we have fellowship with the apostles (witnesses), the Father and the Son (*1 Jn. 1:3b*).
- E. Such fellowship (which includes our forgiveness, adoption as children of God, promises of eternal life, etc.) is the completeness of joy (*1 Jn. 1:4*).

II. Basis Of Our Fellowship (1 John 1:5-10).

- A. The message from Jesus is that *“God is light...” (1 Jn. 1:5)*.
 - 1. God is the source of all light (physical and spiritual).
 - 2. Those who obey God are *“saints in the light” (Col. 1:12)*.
 - 3. The Devil and his angels are spoken of as darkness (*Eph. 6:12; Lk. 22:53; Col. 1:13*).
 - 4. There is no mixture of light and darkness with God.

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- B.** Fellowship with God is based on walking in light
(*Psa. 119:105; Jn. 1:4-9; 8:12*).
1. It is a lie to claim fellowship with God while walking in darkness (*1 Jn. 1:6*). Such is actually an impossibility.
 2. If we walk in the light we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus.
 3. This is not a one time shot (baptism) but is continuous action.
 - a. We must continue walking in the light of God’s word.
 - b. The one claiming sinlessness is deceived (*1 John 1:8*).
 4. Some people see in this the same idea as in *1 John 1:10*, but it would seem that the present tense indicates more.
 5. If “*the truth is not in us*” the blood of Jesus does not cleanse us.
 6. In verse 9, we find our belief about *verse 8* strengthened.
 - a. Lenski translates it as “*If we keep confessing our sins...*” (p. 392).
 - b. We are commanded to “*confess our sins*” (*1 Jn. 1:9*).
 - 1) This means far more than to say, “*I have sinned.*”
 - 2) “*We openly and honestly face sin without hiding it or finding excuses for it*” (Kistemaker, p. 246).
 - 3) We must confess, even to God, our specific sins: “*I have lied, stolen, lusted, etc.*”
 7. To claim sinless perfection is to call God a liar (*1 Jn. 1:10*).
 8. Sin is a common denominator of all responsible individuals (*Rom. 6:23*).

Conclusion: Can you, from our study thus far, “know that you have eternal life?” If you cannot know that you do have eternal life, it may be a strong indication that you do not have eternal life. Is your faith based on the eye, ear and hand witness of the apostles? Are you walking “in the light” of God’s word? Do you “keep confessing” your sins? Without doing so you will not “know that you have eternal life.”