



A MESSAGE FROM A FATHER OF THE FAITH 1 JOHN 1:1-4

Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter

Occasion: Solidify faith against seductive internal false teaching

Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.

Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, strengthen, and guide

It's a message about Jesus

It's a message he swears by and lives for

"The LORD your God will change your heart and the hearts of all your descendants,
so that you will love Him with all your heart and soul and so you may LIVE!"

~ Moses, *Deut. 30:6*

It's a message they need and he needs

It's a message for us, too

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John chapter 1. Then, read verses 1-4 two or three times.
2. Write down five observations from 1 John 1:1-4.
3. What seems to be John's emphasis in this passage? Consider the situation Paul warns about in Ephesus in Acts 20:28-35.
4. Study the word "life" (*zoe*) at biblehub.com. How does this idea of life add meaning to John's intended purposes ("that you may have fellowship with us"/ "that our joy may be complete")?
5. What encourages you from these verses? What challenges you?
6. Spiritual Exercise: John writes as a "spiritual father" to those who know the gospel, are trusting the gospel, and may be facing temptation to doubt or leave the essentials of the gospel. His testimony is powerful to give credibility to the message. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to either 1) write a letter to someone sharing some of your testimony to encourage them in their walk with Jesus or 2) pray with a friend who shares "fellowship" with you as a Christian but may have different beliefs on the non-essentials of the faith.