Week one 1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2**The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. **3**We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4**We write this to make our[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%201&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30545a)] joy complete.

**Take a few minutes and read the text over a few times making note of:**

* Are there any repeating ideas in the passage?
* What stands out to you from the passage?
* What questions arise from the text to explore?
* What is your initial impression of John’s main idea from this passage?

# Focussed Questions:

Circle each time John uses the words heard, seen, or touched. What does he want to communicate to his readers? (Extra: look up Gnosticism)

What are the different ways he describes Jesus in this passage? What do each tell us about him?

In v2, John uses the word appear (manifest) twice. This teaches us the eternal pre-existence of Jesus as part of the Trinity. What cults attack this doctrine? Why is it critical for the Christian?

Look up the Gospel of John 17:3. Note Jesus’s definition of eternal life. How does it expand your understanding of 1 John 1:1-4?

How would you define fellowship as used by John here?

Why is fellowship (belonging/community) important to people? How do we see this desire/need play out in humanity today?

What is his reason for writing according to this passage? V4

How is ‘our joy’ made complete?

What elements from your observations from the passage remain unanswered?

# Application

What are some ways that you could grow your fellowship with the Father/Son and fellow believers this week?