



## Daily Devotionals

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### 1 JOHN 1:1-4 THE WORD AMONG US

*<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>We write this to make our joy complete.*

The eternal Word is the source of life, and therefore, identical to life itself. As God is life, so too is that Word his Word and has been with him from before what we can know as the beginning. But although this Word was knowledge for the world, it is more than objective information or instruction for proper living. This Word is not a thought, although he fills and gives true meaning and direction to all thoughts. This Word is not just personal, but a Person. That Person is eternal, but our experience in the world with that Person begins with the Incarnation, because he was then heard and seen and touched by men. St. John was one of those men - one we call an Apostle. We know of the objective reality of Christ because of the eye witness testimony of St. John and the other Apostles. As apostles their role was to announce and demonstrate the work of God in the world through Jesus Christ. As the words of men reveal their purpose and plans, the Word of God reveals the nature and will of God to those who listen to and experience that Word.

St. John invites us into an encounter with the Incarnate Word of God in our lives today. Beyond that initial encounter, the Apostle seeks to have those who hear these words to enter into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ. If the Word is to be the Word of life, then the life of men must be impacted by Jesus where they live. This can only occur if there is the real possibility of having a living relationship with the Word, that reciprocal relationship we call fellowship. If Jesus is not a part of our lives outside of the church service on Sunday morning, or even church activities throughout the week, then we do not have fellowship with Jesus but only are in the audience for Christian events and activities. The purpose and direction of God through Jesus Christ is the reconciliation of human beings with God. Reconciliation is the beginning and the basis for fellowship with our Holy God. All who are reconciled to God desire that all others become reconciled to God, because the Spirit of God places that desire in their hearts. Therefore, we share that Good News in the hope that others will recognize God for whom he has revealed himself to be, and become reconciled to him. That is the goal that will make our joy complete.

**Lord Jesus, as you came among us bringing us the knowledge of God and making reconciliation with the Father possible, be present to us through the daily visitation of your Spirit, so that we might grow in our fellowship with you and draw others into a life-giving relationship with God. As you have made yourself known among us, may we make you known among our neighbors. Amen.**

Chuck+