

The Word of Life; 1 John 1:1-4

- I. Faith
 - a. Hebrews 11:1 (ESV); Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 - b. Faith is assurance and conviction!
 - i. Assurance – the essential or basic structure/nature of an entity, substantial nature, essence, actual being, reality (underlying structure, often in contrast to what merely seems to be) ¹
 - ii. Conviction – the act of presenting evidence for the truth of something ²
 - c. We don't place our hope, our faith in something that might not be true
 - d. Our Scriptures contain the evidence for the truth, the actual being, the reality of Jesus
 - e. When we say we have faith in God and His Son Jesus, we are really saying we have evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
- II. The Beginning
 - a. 1 John 1:1 (ESV); That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—
 - b. The Beginning
 - i. Not the birth of Jesus – not the resurrection of Jesus – the beginning, the creation
 - ii. Genesis 1:1–2 (ESV); ¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - iii. Genesis 1:26 (ESV); Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
 - iv. John takes us back to creation and lets us know that this is the Jesus they walked with
 - c. Eyewitnesses
 - i. Heard
 - 1. They walked with Jesus and listened to what He said
 - 2. A lot of times they did not understand it, but in the end, the Holy Spirit gave them a miraculous understanding of the nature of the Kingdom of God
 - 3. I can imagine how they must have been in awe of Jesus' teaching

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1040.

² Ibid, 315.

- a. Anger – murder is as bad as anger, calling someone a ‘fool’
 - b. Lust – Thinking these things in your heart is just as bad as adultery
 - c. Love – not just your friends, but your enemies as well
4. Matthew 7:28–29 (ESV); And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

ii. Seen

1. The apostles saw Jesus perform some great signs and wonders
2. Mark 4:39–41 (ESV); ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”
3. They landed the boat on the shore of the Gerasenes, right next to a graveyard
4. Mark 5:5–7 (ESV); ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.”
5. Jesus is on His way to heal Jairus’ daughter who is at “the point of death”
6. There is a large crowd jostling Him as He walks to Jairus’ house
7. A lady touches Him wanting to be healed of an illness she has had for 12 years
8. During this exchange Jairus’ daughter dies
9. Mark 5:35–36 (ESV); ³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler’s house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”
10. Eyewitnesses – we have at least 13 eyewitnesses to these miracles and signs Jesus performed
11. We have over 500 eyewitnesses to Jesus’ resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

iii. Touched

- iv. John 20:24–28 (ESV); ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus

came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

- d. 1 John 1:2 (ESV); the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—
 - e. Manifest -- to cause to become visible, reveal, expose publicly ³
- III. Proclaim
- a. Who could not proclaim the things that they witnessed – that they heard, saw, and touched!
 - b. Proclaim – to give an account of something, report (back), announce, tell ⁴
 - c. 1 Corinthians 9:16 (ESV); For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!
 - d. Just like Paul, we should all feel the need to share the Gospel with those we come in contact with wherever we go
 - e. The things Jesus said, the things Jesus did should put us in such awe that we have to share them
- IV. The Word of Life
- a. We have evidence of the truth of the reality of Jesus, the Savior of the world
 - b. We have eyewitnesses (at least 13, but definitely more) and some of those wrote it down for us
 - c. We should feel obligated to share the message of salvation to a lost and dying world

³Ibid, 1048.

⁴Ibid, 95.