

## 1 John 1:1–4

## What is Eternal Life?

*Openings and Closings are important parts of any communication. When we don't know how to begin, we stammer and sputter at the start. When we don't know how to end, we circle the airport until we run out of fuel.* Yet, knowing how to begin and end allows our communication partner to understand more clearly.

*Repetition is important when it is intentional. We can repeat ourselves incessantly or forgetfully, neither of which is good, and cause tall weeds to hide our intended communication.* Yet, intentional repetition allows our communication partner to remember what is important to us.

### Read Passage: 1 John 1:1–4

A single theme dominates the content for this writer's message: **Life**. First, the Word of Life is described as the substance from the beginning for this writer's ears, eyes and hands (1:1). This Life is made known and proclaimed as Life of the Ages with the Father (1:2). The seen and heard Life is proclaimed to the writer's audience with the stated purpose of sharing *koinonia* with the writer's community (1:3)

To quote a South African scholar: "The effect of 'hearing', 'seeing' and 'touching' Jesus is a declaration and testimony *about* him (1:2–3), and an invitation to have fellowship *in* him and *with* him." (Dirk van der Merwe)

## **Near the end of the letter: 1 John 5:10-12**

“The person who is trusting the Son of God holds this testimony in their heart and mind, the person who is not trusting God has already declared God a liar simply because he has not believed the testimony that God himself provided concerning his Son.

This is that testimony: God has given us life of the ages, life found only in his Son. The person who is abiding in the Son has this life, the person who is not abiding in the Son of God does not have this life of the ages.”

## **So then, What is Eternal Life?**

1 John 1:5: “God is Light and no Darkness can be found in him at all”

John 1:4–5: Life and Light “In him was Life and this Life was humanity’s Light; This light shines in the darkness and the darkness was unable to shut out this Light”

## **1. Eternal Life begins and ends with finding our life in God and allowing God to fill our world with his Light.**

1 John 1:6–7: “When we say “we have ongoing fellowship with Him” we are lying and are not doing the truth; yet when we are living in the light just like He is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other - indeed His Son Jesus’ life giving force (blood) cleanses us from all sin”

Reminder of 1 John 3:18 from last week: Love in deed and truth (action) not with words and speech.

## **2. Eternal Life begins and ends with finding our life in God and recognizing God's truth about ourselves, mainly—we are not pure light.**

1 John 1:8–9: “when we say “sin is not part of us” we continue to deceive ourselves and God's truth has no part in us. Yet, when we confess our sins, God is faithful, even righteous, so that he both forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.”

The question is often raised, “What is sin?” Is (name that activity) sin?

Romans 14:23: “The one who is hesitant whether he should eat judges himself, since his eating doesn't happen from faith; anything not happening from faith is sin.”

## **3. Eternal Life begins and ends with finding our life in God and not allowing deception to block our fellowship with God.**

1 John 2:24–25: “Let those things you heard from the beginning abide in you. When what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will be abiding in the Son and in the Father. The promise he made to us is this: Eternal Life.”

**The letter continues in my paraphrase 1 John 2:26–27**

I have written you so you would know about those trying to deceive you. Don't listen to them, you don't need their teaching. Listen to the anointing, i.e. the Holy Spirit, whom you have already received and which already abides in you because the Spirit teaches you what you need, especially the truth. Abide in the Spirit.

**What exactly did they hear from the beginning? 1 John 1:1–4**

*Life, God's Life which is the light of humanity, has been revealed to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. As Jesus lived in fellowship with His Father, the Life God offers us is only found in fellowship with Jesus the Son by the Spirit who dwells within us.*

**Eternal Life is fellowship (abiding) in the Son and in the Father and with each other.**