

# Filling Up Your Joy

**Text:** 1 John 1:1-4

South Orlando Baptist Church

**Topics:** Fellowship, Genuine Conversion

February 14, 2016

**Series: Bold Assurance**

Dr. David

Crowe

Context - John writes his first letter at a time when apostolic doctrine is being challenged by a growth of false teachings. Early Christian tradition tells us that John left Jerusalem, where he had been a leader of the church (Galatians 2:9), and that he resettled in Ephesus. In Ephesus, John ministered to many churches and became the last living apostle. Now advanced in age (AD 71-85), John writes this pastoral letter as a father who is concerned for his spiritual children that they hold on to the truth of Christ against the lure of worldliness and the assault of false teaching.

To complete your joy...

## 1. Encounter Jesus Christ (vs. 1-2)

- A. John expresses three senses in his explanation of his encounter with Jesus - sight, touch, and sound.
- B. When we encounter Jesus Christ and are converted, we experience a completely new life (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- C. Have you been converted? Are you born-again? How is Jesus changing you?

## 2. Experience Christian Fellowship (vs. 3a)

- A. John wants us all to share in the blessings of knowing Christ and walking together with others who know Christ.
- B. Fellowship is the sharing of what we have in common - namely a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- C. Are you currently experiencing Christian fellowship? Who can you walk with in this church and share your experience with Jesus?

## 3. Enjoy God (vs. 3b-4)

- A. Jesus came for our salvation and joy (John 10:10).
- B. **Psalm 16:11** (HCSB) You reveal the path of life to me; in Your presence is abundant joy; in Your right hand are eternal pleasures.
- C. Do you enjoy spending time with God? Have you experienced the joy of salvation? Have you experienced the joy of daily fellowship and communion with God?

## Keys to 1 John: Why study 1 John?

Pastor Alistair Begg gives us 4 reasons to study this great book:

1. It is a part of Holy Scripture.
2. It is pastoral in its concern.
3. It addresses contemporary questions.
4. 1 John speaks with certainty in an age of theological vagueness.

1 John is a short book that can be read in a few minutes. I challenge you to read the book every day for 1 month and as you do, pay close attention to the following words: assurance, fellowship, knowledge, confidence, and boldness.

## Application Questions

1. What do you associate with the term "fellowship"?
2. How do we know that the events we read about in history books really happened?
3. What was from the beginning? (1:1)
4. What contact did the writer and this community of believers have with the Word of life? (1:1)
5. How did God reveal Himself to us? (1:2)
6. What was being proclaimed by this community of believers? (1:2)
7. Where had the eternal life been, and to whom had it appeared? (1:2)
8. Why were the author and his fellow believers telling others about Christ? (1:3)
9. With whom did this community of believers have fellowship? (1:3)
10. Why was this letter written? (1:4)
11. Why do you think John stressed his and this community of believers' personal, physical, historical encounter with Jesus?
12. How important are firsthand eyewitness testimonies, such as this writer's, to your belief in Jesus?
13. What fellowship do you have with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ?
14. What fellowship do you have with other believers?
15. How is our fellowship with God related to our fellowship with other believers?
16. What blocks our fellowship with God and others?
17. In what ways can we enhance our fellowship?
18. In what way is your joy complete?
19. What can you do to gain a better appreciation of the historical foundation of your faith in Christ?
20. What specific steps will you take this week in order to deepen your fellowship with other believers?
21. What specific steps will you take this week in order to deepen your fellowship with God?