# Letter of Faith & Assurance #1

***1 John 1:1-2*** *- “These things write I unto you”*

Introduction:

There are many people today that believe that the problems of modern-day man are so complex that they cannot be addressed by the simple teaching of the Word of God. We are not the first generation to deal with complex problems like depression, depravity (sinful hearts), deception (from Satan) and doubts (about eternal matters). We are facing the basic problems that are faced in this day and they are the same problems that were faced in the days of the writing of this book. The Bible is adequate for all that you face in your life.

Approaching this book is not simple, although the truths of 1 John are simple. The Gospel of John is systematic through the whole book, as is the book of Revelation. This letter is spontaneous. There is not a smooth outline. One man said that studying the book of 1John is like being in a decorated room which has a spiral staircase. As you go up the spiral staircase you see the same things in the room, but each step shows them at a different angle. There are some recurring themes throughout the book. Rather than just looking at each theme, we will just study the book verse by verse and when these themes come up we will believe God is bringing them up again and we will deal with them again. (We often don’t get things the first time anyway and need to hear them over and over.)

**I. Why John wrote the letter**

***A. That your joy may be full*** *(1:4)*

1. From time to time we will hear about you.

a. Enhance your joy.

(1) Joy is important to Jesus Christ that His disciples had joy

(2) Just like it was important to John for his flock to have Joy “fulfilled in themselves”

b. What is full joy to a child of God?

(1) The abiding joy that can only come from God,

(2) depends on no physical or earthly circumstance

a) Not on a favorable economy

b) Not based upon good heath

c) Not in the absence of trial or persecution

(3) Happiness happens but joy abides

a) Jesus distinguishes His joy from that presented to the world

b) The full joy of Jesus Christ is that joy that is present because of Him

c) Not because of the presence of absence of any circumstance

(4) Jesus came to give joy

a) Mere religion may be somber doubty

b) True Christianity is more than a religion

c) It is a New life in Christ Jesus and this new life is joy.

2. If sincere, my desire to you the same as John’s was for his flock.

a. You may say that you do many good things in your Christian life.

b. But DO YOU HAVE JOY?

(1) You can be busy, faithful and involved

(2) But to be absent of His joy, something is wrong!

3. John is talking to people who suffered, knew persecution and were under heavy burden.

a. People experienced the same trials and problems as now

b. The problems of depression and no joy are addressed for all to hear and appropriate the truths.

***B. That ye sin not***  *(2:1)*

1. “My little children” (not written to unbelievers)

2. Humanity has seen the depravity of man.

a. Never has man been better or worse than he is now.

b. People have always been depraved (sinful).

c. There has never been a time in the history of humanity that man has not spewed the fruit of his sinful heart

d. Every generation needs confronted again with the revelation of the Word of God.

(1) There has always been the carnal pull of the world

(2) We are all prone to sin.

e. Every sincere believer would like to overcome sin.

***C. Concerning them that seduce you*** *(2:26)*

1. Deception was common in John’s day.

a. So much that John wrote of it more than once.

b. John referred to it being the last days back then, too.

c. To protect the saints from being seduced

(1) to be caused to wonder

(2) to be led astray

2. The spirit of anti-Christ was at work then and is now.

a. Not everything that smiles and uses the name of Jesus measures up to the truths of the Word of God.

b. He is not just at work in the world’s crowd, but he is at work in the church.

(1) Be prepared lest we be seduced (deceived)

(2) It happened in his day when the apostles ministry

a) They had walked with the Lord

b) They taught what Jesus had taught them

c) We would not compare ourselves with the apostles, but if their students were weak

1.) We had better be faithful to this Word

2.) People have more access to heresy today than they every have before.

(3) Many of God’s people have been seduced into erroneous teaching

a) written so that God’s people would stay right

b) So true to the revelation that God has made concerning Jesus Christ His Son.

***D. That ye may know*** *(5:13)*

1. That you have eternal life

a. There is much doubt in our day, as there was then

b. No matter how much someone says that you cannot know

2. This whole book is written that you may know

Conclusion: Assurance is wonderful, Faith is good and love is great…But if the object of our faith which gives us the assurance and arouses the love of God is not in the right person, then we are deceiving ourselves.

That assurance and faith is only valid if in the person of Jesus Christ.

*It all points to the eternal Son of God.*

If you do not know Jesus Christ, then you are outside of eternal life.