Why These Things Are Written

Intro: This lesson is important because of John’s testimony relative to the purpose of 1 John. John’s purpose for this book specifically may be said of all New Testament books generally. The idea I write or I have written appears several times in 1 John (1 John 1:4; 2:1, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 21, 26; 5:13).

I. JOHN WROTE TO GIVE GOD’S SAINTS A BASIS FOR JOY

A. 1 John 1:4 “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”

B. Men desire happiness.
   1. 1 Pet. 3:10 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:”
   2. How to find happiness becomes a real problem.
   3. Men seek it by:
      a. Popularity.
      b. Fame.
      c. Power.
      d. Money.
      e. Drugs (including alcohol).

C. The greatest happiness man can know comes from belief in, and obedience to God’s Word.
   1. Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
   2. Man’s love for God is demonstrated in obedience to God’s commands;
      1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
   3. Rev. 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

D. Peace and happiness are based upon security.
   1. Because God has revealed His will to man, men can know certain things. (Know appears 40 times in 1 John.).
   2. Man has something on which to build even for eternity.
      a. Eph. 3:14-19 “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 16Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 17That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 18That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 19And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”
      b. 2 Cor. 4:16-5:2 “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 19For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the
heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:"

E. Saints can rejoice in the forgiveness of sins and the constant cleansing by the blood of Christ.

1. 1 John 1:7-2:2 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 4 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 5 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 6 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 7 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 8 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

2. There is a happiness that comes to those who obey the Lord.
   a. Acts 2:41, 46 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.... 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,”
   b. Acts 8:39 “And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
   c. Acts 16:30-34 “And bringed them out, and said, Sir, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”

3. There is joy in faithful fellowship with the Lord.
   a. 1 The. 5:16 “Rejoice evermore.”
   b. Phi. 3:1; 4:4 “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.... 4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
   c. 1 John 1:4 “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”

II. JOHN WROTE TO URGE PEOPLE TO LIVE PURE LIVES

A. 1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"

B. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world; 1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

2. Isa. 53:5-6 “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

3. God made Jesus a sin offering; 2 Cor. 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

4. There is power in Jesus blood to cleanse all people of all sin.
C. Jesus blood keeps on cleansing saints from sin.
   1. 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
      a. *Cleanseth* is in the present tense indicating continuous action.
      b. Thus, the blood of Christ continues to cleanse us from sin.
   2. One must walk in the light.
      a. *Walk* is in the present tense.
      b. The light is that which God has revealed to man, God’s truth, or that which is Written.
   3. The condition placed upon that cleansing is that he confess his sins; 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
      a. *Confess* means to admit oneself guilty of what he is accused of, the result of inward conviction.
      b. It implies a repenting of those sins.

D. John gives us the following to motivate people to pure lives.
   1. Jesus died to save man from sin; not in sin.
   2. Saints have fellowship with God.
   3. Saints are constantly cleansed by the blood of Christ.
   4. Christians have an advocate pleading their cause; 1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

E. John wrote to remind God’s people that forgiveness of sins is a fact; 1 John 2:12 “I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake.”
   1. When one is baptized into Jesus death, the blood of Christ removes all sin; Rom. 6:3-4, 17-18 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life....” But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
   2. When God forgives, remits sin, He no longer remembers those sins; Heb. 8:12 “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”

F. We thus are not to commit sin.
   1. 1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”
   2. This verse suggest that we do not commit even one isolated act of sin.
   3. 1 John 3:9 “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”
      a. *Born of God* is perfect tense (past action with continuous results).
      When we were baptized we were born of God with continuous results.
      b. *Doth not commit sin.*
         (1) *Commit* is present tense (continuous action.)
         (2) Does not continue to commit sin. His way of life is not sin.
c. 1 John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”
   (1) **Purifieth** is present tense.
   (2) When he succumbs to sin, he gets up and starts again. He keeps on purifying himself from sin.

III. **John Wrote So Men Might Have the Right Relationship**

A. 1 John 2:13-14 “I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. "I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.”

B. **Men need to know the Lord.**
   1. Men need to know God as a Father.
      a. 1 John 2:13 “I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.”
      b. We can rejoice in knowing that God cares.
         (1) Mat. 7:7-11 “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
         (2) 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”
         (3) Parable of the Prodigal son; Luke 15:11-32
   c. We are to respect God.
      (1) Psa. 33:8 “Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”
      (2) Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
      (3) Obedience to His will; Heb. 12:28 “Therefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”
   2. 2 Tim. 1:12 “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”
   3. John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

C. **Men need to have right relationship with the Devil.**
   1. 1 John 2:13 “I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.”
   2. The devil is our adversary.
      a. 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”
b. *Adversary* is primarily an opponent in a lawsuit, then an enemy.

3. The devil must be resisted.
   a. *Resist* is to stand against.
   b. Jam. 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
   c. 1 Pet. 5:9 “Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

4. The devil must be overcome.
   a. 1 John 2:13 “I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.”
   b. Notice in Revelation:
      (1) Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26 “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God....
      (2) Rev. 3:5, 12, 21 “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels...
      (3) Rev. 12:11 “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”
      (4) Rev. 15:2 “And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.”
      (5) Rev. 21:7 “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

D. Men need the proper relationship to God’s Word.
   1. 1 John 2:14 “I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.”
   2. God’s Word is to abide in saints.
      a. John 15:7 “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”
      b. Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
3. The power by which the child of God resist the evil one is the Word of God.
   a. Psa. 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
   b. Eph. 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
   c. We see this in Christ; Mat. 4:1-11 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 11Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

E. Brethren need to have the proper relationship with each other.
1. 1 John 1:3 “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”
2. 1 John 2:8-11; 3:10-11 “Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. 8He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 9He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 10But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes....11In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 12For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”
3. John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
4. Notice how John goes on to describe this love.
   a. 1 John 3:11-18 “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew
his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his
brother’s righteous. 13Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 14We know
that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that
loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15Whosoever hateth his brother is a
murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 16Hereby
perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to
lay down our lives for the brethren. 17But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth
his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how
dwelleth the love of God in him? 18My little children, let us not love in word,
neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

(1) Lay down life.
(2) Show compassion.
(3) In deeds.

b. 1 John 4:7-12 “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every
one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8He that loveth not knoweth not
God; for God is love. 9In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because
that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be
the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love
one another. 12No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God
dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

(1) A giving love.
(2) As God gave His Son.
(3) A doing what is best for man.

5. 1 John 4:20-21 “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that
loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
21And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”

IV. JOHN WROTE THAT GOD’S PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE ACCESS TO THE TRUTH.

A. 1 John 2:21 “I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it,
and that no lie is of the truth.”

B. God wants us to know the truth.

1. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

2. 1 Tim. 2:4 “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the
truth.”

3. That is the reason God gave us His Word.

a. John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

b. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through
the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a
pure heart fervently: 23Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of
incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

C. False teachers were trying to seduce God’s people by perverting the truth.

1. 1 John 2:26; 4:1 “These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce
you....” 4:1Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because
many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

2. Thus, we are to prove all things: 1 The. 5:21 “Prove all things; hold fast that which
is good.”
Why These Things Are Written

3. We are warned of false teachers.
   a. Their existence.
      (1) Mat. 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
      (2) Acts 20:29-30 “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”
   b. They will lead us away.
      (1) Rom. 16:17-18 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”
      (2) 1 Tim. 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”
      (3) 2 Pet. 2:1-3 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”

D. Some deny the existence of truth.
   1. They say all is relative.
   2. They say, “It is your opinion,” or “That is your own interpretation.”

V. JOHN WROTE THAT GOD’S CHILDREN MIGHT KNOW THAT THEY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

A. 1 John 5:13 “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

B. Man needs this kind of assurance.
   1. Life is brief; Jam. 4:13-14 “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
   2. Life is uncertain; Pro. 27:1 “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”
   3. Death is a fact; Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

C. John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
   1. Life eternal comes from a knowledge of God.
   2. Negatively, if we do not know God; 2 The. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled
rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

D. How do we come to know God.
1. By nature.
   a. Psalms 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
   b. Romans 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”
   c. This knowledge is most incomplete.

2. By the revelation of Jesus Christ.
   a. Matthew 11:27 “All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”
   b. John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
      cf. Hebrews 1:3 “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

3. By the revelation given by the Spirit of Christ.
   a. 1 Corinthians 2:11, 13 “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God....13Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”
   b. The Spirit reveals God’s nature in the words He gave to the apostles, which they spake and wrote.

4. By the keeping of God’s commands.
   a. 1 John 2:3-5 “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”

5. By love.
   a. 1 John 4:7-8 “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
   b. Love is keeping God’s commands.
      (1) John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
      (2) 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
   c. God dwells in us.
      (1) John 14:21, 23 “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him....23Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”
(2) 1 John 3:24; 4:12, 16 “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us....4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us....16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

d. God gives us the Spirit
(1) 1 John 3:24 “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”
(2) 1 John 4:13 “Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”
(3) The Spirit is our earnest of our inheritance.
(a) Eph. 1:13-14 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”
(b) 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5 “Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts...5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”
(c) Our assurance that we will receive eternal life.

E. Song – “Blessed Assurance” expresses what the Christian has.

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretast of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

“Perfect Submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

“Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest; Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

“This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.”

Conclusion: In understanding any book the purpose of the author must be kept in mind. In order to understand 1 John we must keep in mind these five points.