

REVIVE US

THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL
DAVID ANDERSON | OCTOBER 4, 2020
HUB NOTES

Have two people with two different translations read 1 John 1:4-10 slowly:

⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1) Just from this section alone, what do you suspect the false teachers were teaching?

There are a lot of theories about the false teachers that John is dealing with here. They rejected Jesus as the Christ, they rejected his incarnation (1:1-4). With it, they rejected their sin and deceived themselves (1:6-10). And no surprise they stopped loving each other (2:9-29). They did not own their sin and they could not see their dark hearts. John's point is your claim of sinlessness is not only self-deception but it is blasphemy because you are call God a liar (1:10).

2) What's the connection to the "full joy" of 1:4 and the "if we confess our sins" of 1:9?

Joy and intimacy with God (1:3-4) comes as we walk in the light as God is in the light through confession (1:7-9). Joy and freedom comes as we are known and healed by God.

3) Why does John begin with God and not begin with our "sin"?

If you want to escape the darkness, you must begin with God—God is light. It always starts and ends with God. Joy doesn't begin with us, it begins with God. For joy to be joy, it must transcend us. The Gospel starts with God, not us. Our joy begins with Him and His magnificent character. Remember when we were in Proverbs and we heard over and over, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." God is light and God is truth. Whatever is true is only true because it conforms to God. All of the treachery, games and bankruptcy of our sin are exposed in God and through His light.

4) In 1:9, “confess” is in the present tense and “forgive” and “cleanse” is in the past (aorist) tense. Why?

Our confession is in the present because it is daily, but the forgiveness and cleansing are completed actions in the past. Confessing is rehearsing and restating the truth of the Gospel. It's what we do during communion. Confession is agreeing with God how He views sin in comparison to His character. Confession needs to be the pattern of our lives when we once again assert that God's forgiveness and cleansing has been secured forever in the cross 2000 years ago. The writer of Hebrews says, "*For by one offering he has perfected for all time those who are made holy.*" (10:14).

On Sunday, Anderson asked us to do the Take 10 Assignment: Take 10 minutes, find a quiet place with a pen and paper and be with God.

Step #1 Take a deep breath.

Step #2 Remember who you are. You are fully loved and fully forgiven in Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 5:21, Psalm 103:12, John 13:1)

Step #3 Affirm your love and trust in God. (Mark 9:24, Heb 11:1, 6, John 15:8-11)

Step #4 Ask the Holy Spirit, "What darkness/sin in my heart needs to come to the light?" (1 John 1:9, Psalm 32:1-2)

Step #5 Write down the darkness/sin the Holy Spirit is revealing and pray over it and confess it, because "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Step #6 Ask the Holy Spirit, "What's next? Who do I need to ask for forgiveness? Who can partner, know and pray for me in this struggle?" (James 5:16)

5) If you tried it, what was your experience like? How can we pray for you?

2020 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people by 2030.