

May 31/June 1
"Confident Faith"
Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [1 John 5:13](#) | Confident Faith

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13

The Apostle John, one of Jesus's original disciples, is the last surviving disciple of the twelve. He previously served as a pastor and leader for a number of churches in Asia Minor, including the city of Ephesus. But now, he is eighty or ninety years old as he writes the letter known as [1 John](#). He writes because a group has split off from the church and is teaching things contrary to what John has taught. He writes to address the confusion and insecurity that has developed and to give them confidence in the truth he has taught.

As we spend the next five weeks in [1 John](#), we will see its importance for us today. Those of us exploring faith or returning to faith may have questions or doubts. Others of us believe and call ourselves a Christian, but we have nagging doubts about that belief: Am I really a Christian? Does God see me as a Christian? John's letter answers these questions and gives us the confidence we need to live securely in Christ. We will see that God's desire is for us to have assurance and peace because he loves us.

TODAY: Settle into a comfortable chair and read or listen to the entire book of [1 John](#). With just five chapters, it shouldn't take long. Most people will finish in ten to fifteen minutes. Take your time and ask God to help you understand this important letter.

Day 2 [John 1:1-14](#) | God Reached Down

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2

As John begins his biography of Jesus, he uses two phrases that he repeats in the letter of [1 John](#): "in the beginning" and "the Word." By using "in the beginning," John teaches that Jesus existed as the Son before the creation of the world. By introducing Jesus as "the Word" with the Greek word "Logos," John taps into ancient Greek thinking as a way of describing how the universe came into being. Because Jesus is the "Logos," John says the universe comes from and was created by Jesus, the divine Word. But even more amazing is that this eternal Word "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" ([John 1:14](#)). This means we can be confident about our faith because God reached down.

The Christian faith is the only faith where God enters into his world to rescue us. Every other faith system in the world is reaching up. They all have a set of requirements for us to prove our worthiness to be saved, to reach enlightenment or to earn heaven in the afterlife. Our faith is the only faith where God reaches down to pull us

up. Every other faith system is based on our life; the Christian faith is based on his life. In any other faith, we can never be certain. The Christian faith is the only faith where we can be confident of where we stand with God.

TODAY: Memorize the key text of [1 John 5:13](#), "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." By committing it to memory, you will be able to recall it anytime you begin to have doubts about your faith or your salvation.

Day 3 [1 John 1:1-2](#) | Historically Reliable Testimony

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life. 1 John 1:1

The stories of what Jesus did and taught aren't works of fiction, nor did they float down from heaven for someone to discover. In [1 John](#), the apostle tells his readers, "We were there!" John says he is passing on what the disciples heard, saw and touched. They were around the table with Jesus, on the road, in the boat and in the garden with him. They were at the foot of the cross and in his empty tomb. John spoke with him, listened to him teach and witnessed his miracles. Simply put, John was with Jesus and wrote down what he experienced (along with three other writers of the gospels).

The testimony of the gospel writers is historically accurate. We know this because of what we see when we compare the gospels to outside (non-Christian) sources. The Jewish historian Josephus mentions Jesus, James and John the Baptist in his first-century writing. Lucian, a Greek-influenced Syrian from the second century, mentions Jesus's crucifixion and the habits of his followers. Celcus, a second-century Greek philosopher, said Jesus was born in Judea, lived in Egypt, was a miracle worker and used "magic powers." These references in non-Christian sources mean we can know that Jesus existed, was crucified and, according to many eyewitnesses, came back to life. Our faith is reliable and trustworthy.

TODAY: Pray with gratitude for the reliability of our faith. "Father, thank you for sending Jesus and for giving us the Bible, including [1 John](#), so that I can know I have eternal life. Help me live with confidence in this truth every day. Amen." Join us for more conversation about being confident in our salvation on the [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#).

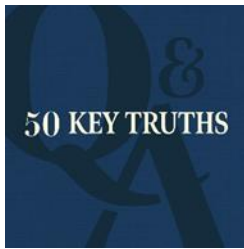
Day 4 [1 John 1:3-4](#) | God is Personal

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. 1 John 1:3-4

After writing about the reliability of the Christian faith, the Apostle John turns to the subject of fellowship. He says the point is not just believing the truth; it's about relationships. Relationship first with God and then with other believers. He says it's not just about believing the right stuff and avoiding hell; it's ultimately about experiencing God in the context of the church.

We can have this fellowship because God is personal. God speaks, guides, provides, comforts and challenges us through His Word, the Bible. By reading the Bible, the living and active Word of God, we hear his voice. Also, if we have followed Jesus for some time, it is likely we have many examples of the reality of Jesus in our lives. Both of these can result in "complete joy." Complete joy is the type of joy we continually desire. It is a joy that persists through pain and suffering. A joy not rooted in what's going on outside but in what is real inside of us.

TODAY: Invite God to be real in your life. Ask him for help as you read the Bible, with a decision you need to make or for a friend to encourage you. If you're a long-time believer, set aside time to remember the ways God made himself real to you in the past. Then, ask him to move again. After you do, thank him for his goodness and faithfulness.



Day 5 [1 John 2:1-2](#) | Question 21: Jesus's Death

Question: Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Answer: Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice to atone for our sins and reconcile us to God.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

John identifies Jesus as "the atoning sacrifice for our sins," revealing why he died. Sin separates us from a holy God, requiring payment. Before God sent his Son, animal sacrifices could temporarily cover sin but were inadequate for permanent forgiveness. Sin is a human problem, and a sinless human had to die ([Hebrews 2:17](#), [Leviticus 1:3](#)). This presented an impossible dilemma until God did something radical: the second person of the Trinity became human. Jesus, the sinless God-man, could represent both parties in the broken relationship. His death was a purposeful, substitutionary sacrifice. He took our place, bearing the penalty we deserved, satisfying God's justice and making forgiveness possible for all people.

This sacrifice transforms our understanding of sin and God's love. The cross reveals the seriousness of our rebellion—it required the Son of God's death to atone for it. Yet, it simultaneously displays God's love. He was willing to suffer personally to reconcile us to himself. When John calls Jesus our "advocate," he emphasizes Christ's ongoing representation before the Father, ensuring permanent forgiveness. His atonement extends to "the sins of the whole world," making salvation available to anyone who believes. The cross demonstrates both justice and mercy—God upholds his righteous standards while providing the way for sinners to be forgiven and restored to a relationship with him.

TODAY: Contemplate the cross, reflecting on your sin's seriousness and God's love demonstrated there. Thank Jesus for becoming your atoning sacrifice and taking the penalty you deserved. Consider sins you need to confess and trust in Christ's complete forgiveness. Remember that Jesus continues as your advocate, giving you the confidence to approach God.