



Certain Relationship

[1 John 1:1-4 \(NIV\)](#)

First in an 8-part series titled: *Are You Certain?*

Pastor Matt Friend – April 8 & 11, 2021

.....
— OUTLINE —

Today's Big Idea:

Security in Jesus is the secret to joy.

Today's Takeaways:

#1 – Pray to receive Christ.

#2 – Pray for God to use this series to increase your joy.

Resource Recommendation



[1 John Study Guide](#)

(Hard copy in lobby for \$3 cash or credit, free online)



Certain Relationship

1 John 1:1-4 (NIV)

First in an 8-part series titled: *Are You Certain?*

Pastor Matt Friend – April 8 & 11, 2021

.....
— NOTES —

Introduction:

Today you're getting in on the ground floor of a brand new eight-week series, "Are You Certain?" Over the next eight weeks we'll study through the book of 1 John. (This isn't the [Gospel of John](#) toward the front of your New Testament, but the smaller book toward the end.) Today is the starting line of the series. We're embarking on this journey together.

The book of 1 John is all about assurance. One of John's primary goals is to give genuine believers assurance that all of our sins have been forgiven (past, present, and future), that God the Father completely accepts and approves of us through the merits of Jesus, that we really will be with Jesus when we die, and that our salvation is not expendable.

Toward the end of the letter, John writes, "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).

Assurance of salvation must not be confused with salvation itself. A person can be saved in Christ without having assurance of salvation. Equally, one can have assurance of salvation without truly being saved.

Therefore, in this short letter, John identifies eight signs (evidences, proofs) that you are or are not a child of God. The little book of 1 John is for you if you've ever asked, "How can I know for sure if I'm really a Christian? How can I have assurance of my salvation?"

God wants all Christians to have assurance of their salvation. In 1 John, God makes an ironclad case for how we can know—*that*



we know—that we know we are genuine Jesus-followers. This book lays out irrefutable evidence that's not based on an experience or a prayer we've prayed. Instead, assurance of salvation is based on real-time, observable indicators and the eternal promises of God.

I hope you'll join us for each of the eight messages. Each week we'll look at a new evidence of salvation so you can be sure—*that you're sure*—that you're sure you're God's child.

Today's Big Idea:

Security in Jesus is the secret to joy.

Think About It:

Have you ever noticed how security and joy go together? We are often the most joyful when we feel the most secure. A sense of security brings joy.

Are you experiencing joyful emotions today? To a lesser degree, are you happy or at peace?

- If so, it may be because you have security in some area of your life: health, steady income, retirement savings, career, business, marriage, friendships.
- If not, it may be because you don't feel secure in one or more of those areas.

The circumstances of life can change in the blink of an eye, but spiritually (and eternally!) we can have deep-rooted joy by knowing beyond all doubt that we are God's children. Security in Jesus is the secret to joy.

We could also phrase it as follows:

- The secret to joy is security in Jesus.
- Real joy comes from a relationship with Jesus.



- A relationship with Jesus is the reason for joy.
- Our joy in Jesus is proportionate to our security in Jesus.
- Our joy in life is proportionate to our assurance of salvation.
- Being sure of your salvation is the key to joy.
- Assurance of salvation is the secret to joy in Jesus.
- Being sure of your salvation is the secret to having joy.
- The more sure you are of salvation, the more joy in Jesus you'll have.

“We should all be concerned about our assurance of salvation. If we lack assurance, we lack joy. If we lack joy, our life is of probably of poor quality.” –Martyn-Lloyd Jones

Highlights from the Text:

1 John 1:1 —

- The phrase “That which was from the beginning” refers to the predawn of time. Right out of the gate, in contrast to some of the false teachers, John declares that Jesus has eternally existed as God ([Genesis 1:1](#); [Micah 5:1](#); [Habakkuk 1:12](#); [John 1:1](#)).
- Though John wrote this letter some 60 years after he had heard, seen, looked at, and touched Jesus, what he had experienced was still a vivid truth in his heart.
- In contrast to the false teachers who were claiming that Jesus never physically existed, or that (in his resurrected state) he was only a ghost or phantom, John reminds us that Jesus was not only 100% God but also 100% man.
- John had spent 3 years with Jesus. He had heard Him teach on hundreds if not thousands of occasions. He had watched Jesus drink His coffee in the morning, teach and do miracles during the day, and brush His teeth at night. Not only had he seen Jesus;



he had gazed upon Him (“looked at”). He had hugged Jesus and shaken His hand. He had touched Jesus’ scars after He rose from the grave.

- All of John’s proclamations—everything he preached, taught, or wrote—pointed to Jesus. This includes the 5 New Testament books he wrote ([Gospel of John](#), [1-3 John](#), and [Revelation](#)).
- “Word of life” was John’s favorite term for Jesus. Jesus is reality. Jesus is law. Jesus is the black and white on the page. Jesus is the authority above all other authorities.

1 John 1:2 —

- John continually uses the word “appeared.” Its repetition stresses the revelatory nature of Christ’s coming. It means “making visible what was hidden.” Heaven isn’t a speakeasy. No, Jesus came to reveal that He is the way, the truth, and the life.
- Want to know what God thinks, feels, and does? Look at Jesus. In John 14:9 Jesus said, “He that has seen me has seen the Father.” To know Jesus, is to know God!
- “Eternal life” is not just a length of life, but in the Bible, it’s a term that refers just as much to a certain quality of life. It is not just that Christians will live eternally when they die; right now they have eternal life, God’s life, dwelling inside them.
- Jesus was eternally “with the Father” prior to the creation of the universe. Jesus has enjoyed eternal fellowship with the Father, equal nature, yet distinct in Person.

1 John 1:3 —

- John is still referring to his overall proclamations (everything he preached, taught, and wrote). He’s still not referring specifically to this letter. That will come in verse 4.
- Why did John devote his entire ministry to making much of Jesus? “So that you also may have fellowship with us... with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.” John knew that he was the last surviving apostle who had seen and heard Jesus. There-



fore, he did everything he could to record and teach what he had learned from Jesus so we too, centuries later, can enjoy that same kind of fellowship with Jesus.

- What is fellowship? The root meaning is a *deep sharing of things in common*. What do believers share in common? Jesus and salvation! Only believers have this kind of fellowship. In the New Testament, this word (over 60x) refers to the supernatural life that Christians share. We have a common faith, common possessions, and a common Gospel. Warren Wiersbe describes fellowship as *spiritual nearness*.
- This fellowship is the overall goal of the gospel. This spiritual nearness (union or unity) is the emphasis of the New Testament. It was Jesus' ultimate goal, especially in His death, resurrection, ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' goal was never just to forgive our sins. As important as that was, His greater goal was unify everything in heaven and earth, bring it all into perfect fellowship for eternity.
- In eternity past there has been union between God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. God invites us to experience that unity in Him and in one another.
- "Unity is the ultimate goal of all the ways of God." –Abraham Kuyper

1 John 1:4 —

- Here John unveils the first reason he wrote this letter, "to make our joy complete."
- Many scholars believe 1:4 serves as the left bookend of this letter and 5:13 serves as the right bookend.
- What is joy? The dictionary definition of joy is, "the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires." However, according to the Bible, Christian joy is something much deeper.
- Christian joy is the presence of Jesus in our lives by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit. It flows from a genuine satisfaction and security in Jesus that affects us intellectually, emotionally,



and spiritually. It is the spirit of having eternal victory regardless of life's circumstances.

- Joy is what Jesus has always wanted for us ([John 15:11](#); [16:22-24](#); [17:13](#)).

Today's Takeaways:

#1 – Pray to receive Christ.

#2 – Pray for God to use this series to increase your joy.

Why Pray These Two Prayers?

Because security in Jesus is the secret to joy.