

# Background to the Book

## John's Experience

1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 **They went out from us, but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

## Belief without Salvation

Luk 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe**, and in time of temptation **fall away**.

Jas 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? **can [the] faith (that kind of faith) save him?** ... 17 Even so **faith, if it hath not works, is dead**, being alone. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?**

## John's Purpose

1Jn 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.

## A Helpful Reference

Robert Law, *The Tests of Life*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1909.

[https://biblicalelearning.org/New\\_Testament\\_Greek/Text/Law-TestsOfLife/Law-TestsOfLife.pdf](https://biblicalelearning.org/New_Testament_Greek/Text/Law-TestsOfLife/Law-TestsOfLife.pdf)

<https://a.co/d/hPKfVEo>

# Parallels between John and 1 John

	Gospel of John	1 John
Subject	Jhn 1:1 <b>In the beginning</b> was the Word, and the Word was with God, and <b>the Word was God</b> . 2 The same was <b>in the beginning</b> with God. 3 All things were made by <b>him</b> ; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 <b>In him was life</b> ; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light <b>shineth in darkness</b> ; and the darkness comprehended it not.	1Jn 1:1 <b>That</b> which was <b>from the beginning</b> , which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of <b>the Word of life</b> ; 2 (For the life <b>was manifested</b> , and <b>we have seen it</b> , and bear witness, and shew unto you <b>that eternal life</b> , which was with the Father, and <b>was manifested</b> unto us;) 3 <b>That</b> which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,
Purpose	Jhn 20:31 But these are written, <b>that ye might believe</b> that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing <b>ye might have life through his name</b> .	1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto <b>you that believe</b> on the name of the Son of God; <b>that ye may know that ye have eternal life</b> , and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

# Signs of Life: **Righteousness**, **Love**, **Belief**

2:3 And hereby **we do know** that we know him, if we **keep his commandments**.

2:29 **ye know** that every one that **doeth righteousness** is born of him.

3:14 **We know** that we have passed from death unto life, because we **love the brethren**.

3:18 My little children, let us not **love** in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 19 And **hereby we know** that we are of the truth, and shall **assure our hearts** before him.

4:13 Hereby **know we** that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. ... 15

Whosoever shall confess that **Jesus is the Son of God**, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

5:1 Whosoever believeth that **Jesus is the Christ** is born of God:

	<b>Righteousness</b>	<b>Love</b>	<b>Belief</b>
2:3-28	2:3-6	2:7-17	2:18-28
2:29-4:6	2:29-3:10a	3:10b-24a	3:24b-4:6
4:7-5:12	4:7-5:1 Love and Belief; 5:2-5 Love, Righteousness, and Belief 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief		

1 John 5:1

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Who is born of God in verse one?



Bilson Peters, 18 Jan 2025

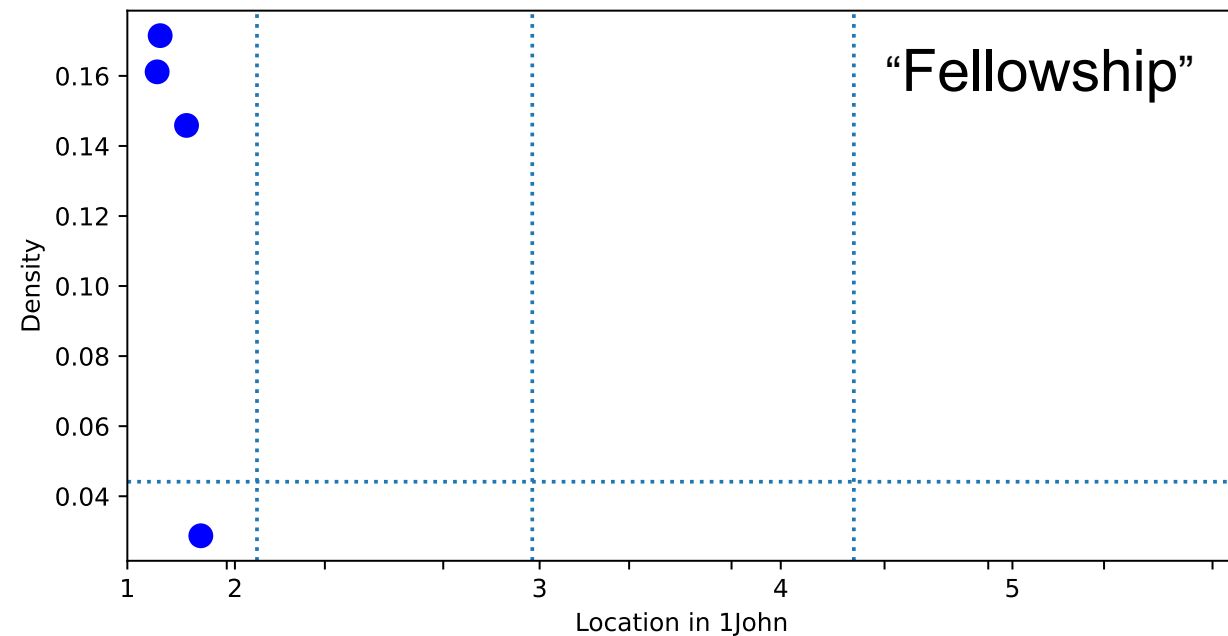
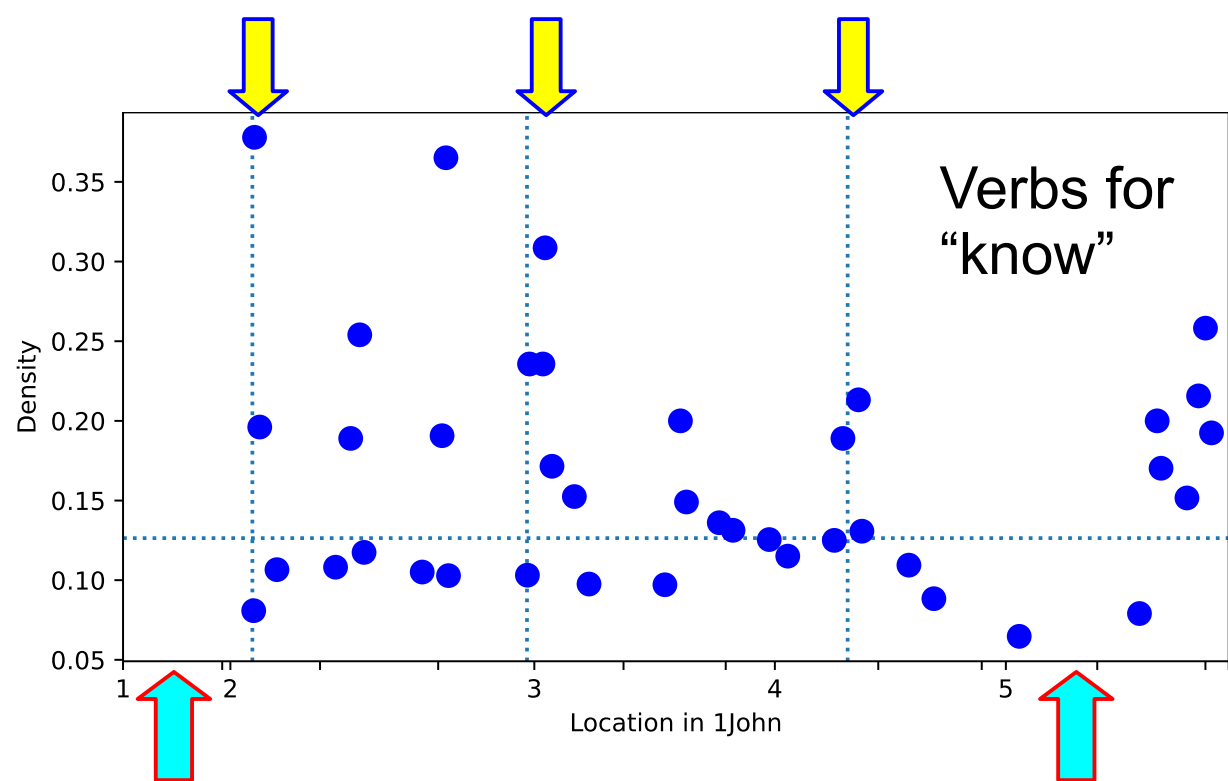
# Knowing and Fellowship

Jhn 17:3 And this is **life eternal**, that they might **know thee** the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

## Purpose in the Fellowship Section

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. 4 And these things write we unto you, **that your joy may be full.**

2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, **that ye sin not. ...**



# A Preliminary Outline

## 1 John: The Signs of Life

### 1:1-2:2 Summary (“Fellowship”)

- 1:1-4, Objective: Fellowship
- 1:5-2:2, Obstacle: Sin

### 2:3-5:12, Exposition (“Know”)

#### 2:3-28, First Cycle

- :3-6, Righteousness
- :7-17, Love
- :18-28, Belief

#### 2:29-4:6, Second Cycle

- 2:29-3:10a, Righteousness
- 3:10b-24a, Love
- 3:24b-4:6, Belief

#### 4:7-5:12, Third Cycle

- 4:7-5:1, Love and Belief
- 5:2-5, Love, Righteousness, and Belief
- 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief

### 5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

## Spiritual Perspective

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but **after the Spirit**.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

## Chronological Perspective

1Co 3:1 And I, **brethren**, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto **babes in Christ**. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For **ye are yet carnal**: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, **are ye not carnal, and walk as men?** 4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

# How to Use the Signs

## Social Perspective

1Jn 5:16 If any man **see his brother** sin a sin which is not unto death, **he shall ask**, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore such an one** in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

1Co 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man **examine himself**, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not **discerning the Lord's body**.