

# Bible Snapshots



## First John – This I Know      Author – John

- First John is written with the “church is a family” idea in mind. John sees these believers as the “children of God.” He uses the word “Father” 13 times and the name “little children eleven times. John most likely chose this as an encouragement to the said, who were called to love in a world that was filled with hate for them.
- He writes expressly to show Christians what their faith in Christ should really be like. All through the book there are “tests of salvation,” by which they could know they have that salvation. John gives the reason for writing in chapter 1, verse 4 – “that your joy may be full.” Their joy, true joy, would be full because they would know and in knowing have fellowship and in fellowship have joy that is shared in common.
- Peter and Paul have died and John alone persists to see the church battered by corruption that would enter the church in both doctrine and practice. Prevailing human wisdom and thinking began to encroach upon the minds of some believers. John refutes these teachings, especially the teachings of the Gnostics, which sought to incorporate Christianity as a part of Greek philosophy and oriental mysticism. They taught that in human nature there is a principle of dualism – that of the spirit and body, which are two separate entities, each hostile to each other. Sin was only in the flesh and thus totally evil. The spirit was totally good. Thus, the body could do whatever it wanted and not affect the spirit. Thus, one could live wickedly and still be godly.
- John is definitely the writer and the book stylistically resembles the gospel of John, sharing almost word for word about 20 phrases, spanning every chapter of First John.

**Key chapter / verse** – 5 – Faith for overcoming / 5:13

**Key words / phrase** – know (27X) and fellowship / “If we say”

### Outline

- I. The believer’s advance in God, who is light (1, 2)
- II. The Believer’s Attitude toward God, who is love (3, 4)
- III. The Christians Affinity with God, who is Life (5)

**Why John wrote** – The we might have salvation (John 20:3); The we might have satisfaction (1:4); that we might have sanctification (2:1); that we might have safety (2:26; 5:18); and that we might have security (5:13).

**“Ifs” of First John** – Concerning disobedience (1:6); fellowship (1:7); deception (1:8); confession and forgiveness (1:9); denial of sin (1:10); guilt (2:1); obedience (2:3); love of the Father (2:15); consistency (2:19); perseverance (2:24); godly living (2:29); the world’s opinion (3:13); confidence (3:20, 21); brotherly love (4:11); God’s love for us (4:12); have (4:20); God’s witness (5:9); prayer (5:14, 15); a brother who sins (5:16).

**The “knows” of John** – Knowing God, we will...keep his commandments (2:3 4); perfect his love (2:5); be conscious of the times (2:18); have his anointing (2:20); know the truth (2:21); practice righteousness (2:29; 5:18); become like Christ (3:2); have assurance of sins removed (3:5); love the brethren (3:14); be of the truth (3:19); abide in Christ (3:24); have the Spirit of Christ within us (3:24; 4:13); confess Jesus Christ (4:2); hear God’s message (4:6); love God (5:2); have eternal life (5:13); prayers heard and answered (5:13-15); victory over Satan (5:18); be of Him (5:19); have understanding of Him (5:20).

**The Spirit in First John** – To testify of Christ (4:2); To bear witness of the truth (5:6, 8); to indwell the believer (3:24); to confirm God’s presence in us (4:13); to anoint (empower) us (2:20); to teach us (2:20); and to guide us into truth (4:6).

**Triumphs of John** – triumphant joy (1:4); triumphant life (2:1); triumphant hope (2:28; 3:3, 8); triumphant love (4:18); triumphant faith (5:1-5); triumphant truth (5:11-13); triumphant prayer (5:14, 15); triumphant knowledge (5:20); and triumphant loyalty (5:21).