

## Week 47 – Questions to Consider

1 John 1-5

### Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite season or holiday?

1. Have you ever read 1 John before? If so, what are some of your favorite verses or truths from it? Why does John (the author of the Gospel of John also) say he is writing this book? (1 John 1:4) What does he mean by that? Who have you mentored spiritually and seen grow? How has that experience encouraged you?
2. Read 1 John 1:5-10. What are some symptoms of unbelief? How does verse 9 encourage you? Why do some people call themselves Christians yet live totally contrary to the Bible? Why does Paul tell us to “examine” and “test” the genuineness of our faith (2 Corinthians 13:5)? How does the book of 1 John help us to do just that?
3. What is the definition of an “advocate”? How does it make you feel to know that “we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ” (1 John 2:1)? Why does John say he is writing this book in 1 John 2:1? Why does he say ongoing disobedience to God’s commands is serious (1 John 2:4)? How have you seen God grow you to walk/live increasingly more like Jesus?
4. How can you tell if you hate someone? How can you tell if you truly have forgiven someone? Why does John say hate is so serious (1 John 2:9, also 1 John 4:19-21)? Why is forgiveness so important to God? (see also [www.trustworthyword.com/forgiveness](http://www.trustworthyword.com/forgiveness)) Consider the definitions of these words below. Consider Jesus’ words, “but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15). Does this convict you?
  - a. *Forgive* - to stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw, or mistake; to cancel (a debt)
  - b. *Hate* - to feel intense or passionate dislike
  - c. *Bitterness* - anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly; resentment
  - d. *Anger* - a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility
  - e. *Resentment* - bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly
5. What does it look like to “love the world” (1 John 2:15-17)? How has God changed your heart and priorities since you were born again?
6. Do you know someone that once claimed to be a Christian, but now seems to have abandoned the faith, the Bible, and the church? Why is 1 John 2:19 so heartbreaking to read in such situations?

More questions at: [www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions](http://www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions)

## Set Free from Death

James 1 (ESV)

John 11:25–26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?” (ESV)

**Be Honest,**

**Do you struggle with a fear of death or dying?**

### When to be afraid of death:

1. **Disregarding or Disobeying God’s V\_\_\_\_\_**
  - 1 John 2:4 “Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him”
  - 1 John 1:6, 1 John 3:8, 1 John 4:6
2. **Unrepentant Hearts, Justifying S\_\_\_\_\_**
  - 1 John 1:8, 10 “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves”
  - 1 John 3:4 “sin is lawlessness.”
3. **Presence of Hatred, Bitterness, Anger & U\_\_\_\_\_**
  - 1 John 2:9, 1 John 2:11, 1 John 3:14, 1 John 4:20
  - 1 John 4:8 “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
4. **Self-Love (P\_\_\_\_\_) and Worldly-Love (P\_\_\_\_\_)**
  - 1 John 2:15–16 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.” (see also 1 John 4:5)

## 5. A \_\_\_\_\_ from the Body of Christ

- 1 John 2:19 “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.” (1 John 2:23)

### Evidences of Genuine Church Involvement:

- Heartfelt Worship and Adoration of God
- Continued Regular Physical Presence
- Connected Relationally and Emotionally
- Sacrificial Giving of Money and Time
- Biblical Transformation and Maturation

## Why to be Afraid of Death ->

### The Reality of Hell for the Lost

[www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-hell](http://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-hell)

## When NOT to be afraid of death:

“for this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (John 18:37 ESV).

### 1) Listening to & Obeying God’s Voice

- 1 John 1:7, 1 John 5:3, 1 John 3:24
- 1 John 2:3 “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.”

### 2) Genuine B\_\_\_\_\_ Over & Repentance from Sin

- 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (see also 1 John 3:9)

### 3) Presence of God & His Love, Compassion, and Forgiveness

- 1 John 2:10, 1 John 3:14
- 1 John 4:21 “whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

## 4) Love of God & Trust in His W\_\_\_\_\_

- 1 John 2:5–6 “ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” (see also 1 John 2:20–21)
- 1 John 2:17 “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

## 5) Genuine P\_\_\_\_\_ in the Body of Christ

- 1 John 3:18 “let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth” (see also 1 John 1:7, 1 John 2:23, 1 John 4:13)

## Why Not to be Afraid of Death ->

### The Reality of Heaven for the Saved

[www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-heaven](http://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-heaven)

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

- 2 Corinthians 5:8–9 “Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.”
- Philippians 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
- Philippians 1:22–24 “If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.”
- Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”
- 2 Corinthians 6:9 “as dying, and behold, we live”

### This Next Week’s New Testament Reading Plan:

Week 48: 2 & 3 John, Jude, Revelation 1-2

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** [www.southfork.church/jesus](http://www.southfork.church/jesus)
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** [remind.com/join/sfbcdevo](http://remind.com/join/sfbcdevo)
- **Our Plan:** [www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan](http://www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan)

# Set Free from Death

James 1 (ESV)

John 11:25–26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?” (ESV)

**Be Honest,**

**Do you struggle with a fear of death or dying?**

## When to be afraid of death:

### 1. **Disregarding or Disobeying God’s Voice**

- 1 John 1:6 “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”
- 1 John 2:4 “Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him”
- 1 John 3:8 “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”
- 1 John 4:6 “whoever is not from God does not listen to us.”

### 2. **Unrepentant Hearts, Justifying Sin**

- 1 John 1:8, 10 “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ... If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”
- 1 John 3:4 “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.”

### 3. **Presence of Hatred, Bitterness, Anger & Unforgiveness**

- 1 John 2:9 “Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.”

- 1 John 2:11 “But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”
- 1 John 3:14 “Whoever does not love abides in death.”
- 1 John 4:8 “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
- 1 John 4:20 “If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.”

### 4. **Self-Love (Pride) and Worldly-Love (Pleasures)**

- 1 John 2:15–16 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”
- 1 John 4:5 “They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.”

### 5. **Absence from the Body of Christ**

- 1 John 2:19 “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.”
- 1 John 2:23 “No one who denies the Son has the Father.”

### **Evidences of Genuine Church Involvement:**

- Heartfelt Worship and Adoration of God
- Continued Regular Physical Presence
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“What Does the Bible Say About Online Church?”

[www.trustworthyword.com/online-church](http://www.trustworthyword.com/online-church)

## Why to be Afraid of Death -> The Reality of Hell for the Lost

[www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-hell](http://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-hell)

“How to Become a Christian?”

[www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-become-a-christian](http://www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-become-a-christian)

“How to Be Sure I Am a Christian?”

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### When NOT to be afraid of death:

“for this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (John 18:37 ESV).

#### 1) Listening to & Obeying God’s Voice

- 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- 1 John 2:3 “And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.”
- 1 John 3:24 “Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”
- 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”

#### 2) Genuine Brokenness Over & Repentance from Sin

- 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- 1 John 3:9 “No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.”

### 3) Presence of God & His Love, Compassion, and Forgiveness

- 1 John 2:10, 1 John 3:14
- 1 John 4:21 “whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

### 4) Love of God & Trust in His Will

- 1 John 2:5–6 “but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”
- 1 John 2:17 “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”
- 1 John 2:20–21 “But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.”

### 5) Genuine Presence in the Body of Christ

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- 1 John 3:18 “let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth”
- 1 John 4:13 “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.”
- 1 John 2:23 “Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”
- 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

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- Philippians 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
- Philippians 1:22–26 “If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. [23] I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. [24] But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. [25] Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, [26] so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.”
- Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”
- 2 Corinthians 6:9 “as dying, and behold, we live”