

Monday, October 19, 2020

## ***The Word of Life***

As we begin a new week together, I want us to consider the book of **1 John**. You may remember that the apostle John had been called along with his brother James, to leave their father Zebedee's fishing business, to follow Jesus. (**Matthew 4:18-22**) They spend some three years travelling with Jesus and are early witnesses to his resurrection. Sadly, James would be put to death by King Herod early in the life of the church. (**Acts 12**) John had seen a lot in his lifetime. In addition to the gospel of John he is believed to have written the book of Revelation as well as three other letters, 1,2, and 3 John.

John is likely a man in his 90's as he writes these words to the churches in Asia where he had previously ministered. He is disturbed by what is happening there. Individuals known as "docetists" from the Greek word meaning "to seem," have come into the churches saying that Jesus was not God in the flesh. He only "seemed" that way. They argued that deity would never take upon himself flesh and blood. They believed the body was evil and only the spirit was good.

John is a loving shepherd caring for God's people.

**1 John 1:1-4** - *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. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 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.*

Notice that John is quick to point out that he and others have heard, seen, and touched Jesus. This is a firsthand account from an eyewitness who has been there. John is testifying to that and proclaiming Jesus to the world in an effort to have fellowship.

We read these words in **John 1:14** – *"The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son, who came from the father, full of grace and truth."*

We are grateful for the testimony of this eyewitness, John. His message is powerful, centered on Jesus and uplifting. I hope these devotionals will be a blessing to you as we look to Jesus.

With love,  
Larry

Heavenly Father – Thank you for the testimonies of those who walked with Jesus, touched him and heard his voice. Their testimonies help reassure us and encourage us on our journey. May we listen to your word and to your servants who walked with Jesus. Help us to know your will for our lives.  
In Jesus name - Amen

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

## ***Walk in the Light***

**1 John 1:5-10** - *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 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, purifies us from all sin.*

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

When the apostle John wrote this letter to churches in Asia they were facing great challenges. In yesterday's devotional we were reminded about individuals who claimed that God would never become flesh as Jesus did.

**John 1:14** - *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

This false teaching by the "Docetists" (Jesus only "seemed" real... deity would never become flesh and blood) was challenged by John's personal experience of being with Jesus, God in the flesh!

John now begins to address additional concerns in the churches. Some individuals claim that they walk with God and have fellowship with him yet are actually walking in darkness.

From **Psalm 27:1** we read, "*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*" Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.*" (**John 8:12**) We, as followers of Jesus are also called to be "*the light of the world.*" (**Matthew 5:14**)

The apostle calls the church back into fellowship with God and with each other. Confession of sin is called for and the promise of the blood of Jesus continuing to purify all from their sin is emphasized by John.

The denial of sin is useless, since "*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*" (**Romans 3:23**)

John urges these Christians and us as well, to bring our sin out into the light through confession and trust the blood of Christ to purify us. I hope we will!

With love,  
Larry

Heavenly Father – Help us to walk in the light of your Son, Jesus. Teach us to repent of sinful attitudes and behavior. Remind us that the blood of Jesus is always cleansing us from our sin. May we never take this for granted but may we confess our sins in humility before you, always trusting in your Son.

In Jesus name - Amen

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

## ***Live as Jesus Did***

**1 John 2:1-6** - *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

*We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

John had outlived all the other apostles. It had been a long journey since Jesus called him away from his father Zebedee’s fishing business in Galilee. Now his time is spent sharing the good news of his eye witness experience with Jesus. There is much more to do. Eventually, near the end of his life he will receive the “Revelation” from Jesus and write words of encouragement and exhortation to seven churches in Asia. (See **Revelation 1-3**)

John, the man with a heart of a Pastor, has some concerns for churches in Asia where he is ministering. He addresses them as “my dear children,” a truly loving and caring concern is expressed. He is determined that they remember Jesus, the *Righteous One* and the one who advocates for them. John reminds the church that Jesus has paid the price for the sins of the whole world!

There are problems in these churches with people making claims that are not true. Some have said they are without sin (**1 John 1:8, 10**). Others claim they walk with Jesus, but in fact are still walking in the darkness (**1 John 1:6**).

Here in chapter two of the letter, the claim is that these people know Jesus but do not do what he commands (**1 John 2:4-6**).

John is urging his audience to walk with Jesus, to do what Jesus commands and to trust him as the one who paid the ultimate price for the sins of the world.

I hope we will listen to John’s message today!

With love,  
Larry

Heavenly Father – Help us to fix our eyes and our hearts on Jesus, the one who paid the price for our sins and the one who speaks to you in our defense. May we walk with Jesus every day in trust, in faith and in obedience to your commands.

In the name of Jesus - Amen

Thursday, October 22, 2020

## ***You Have an Anointing***

**1 John 2:18-19** - *Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.*

John has mentioned false teachers before in his letter, but this is the strongest reference to them. There is an urgency to his words, “*this is the last hour.*” Last things are mentioned often in the New Testament (see **Acts 2:16-17**, **2 Timothy 4:1**, **2 Timothy 2:17**, **2 Peter 3:3**). All of these refer to the new time centered around Jesus as opposed to the old age centered around Moses. This is the “last hour” and at the end of this time, Jesus will come again. But no one knows that day or hour except God. Not even Jesus knows (Matthew 24:36).

He now turns to address the subject of the “antichrist.” The word means one standing in opposition or competition to Christ and is found in John’s letters. (See **1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3**, **2 John 7**) John says that “many antichrists” are present in his day. Their presence in John’s day causes him to say it is “the last hour.” This is “last hour kind of behavior” or perhaps this is a sign of the last hour. This was not an indication of the second coming of Jesus. Many adversaries (antichrists) were appearing by the end of the first century – enemies of Jesus who opposed his work.

John’s further description of these individuals indicates they had previously been in fellowship with the church.

Look up **1 John 2:20-27**

John turns his attention to those “faithful children” among the church. They have an “anointing” from God. Jesus is the “anointed one,” but his followers have an anointing from God. Those who are faithful to God have an anointing. Anointing the body or head with oil was a common practice for prophets, priests and kings in the Old Testament.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** - *Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

Here we read that we are all anointed by God through his Holy Spirit, who is in our hearts as a deposit from God, guaranteeing what is to come!

Some are trying to lead the church astray. (**1 John 2:26**) John urges the faithful to hold on to their anointing; it is from God, it is his Spirit living in us and it teaches us. It is real! In the same sense that the prophets, priests and kings were anointed, you and I have been anointed by God and he has placed his Holy Spirit in our hearts guarantying what is to come!

Heavenly Father – Thank you for your Holy Spirit living in us and helping us to live for you. May we never do anything to oppose your way in this world. Help us to be part of the solution – to point people to Jesus, your Son and our Savior.  
Amen

Friday, October 23, 2020

## ***The Great Love of God***

**1 John 3:1-3**- *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*

John the apostle now turns his thoughts to the great love of God. He describes it as having been “lavished” on us. I never think of this passage without remembering a story one of my buddies told me. A friend of his, a young college student was working at an ice cream shop as a summer job. She always seemed to overload the cones she made for her customers. Despite numerous warnings, she wanted people to feel “lavished upon” as they enjoyed their ice cream. We called her “the big dipper!” Sadly her career there, though promising for her customers, was short lived.

It is way too simplistic, but in my mind, I think of God’s love somewhat that way. He gives us way more than we deserve. In fact, it is almost a ridiculous amount! Here is the God of the universe pouring out unconditional love on those who do not deserve it.

The apostle Paul put it this way in speaking to his friend Titus, “When the kindness and love of God appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.” (**Titus 3:4-5**)

Children are precious to God. Recently I watched some old videos of our grandsons which our youngest daughter had taken. They now go back more than four years when their first child, Cooper was born. These videos reminded me of three precious little boys who have been greatly loved. When I come home for lunch and see the Amazon packages on our front porch, my wife always says, “I love those boys!” You cannot dispute that.

**Ephesians 3:16-19** - *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

With love,  
Larry

Our Father – We thank you for the love you have poured out on us through the cross of Jesus and through your Holy Spirit living in us. This love is amazing, overwhelming and undeserved. Help us to be grateful people and may we extend your love to others.  
In Jesus’ name – Amen.

Saturday, October 24, 2020

## Love One Another

**1 John 3:11-15** - *For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.*

The great love of God that John has spoken of throughout this letter is intended to change the way Jesus' followers treat others. The example of Cain and Able used here is a very sad one.

Jesus said this the last week of his life on the earth:

**John 13:34-35** - *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Jesus wanted his disciples to know that God's great love was intended to transform them. They were to love one another the way God has loved them. In fact, Jesus said this was the way all people would know that we are his disciples.

**1 John 3:16-20** - *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

*This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*

The example of Jesus' great love now calls his followers to look around and see people who are in need. John calls the churches to respond to those needs. There is a strong reminder to love in action and not just in words.

The early church in Jerusalem certainly practiced this (see **Acts 2:44-45** and **Acts 4:34-35**). Paul reminded Timothy to instruct the church there in Ephesus regarding those who were truly in need. He called upon families to care for those in their own family who were needy. (See **1 Timothy 5:8**) It is always difficult to evaluate a "true need." I have certainly been fooled about this in ministry over the years. In the end, we try to help those whom we know have struggles. Of course, we cannot do everything to help, but often we can do something. Many of you are kind and generous and looking to help those in need. I have been a facilitator of your generosity to others many times. You wanted only God to know about this. The joy and help you have brought to others has warmed my heart and encouraged me to be more like that.

Thank you!

Father – All our things belong to you. Everything we have is yours. Help us to be kind and generous to help others. Remind us that you have been so good to us. We love you and praise you. Help us to follow the example of Jesus...*"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"* **Acts 20:35**  
In the name of Jesus – Amen.

Monday, October 26, 2020

## ***Test the Spirits***

**1 John 4:1-3** - *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

In this section, the Apostle John returns to his discussion of the “antichrists” who have come into the churches there in Asia. The original teachings were found in **1 John 2:18-27**. Now John is instructing the church how they should treat these false teachers and how they can be identified.

False teachers are mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. John urges his readers to “test the spirits” and see if they are from God. In **Deuteronomy 18:21-22** as well as **Deuteronomy 13:1-5** two tests are given: 1) If the word does not come to pass or come true; 2) even if the word which the prophet speaks comes true, yet if he tries to lead his hearers astray to serve other gods, he is a false prophet. These are solid tests from Deuteronomy.

John adds another test in his particular situation Do these individuals acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh? If they do NOT, then they are not from God.

This is the spirit of the antichrist which John has spoken of earlier:

**1 John 4:4-6** - *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.*

John reminds the church that they are from God and God’s Spirit lives in them. The Holy Spirit helps them to live for God despite these challenges they are facing.

In this age where we are pressed to accept just about every type of teaching, to study and consider what someone is teaching requires effort.

I am always impressed by this scripture from **Acts 17:11** - *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.* The Bereans searched and studied God’s word carefully! I hope we will do the same.

Heavenly Father – We know that false teachers and false teaching still exist in the world today. Help us to measure what we hear with insights into your scripture. Let us do our own study and searching from your word. May we have a Spirit of humility and a hunger for truth each day.  
In the name of Jesus – Amen.

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

## ***Love Comes from God***

**1 John 4:7-12** - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

Already the apostle has addressed the subject of love strongly. In **1 John 2:1-11** he considers love from the perspective of a new command. In **1 John 3:11-21** he reminds us how important it is for us to love one another.

John reminds us that God's love has been seen best in the sending of his Son, Jesus. This is the greatest demonstration of God's love to the world. Jesus paid the price (he was the atoning sacrifice) for our sins.

Paul put it like this:

**Romans 5:6-8** - *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

When you consider **1 John 4:7-12** we are also reminded that this is all about God. Think about verse 10, "*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us...*" Sometimes we may act as though God is in our debt for the wonderful things we have done to honor and love him. That is NOT the case at all. We hopefully do these things because of God's love for us. Jesus reminded his followers to be careful. He told a very powerful story about a worker who is continuing to labor at length – a story ultimately about our own service to God.

Luke 17:7-10 - "*Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"*

With love,  
Larry

Our Father – We rely on the great love you have poured out for us in Jesus. As we consider all you have done, we also see ourselves as unworthy servants who have only done our duty. Thank you for loving sinful people like us. In the name of Jesus – Amen.

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

## ***We Love Because He First Loved Us***

**1 John 4:16-21** - *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*

*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

*We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.*

The apostle John had been placing his hope in Jesus for a long time. Called from his life of fishing as a young man, he has now outlived all the other apostles. He had seen false teachers and false teaching come and go. It had been a long journey and John had known and relied on the love of God.

God's love has brought John confidence as he faces the future awaiting his own judgment. He is not afraid but has put his hope and trust firmly in God.

For John, part of experiencing the love of God was allowing that love to transform his life and to cause him to love others. In fact, he reminds his readers, "We love because he first loved us!" We should not say we love and then treat others badly. The people we see are to be treated with a spirit of love and kindness. Earlier, he said:

**1 John 4:7-8** - *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

Those who love others are born of God. If we do not love, we do not know God.

Earlier John has asked the church a powerful question: **(1 John 4:17)** *If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?*

Let us learn to love others in action, not simply in words. *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.* **(1 John 3:18)**

With love,  
Larry

Our Father – We come before you to ask you to help us be more like you and your son. May we love in action and in truth as we live day to day. Please remind us of your great love daily. May that love inspire us to love others.

In the name of Jesus – Amen.

Thursday, October 29, 2020

## ***Faith in the Son of God***

**1 John 5:1-5** - *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

John begins the fifth chapter of his letter by reminding his audience of the closeness of family. During these times of the pandemic, some families around the world have experienced a lot more “closeness” than usual. Many homes have become a business center, workout complex, cafeteria and school all in one. There have been many good things that have come from this experience as well as many challenges.

John has been urging the family of God to keep believing, to continue to hold on to Jesus, God’s son. He is the Messiah. John has seen, touched and listened to Jesus.

**1 John 1:1-3** - *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. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 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.*

John will remind his readers that they are victorious and that they should continue to hold fast to the teachings of God. There is a victorious life in Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:37-39** - *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

With love,  
Larry

Our Father – In these trying times we continue to look to you for guidance and direction. Remind us to keep doing the next faithful thing as we try to serve you and serve others. Help us, please to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on Jesus, your Son and our savior. We offer this prayer in Jesus’ name – Amen.

Friday, October 30, 2020

## ***Life In the Son***

**1 John 5:11** - *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

I have done many weddings over the past 40 years of ministry. All of them were uniquely planned by the couple. One thing these ceremonies all had in common was that each ceremony had to have multiple witnesses to testify that it took place. Nothing was official until the witnesses signed their testimony about experiencing the event.

The apostle John has mentioned the testimony of Jesus and that of the Holy Spirit earlier in this chapter. Dr. Morris Womack, in his work on 1 John says this, "John has been very careful to establish the fact that there are at least three witnesses for the message he is presenting. Jesus was born of a virgin, was God's Son in the flesh, had died, arisen from the dead, and had manifested himself to them."

Now in verse eleven John uses the greatest motivation for us to believe and accept God's testimony. He has given us everlasting, eternal life in his son Jesus Christ.

Jesus himself had said, *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* (**John 10:10**)

This is the testimony of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and it is the apostle John's witness – eternal life is found in knowing Jesus.

With love,  
Larry

Our Father – We thank you for the witnesses to the life of your Son. Help us to listen to him and find meaning and purpose to live in serving Jesus. Life is truly found abundantly in relationship with your son. Help us to keep trusting in his precious life and sacrifice. Amen

Saturday, October 31, 2020

## ***Assurance from God***

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.”

Many of us love that old hymn. As its title indicates it brings a sense of assurance to us about where we stand with God.

**1 John 5:13-15** - *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. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

The conclusion of John’s letter is a powerful reminder to his audience. They do NOT need to feel insecure regarding the teachings of the Docetists that Jesus is NOT God in the flesh. They need to have great confidence in Jesus and in God’s plan for them. The Greek word for knowledge (gnosis) is used here and elsewhere in the letter. These Docetists claimed to have “special knowledge” about God that others did not possess.

The apostle’s teachings are strong. He wanted these Christians to absolutely know they had eternal life. He has urged them to stay faithful to Jesus, to continue trusting in his blood and to keep asking God to guide them according to his will.

He wanted the church to “know” that God is listening to them. When our oldest daughter, Lindsay, was a little girl she would often crawl up in my lap and begin “jabbering.” She always had a lot to say. If she did not think I was paying close enough attention to her, she would grab my face and turn it toward her. I knew she meant business – even as a two year old!

Reading this letter, I picture God turning our faces toward him and saying, “I want you to listen to me. What you have in Jesus is precious. Do not give up, do not be afraid of the false teachers. You can know that I love you and you can know that you have eternal life.”

**1 John 5:11-12** - *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

With love,  
Larry

Heavenly Father – May we turn our faces toward you once again and hear what you have to say to us. Thank you for the peaceful reassurance you provide. We know we are yours. Thank you for life that is truly life.  
In the name of Jesus – Amen.