

Digging Deeper into God's Word!

Study of 1st John



Lesson 1 - Introduction
Sunday - January 2, 2022

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What I want most for the church in 2022?4

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How many resolutions have you made in your life? Every January 1st, we have a tendency to make resolutions on how to live or be healthier. I have made resolutions to lose weight, cut out fried food, eat healthier, get out of debt, exercise, and so much more. Many of my resolutions I made have only lasted a few weeks.

According to an article in the New York Post from December 21, 2018, January 12th is the fateful day for many resolutions. A life changing resolution which only last 12 days is not life changing.¹

“New Year's resolutions are the very definition of best-laid plans. Most of us ring in the new year with ambitious intentions to lose weight, exercise more, or quit smoking, but our freshly minted goals are likely to fall apart even before February. That's according to 2018 data from Strava, a social network for athletes. The company analyzed more than 31.5 million fitness records from its users and found that the second Friday in January is the fateful day when most of our annual commitments start to crumble. So, for 2020, that's Jan. 10.”²

Resolution or revolution? I think we need a revolution to the way we are living. Revolution is an upheaval or battle to change the status quo to something better. Revolution is a fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing something.

We need to see the Bible differently. We need to see how reading our Bible can change our life. We need to see the Word of God as the psalmist did in Psalms 119.

Psalm 119:1–11 ESV “119:1 ¶ Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!

119:2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,

119:3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

119:4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

119:5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

119:6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

119:7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.

119:8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

119:9 ¶ How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

119:10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

A decision to go deeper in our faith would revolutionize our walk with Christ, outlook on life, and hope for the future. Going deeper in our faith would transform our worldview, attitude, and outlook.

I would like to see a revolution in how and when we read our Bibles.

Going deeper is a decision, plan, and action to change from living a mediocre walk to a victorious life in Christ. Do you want the status quo on your life or do you want to make a change that will revolutionize our marriages, families, life, and church?

I am tired of the status quo. I am tired of accepting just existing. I am tired of going through the motions and staying the same old way. It is time to go deeper.

Beginning next Sunday, Sunday morning messages for the 1st quarter of 2022 will be a verse by verse in depth study of 1st John. We will be digging deeper and deeper into the Word of God to find great treasures in the Word of God. Just like a miner who digs in the rocks to find gold and silver nuggets we will dig through the Scriptures to find the treasures stored there.

I want to encourage you to join with me in finding these treasures.

Why do you need go deeper into the Word of God?

2022 will be a year of great challenges and difficulties and we need to go deeper if we are to survive the storms coming.

Matthew 7:24–27 ESV “7:24 ¶ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

7:25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

7:26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

7:27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.””

We need to define the extent and purposes of these storms.

Storms designed to destroy

Storms are those life-changing events that seek to destroy the person, his marriage, family, and church. These are not minor storms but life-changing storms. They originate with the intention of destruction.

Storms are not little rain showers or thunderstorms, but storms with the impact of destroying a home. The house he is building represents his life. These storms are designed to destroy his life. I want you to understand the word I am using, "designed". This means there is a purpose or plan behind the storm.

Satan wanted to destroy Job's life.

Job 1:1 ESV "There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil."

Job 1:6–12 ESV "**1:6** ¶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

1:8 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"

1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason?"

1:10 Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

1:11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

1:12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD."

Job 1:22 ESV "¶ In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong."

Satan wanted to destroy Peter.

Luke 22:31–32 ESV "**22:31** ¶ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

22:32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.'"

Satan wants to destroy your life.

1 Peter 5:8–9 ESV "**5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

5:9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

2 Timothy 2:24–26 ESV “2:24 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

2:25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

2:26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”

Satan is seeking to destroy your life. He cares nothing about you; he only wants to destroy you, your family, your testimony, and your life. He sets traps and snares to entangle us. He puts temptations before us to cause us to fall.

John 8:44 ESV “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Storms of sin

Storm could come from a decision you have to make. And if you decide contrary to the Word of God, it could have devastating consequences on your life.

If a married person yields to the sin of adultery, it can destroy his marriage, ministry, family, and life. It can have devastating consequences, which can last a lifetime.

Michael Hyatt wrote:

"Several years ago a friend of mine had an affair. It was like dropping an atomic bomb in his life. He lost his wife, his kids, his home, his friends, and more.

It’s impossible to fully appreciate the devastation caused by his decision—people are still hurting years later. But counting the cost of infidelity is something we should all do.

We can justify anything if we try hard enough, right? But the only way to justify adultery is closing our eyes to the terrible costs it exacts in our lives and the lives of those closest to us.

We can all do the math for ourselves, but by my counting there are at least eight major reasons to run, not walk, from infidelity.

1. It'll cost your reputation.
2. It might cost your job.
3. It'll cost you money.
4. It'll probably cost your family.
5. It'll cost you friendships.
6. It'll cost you your emotional health.
7. It'll cost your legacy.
8. It might even cost your soul."³

Storms can come in a variety of fronts. Some can be internal storms and other storms external.

Storm of opposition

When God has called you to a ministry and you face opposition, Satan wants you to quit and give up.

1 Corinthians 16:9 ESV “for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

Luke 9:57–62 ESV “9:57 ¶ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

9:58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

9:59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”

9:60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

9:61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”

9:62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.””

Storm of fear

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV “for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

2 Corinthians 4:8–10 ESV “4:8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

4:9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

4:10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.”

Fear is the mind killer. Fear brings inaction. Fear keeps us from acting, from doing.

Devil wants to send the storm of fear in your life to keep you from living your life. Too many people today are afraid of living because they are afraid of the unknown. Afraid to go out, afraid to live, afraid to do anything because the world, media, and everything else is instilling fear in their lives. How many times has the Lord told us not to fear but to trust Him.

Psalms 91:1–6 ESV “91:1 ¶ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

91:2 I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

91:3 ¶ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

91:4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

91:5 You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

91:6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.”

So many storms we face! But some storms are designed to destroy our lives, marriages, families, children, homes, churches, and so much more.

Notice what the Lord says is the remedy to these storms: Reading and obeying the Word of God.

Knowing the Word of God and applying it to our daily lives.

These storms are the reason I want us to learn how to read, study, and understand the Word of God.

We are going to 1st John to learn the wonderful truths God has for us there.

Why 1st John?

John wrote this letter to the Christian for four reasons.

1. You might have joy in your life.

1 John 1:4 ESV “And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

There is a difference between joy and happiness.

Joy is an inner peace or contentment or happiness which is not dependent on external circumstances.

Happiness is an elated feeling dependent upon external circumstances, such a good luck. – temporary – associated with pleasure.

Joy	Happiness
Comes from within	Comes from without
It is lasting	It is temporal
Associated with contentment	Associated with pleasure

“Most people confuse joy with happiness. But there is a vast difference. Happiness is grounded in favourable circumstances. When everything goes well, the camper is happy. Joy on the other hand is rooted in the spirit. It is an attitude of life. It remains present as an undercurrent even when things aren't exactly dandy.”

Romans 14:17 ESV “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

You could say that the first part of that verse describes happiness: eating and drinking. Outward, natural pleasancess. The second part of Romans 14, 17 on the other hand describes the elements of spiritual fulfillment: righteousness, peace and... joy in the Holy Ghost.

2 Corinthians 7:4 ESV “I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.”

Where does joy come from?

Joy in faith

There joy in knowing Christ as your personal saviour – having a faith in Him

Joy in forgiveness

There is joy in knowing that you are forgiven of your sins and knowing that if you do fall into sin, we have an advocate with the Lord who will forgive us of our sins.

Joy in fruitfulness

Galatians 5:22–23 ESV “5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Joy in fellowship

1 John 1:7 ESV “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.”

What does ‘full’ mean?

John 15:11 ESV “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

Full or Complete is the Greek word - 4137 πληρο,ω πληροο {play-ro'-o} • from 4134; TDNT - 6:286,867; v • AV - fulfil 51, fill 19, be full 7, complete 2, end 2, misc 9; 90 • 1) to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full 1a) to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally 1a1) I abound, I am liberally supplied 2) to render full, i.e. to complete 2a) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim 2b) to consummate: a number 2b1) to make complete in every particular, to render perfect 2b2) to carry through to the end, to accomplish, carry out, (some undertaking) 2c) to carry into effect, bring to realisation, realise 2c1) of matters of duty: to perform, execute 2c2) of sayings, promises, prophecies, to bring to pass, ratify, accomplish 2c3) to fulfil, i.e. to cause God's will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfilment

The word means that it will be sufficient for the things of life. We can have a complete joy in Christ. We can have the assurance of our salvation that regardless of where we are, we know that we are a child of God and in His loving hands.

Full – complete, fulfilled, enough, adequate, overflowing.

2. You might live a holy life.

1 John 2:1 ESV “¶ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

The purpose of John writing this epistle is to promote holiness and godliness in the life of the Believers. So many times, believers have accepted sin as the norm for the Christian with only minor victories over it. But, God has not given us the spirit of defeat, but the power to overcome sin in our lives so that we might live a life pleasing in His sight. We do not have to serve sin, but can live for Him in all that we do.

1 Peter 1:16 ESV “since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.””

3. You will not be deceived by false teachers or teachings.

1 John 2:26 ESV “¶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.”

The phrase, ‘deceive you’ means to cause one to go astray. The concept is to warn the believer against those that would lead you astray from the truth of the Gospel. There are many false teachers whose goal is to deceive the believer away from the Lord. John is writing to prevent the believer from leaving the truth of the Gospel and following false doctrines.

Acts 20:29 ESV “I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;”

4. You will know that you are saved - assurance of salvation.

1 John 5:13 ESV “¶ 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.”

There are many things in this world that are out of our control. We cannot prevent them from happening. We can either walk around in fear of the unknown or we can live an abundant life in Jesus Christ knowing He is the Lord of Lord and King of Kings. Knowing He loves us and will watch over us.

My greatest hope is in Christ; there is the greatest hope and joy in knowing that regardless of what happens in this life, I have an eternity with Christ in heaven and will receive a new glorified body in Him.

John is writing so that I can know (have the assurance) I am a child of God and have eternal life.

Can you say today what Job said in chapter 19.

Job 19:23–27 ESV “19:23 ¶ “Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

19:24 Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!

19:25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

19:26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see
God,
19:27 whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!”

Let me share one more reason why you need to dig deep into the Word of God.

Watch video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNWvxexMri0&t=1s>

¹“Research conducted by Strava, the social network for athletes, has discovered that Saturday, Jan. 12, is the fateful day of New Year’s resolutions.” (<https://nypost.com/2018/12/21/new-years-resolutions-last-exactly-this-long/>)

²<https://bestlifeonline.com/new-years-resolutions-ditch-date/>

³<https://michaelhyatt.com/thinking-about-an-affair-count-the-cost/>

⁴Not sure where I got this quote