

FULLNESS OF JOY
1 John
By Raymond White

The purpose of John's gospel is to tell us who Jesus is and how to get eternal life.

John 20:31 These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the son of the God and that believing ye might have life through his name.

But the purpose of John's first epistle is to persuade us that we have eternal life.

1 John 2:12 I write unto you because your sins are forgiven.

1 John 3:19 hereby we know that we are in the truth and shall assure our hearts...

1 John 3:24 hereby we know that he abideth in us...

1 John 4:13 hereby know we that we dwell in him...

There words "he abideth in us" and "we that dwell in him" are not hyperbole. They are in some sense literal. But what could these words mean if not hyperbole?

1 John 1:1 ...which we have heard, seen, handled... :2 the life was manifest and we have seen it and bear witness and shew unto you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifest to us.

God's life is eternal life and God wants us to have that eternal life. But where is that eternal life that we can find it? John says that it was manifested, they saw it, they touched it, and they bear witness of it. What exactly then did they see and touch? They saw and touched the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the eternal life that they bore witness to — that is not metaphorical or metaphysical. He is literal. That which they had heard, seen, and handled is eternal life and is Jesus Christ who was with the Father.

John 1:4 In him is life

John 5:26 life in himself

John 11:25 I am the life

John 14:6 I am the life

John 14:20 I am in my father and ye in me and I in you.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life.

1 John 5:20 We are in him...this...is eternal life.

So, what is John's message? Just this: Christ is in you, so God is in you, so eternal life is in you, so I am writing to you so that you can know it, so that you can have joy. After all, since you have eternal life, you might as well know it, and be happy.