

Title: He Has Made Him Known

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 12/10/23

Good morning, if I have not met you, I am Grant Hill, the associate pastor here. It is a glorious day. We are going to start today in the very beginning.

1 John 1:1-4 ESV

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— The life was made manifest, and we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you, too, may have fellowship with us; and indeed, our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

This is the season of hearing songs about joy. The joy to be complete and new, is to understand what has been made manifest. What is the season manifesting? What is the season about? We are being called to carry a great glory here. I have been called to carry a greater glory, and it will be made manifest to you as you encounter it in your own heart. It will be revealed. The Lord judges the House of God first. The Lord will ask you what are you doing?

John 21:21-22 ESV

Peter asked Jesus, “What is going to happen to him?” Jesus said, “What is that to you? You follow me!” What does that tell you? “You follow me,” in the House of God. Not in comparison to see what other people are doing, or trying to do it that way. There is a place for babes in the kingdom to imitate the elders in the House. But, sooner or later, the imitation must cease. You must behold the “Bread and the Wine” yourself. Take it yourself and drink and eat it yourself. Let it be you in Him, and Him in you.

1 John 1:1-4 ESV

These four verses are not John, the Apostle, repeating himself, but it looks like he is.

“That which was from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it.”

We already know that if you read it in context. He already said that. What is he talking about? He is not doing this to be repetitive. Go to the very beginning, like he said, *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard.”* The very beginning is the book of Genesis.

Genesis 1:1-3 ESV

It says, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”*

The Apostle John is actually revealing to you that the Trinity was at the beginning. There was God, the Holy Spirit, then there was God as the Voice. He said, *“That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard.”* The Voice that said, *“Let there be light.”* The Voice that said, *“Let us make man in our image.”* The Words of life. Did you catch that in John, *“the Words of life?”* The Trinity in the Old Testament, is God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Word.

Sunday, December 10, 2023

A Voice that makes itself manifest to the forefathers in the Old Testament. This is what John is saying in I John. I guess you have to keep your finger in I John 1:1, to understand what I am talking about.

I John 1:1-4 ESV

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes.” Nobody has seen God, but we have seen His glory. All of creation reveals the glory of the Lord. What am I saying? I am saying that the “three in one,” at the beginning was called the God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, and God the Word, the Voice that would speak and reveal God's heart. This Word was a deity of being that the Jews did not understand. He was mysterious. He kept showing up at random times. He kept showing up and doing random things. He kept revealing Himself as a different deity, a different divine people of God, different names of God. He was not always the same. They did not know exactly who He was.

I John 1:2 ESV

“The life was made manifest,” The Triune God had at the beginning, revealed Himself to Abraham as a “torch of fire,” that spoke to him and blessed him. This Word of life that was at the beginning came to Abraham and ate with him, broke bread with him, and told Sarah, “You are going to conceive a son.” She laughed at him to herself, of course. God heard, the Word of Life heard. This Word of Life revealed Himself to Moses as a burning bush that cried out, “holy ground.” You know these stories.

This is the Godhead, the Word of Life, the Word that would come forth to the Earth from Heaven, and reveal Himself in a way that we did not understand. The Jews wrestled with Him. Jacob wrestled with the Word. He wrestled with Him, and said, “I will not let you go until you speak to me a blessing by your words.” The Word of Life gave the word to Jacob that changed his whole life. He changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Israel means “Prince of God,” and it changed him forever. The people of his seed were “princes of God,” the Israelites. Moses encountered the Word of Life in a burning bush. Joshua encountered the Word of Life as a Commander who came to win the Lord's battles. Joshua asked Him, “Are you for us or for our enemy? What did He answer? “No, I am not here to pick sides. No, I am the Commander of the Army of the Lord, and now I have come.” Joshua, set down his agenda and followed Him. This is the Word of Life that Samuel, as a young boy, heard in the night and began a lifetime of hearing that Voice whisper to him day by day, morning by morning.

This is who God was in the Old Testament. God the Father, who revealed Himself as Yahweh on the mountain. The Holy Spirit who would fall upon them. Then this One, that is just the Word. A Word that would be spoken forth. This deity of God that would come forth. It is God in the flesh. It is the “three in one.” I am not saying He is separate. I am not saying He is His own thing, but God is. Why is this important? What did Jesus say to the devil? This part of the Trinity, this being of God, was who all the Jews knew as the Word, before the New Testament times. Jesus uses this verse to quote against the devil when he tempts Him in the wilderness forty days and nights.

Deuteronomy 8:3 ESV

“And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know, that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”

Moses is saying this about God. This is very interesting. God will not feed someone who is not hungry. You cannot feed a child who will not eat. You can try. But you cannot feed a child who is not hungry. God is the same with us. He will not feed His children who are not hungry. He will

Sunday, December 10, 2023

not force feed them. He will not force you to be hungry, but He will let you be satisfied with where you are. Until you realize that you are not living. Then the verse becomes alive because, you say, "Oh, I am not living, so I cannot live without the Word of the Lord. I cannot live without the Word of Life. I cannot live without my daily Bread."

Manna what does "manna" mean? It means, "*What is it?*" Because when the Hebrews saw it on the ground, they asked that, "Manna?" "What is it," and that is literally what it is named. You have to have that same mystery with the Bread of Life. "Who are you? What is it? What are you?" The Word of Life is a mystery. Jesus is a mystery. He is a mystery. You have not figured Him out. We have not been revealed the fullness of the likeness of Christ Jesus yet, nor will we. Forever and ever we will understand and see who He is in His likeness. When we see Him in His likeness, we shall be as He is.

1 John 3:2 ESV

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be, has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.

This is the unveiling revelation of Jesus Christ, that we with unveiled face would see Him. That you would have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation speaking to your hearts to understand what are the riches of the glory of the inheritance of Jesus. This is what Jesus is saying. If you understand this, your joy will be complete. That we would have fellowship in the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son together, when we have this revelation of the manna, the Bread of Life, and the Word of Life.

It is a joyous thing to be connected in the Body of God. To see Him in His unveiled face, but we are not here for the experiences with one another. We are here to experience the One. When we all experience the One, that is what actually bonds the House of God with unity, because the Tree is now being connected with the branches and the roots. Right? The branches are not trying to connect to each other. Trees do not try to send their branches to each other. They go out, but the branches do try to connect with the root. Yet, are they all individual? No, it is one Tree of Life. It is one Tree of God. It is one Family of God with individual members. We are seeking the deep revelation of Jesus, that we might be bonded in the experience of the face of Christ, as He manifests the Word of Life. This is revelatory. "*Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*"

Jeremiah 15:16 ESV

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts." Your words were found.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." But, there is something to be found. There are words to be found.

There was a gentleman by the name of Watchman Nee. He was literally dying of tuberculosis. His lungs were so filled, that it hurt his entire body to be lifted from the bed. He was nearly at death's door, and the doctor gave him three to four weeks. He is in the bed reading the scriptures. He is reading the word. He is reading it. He is speaking the scriptures that we pray. He is speaking the healing scriptures that we pray and declare. But, he said there was a moment where he heard God, the Word of life, give Him a word. It was, "Get up and walk."

Watchman Nee is a mature Christian in the faith at this point. He says, "Then I knew I would be healed, because I had not received the word, but I found it." I found the word for me in the Word of God. I don't know how. It is hard to explain. He found Jesus, the Word of Life, in the

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Word of God, speak to him the word he needed. The word for him. Then he said, "If God gave it to me, it will never be void. It will not return void. I know the Word, but now He gave it to me and I ate it." That is what Watchman Nee did, he ate it. Then what did he do? He got up, sweating in a feverish way and almost fell over. He put his pants on. He barely put his shoes on, because he could hardly bend over. As he walked down the stairs, he was sweating profusely. He was in such a delirium of fever, he didn't even remember walking down the street. He made it to the apartment where the brothers and sisters were praying for him to be healed, and knocks on the door. They open the door, and say, "You are here, and you are alive."

Just like they did in the scriptures when Peter knocked on the door after being delivered from jail, and they shut the door and ran back saying Peter was alive at the door." When they saw Watchman Nee at the door, they were astounded. They stopped praying. What do you do when the person that you have asked in prayer to be healed, walks into the room healed?

What am I trying to get at? I am trying to say, that "Your words were found and I ate them." I am saying that you can read this Word all day long, but not "find yourself it." But, when you, find yourself in the word, it changes your life. When you say, "this is the word for me. This scripture right here is what I need to eat right now in my life. This is the word I have to eat. It has to be manifest to me." It changes your life.

Abraham heard the voice of God. But, then one day Abraham ate with God. He sat down in his tent and ate with Him. Jesus says, *"I stand at the door and knock. He who opens the door, I will come in and eat with him. I will dine with him."* *"Your words have become to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, Lord God of Hosts."*

1 John 1:1

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, which we have touched with our hands concerning the word of life."

What is he talking about there? He is telling you about his forefathers. He is telling you about the testimonies of Abraham, who saw Him with his eyes. Gideon saw Him show up. Jacob touched Him with his hands, and wrestled with Him concerning the Word of Life. This part of the Triune God, the Word of Life, was made manifest to us. We saw it, and we testify in a new way.

The Gospel of John's Christmas story is different than all the rest. Here the gospel of John talks about the Christmas events.

John 1:1-5 ESV

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

The Word of Life was at the beginning. This is how Jesus can say this to the Jews.

John 6:47-51 ESV

"Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Sunday, December 10, 2023

What is going on here in this one moment? Jesus is speaking out of the image of the Word of Life. He has been this for generations. He has been the Word of Life, the Bread of Life for generation upon generations. The Jews have encountered the Word of Life, and here He is in front of them. They do not recognize Him. He comes out from the “Son of Man.” He comes out from the phrase, “the Son of Man.” “I am the Son of Man.” “The Son of Man,” cannot find a place to rest.

Here He says, “I am the Word of Life.” The Spirit in Him speaks forth, saying “I have been coming to you. I have been making myself manifest to you, who you have touched, who you have seen, and who you have heard. Here I am. I am the Bread of Life. If you get me now, you will always have Me forever. Eternal life is in me. I am revealing myself to you now, “I am in the flesh. I will never leave you, nor forsake you. Now, I am the Servant. I came to serve the whole flock. Now, I am the Shepherd to be struck. But, I have always been the Bread of Life. I have always been the Word of Life.” It is amazing.

John 1:5 ESV

Let's continue to read John's Christmas story, *“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

The Word of Life, “was the light of men.” The Word was in the beginning, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God.” This is God.

John 1:9-10 ESV

“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him. Yet, the world did not know Him.”

This changes how you see this season. *“He was in the world.”* How was He in the world? He showed up. He walked. He revealed Himself to Joshua, Moses, Gideon, Daniel, Ezekiel, Samuel, Abraham, and Jacob. *“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,”* by His voice. *“Yet, the world did not know Him.”*

John 1:11-13 ESV

“He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” The child came, so that we could be children of God. *“Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”* He was born of God.

John 1:14-16 ESV

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about Him (John the Baptist), and cried out, “This was He of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me. For from His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.”

John 1:17-18 ESV

Now listen to this, *“For the Law was given through Moses; (by the Word of Life) grace and truth came from Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, God has made Him known.”*

That is how John is talking to us. We saw Him *“full of grace and truth,”* this Word of Life.

I John 1:2-4 ESV

“The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—(in that time and season in that day) that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

The Christmas story according to the Apostle John, is that “*God has made Him manifest.*” No one has seen God. He has been sitting at the Father's hand, but God has made Him known. That is why we sing His name. In this time, what you will get out of it, is how much you put into the Manifest Presence, the Word of Life. When we take and eat of that Beloved, and when we take and reside in Him and abide in Him, then He will reveal the greater glory, the greater face, and the greater revelation of who He is. When we see who He is, we say, “Ah, God has made Him known.”

That is different when somebody else encounters Jesus. People get a little feisty or jealous. How can Jesus reveal Himself to you and not to me? That is competition. It lasts until the parents step in. Children do it all the time. “Why did he get more cookies or he gets a bigger piece of cake than I got!” The parent says, “Just look at me and do not worry about what your brother or sister has. Just look at me. How much more could I give you? You do not even know the blessings that will come. But, you only care about what is happening with your siblings. It is the same for the House of the Lord. What are they getting? How did they get it? How can I get it the same way? But, that is not, “I found your word. I ate it for myself. It gave me the desires of my heart and fulfilled my day with joy.” That is what we are after. Let's stand and pray.

Holy Ghost, here we are and we honor your word. I praise you, Jesus. I ask that you would make yourself manifest as you revealed yourself to John, Peter, James, Paul, Philip, and Nathaniel. Lord, you showed yourself differently. God, we see where we compete or where we get jealous. We ask that you would forgive us. That you would lead us and grant us repentance. That you would open our hearts to the revelation of Jesus Christ. That we with unveiled face would see you manifest, and we would eat of you, the Bread of Life. We would know you, as we have never known you, and that you would call us to places we have never been called before. We believe, in Jesus' name, amen.