



## **1<sup>st</sup> John – Pastor Jann T. Butler (Background)**

### **The Time it was Written**

The letter of the Book of John, 1st John, 2nd John, 3rd John were written just before the Apostle's death. This ended the generation of the last living eyewitness of the Life (Nature) of the Father that had manifested through Christ on earth. (85-95 AD)

### **The Main Theme**

The Communion (Fellowship) of the life of the Father in the Body of Christ is developed through the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit, in the heart each *Born again* believer.

### **Purpose for Writing the Letter**

The Communion (Fellowship) of the believer was deteriorating. Divisions began to increase; young converts were exposed to wrong teachings. (Doctrine) The commandments were being violated and the Holy Commandment broken. The role of the Holy Spirit was lost in the heart of many believers, being replaced by the witness of men, false teachers entering in. The impact of these false teachers was literally destroying/dismantling the witness of Christ which comes through the inward anointing (Council – *of the Holy Spirit*). The effect of Judaism plus the Gnosticism of the time, caused many to not believe in His Deity, (that He was conceived by God in the earth, 100% man & 100% God).

### **The Holy Spirit is the revealer of the Son of God – Jn. 14:16-21**

The Holy Spirit gives to every believer the ability to see clearly and know the Father through the manifested Son of God in the earth. John also clearly exposes the purpose of Satan's role against the church which is to destroy the witness of the love of the Father He gave through His Son to the church. John knew if the witness of truth was destroyed in the church that Satan's effect on a dying world would be greater. Satan knows that if he could remove the "Witness of Truth" the credibility of the church would be lost.

### **Our witness to each other is the means to win the lost**

Our fellowship with Jesus through the Life.

John – who came to perceive with depth the person and character of God in the person of Jesus, says if our fellowship with Him (Jesus) is approved, it's because the Holy Spirit was able to remove the sin of darkness from our walk with each other, and this is done through an inward anointing provided by the Holy Spirit. This takes place so we don't stumble over each other, which keeps us offence free. If a person says he has fellowship with Jesus yet stumbles and takes offence with his brother, he is a liar, and the truth is not in him. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to remove the darkness, so we don't continue to walk in the darkness with each other. The results of a person's witness is validated in an approved or disapproved fellowship we have with Jesus. If the fellowship is approved it is because His very person, character and nature has been revealed to us, which is love. If the fellowship is disapproved, we never come to know Him in that love, for God is love. Love is perfected in us because the whole world must come to complete judgment in the end, and the judgment has been provided because the Father's love was brought to mankind. It was brought, first to avoid the judgment (through us) who came to know His love. Second, to give it to a dying world which has no hope. Our love for each other provides them with the demonstration of His love.