Fellowship with the Father and His Son  
1 John 1:1-3

Introduction:

A. The meaning of “fellowship.”
   1. English word suggests a condition of being “fellows” by two or more.
   2. Vines and Thayer say it is a sharing or partnership.
   3. Other translations of the original words (*koinonia, koinonos*) for fellowship.
      a. Communion (1 Cor. 10:16; 2 Cor. 6:14; 13:14).
      b. “Communication” (Phile. 6; Heb. 13:16; cf. Phil. 4:15).
      c. “Partaker” “companion” “Partners” (Luke 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 10:20)

B. Modern efforts at fellowship of communion with God.
   1. Mysticism.
   2. Meditations.

C. Difference in feeling close to the Lord and being close to Him.

D. John tells us about three essentials for real fellowship with the Father and His Son.

Discussion

I. Testimony.
   A. Two kinds of faith – one from experience and other from testimony.
      1. Witnesses believe from experience (vv. 1-3).
         a. A select few were eye witnesses (Acts 9:3-4; John 20:24-29; 2 Pet. 1:16)
         b. Another select few received direct revelations and spiritual gifts (cf. 1 Cor 14:30, 31).
      2. The rest believe from testimony (v. 3; cf. Rom. 10:6-17; cf. John 20:29)
         a. Written testimony of eyewitnesses (John 20:30-31)
         b. Written testimony of personal revelations (Eph 3:3-5).
   B. Our fellowship based on faith in testimony (vv. 3, 4)
      1. Not personal immediate communion (cf. 2 Cor. 5:6,8)
      2. But, in a fellowship through Bible based faith.

II. Forgiveness.
   A. Fellowship does not depend on *reaching* sinless perfection (vv. 8, 10).
   B. Fellowship depends on *reaching for* sinless perfection (v. 7; 2:1, 4).
   C. Fellowship depends on confessing our sins (v. 9).

III. Obedience.
   A. Must do the truth (v. 6)
   B. Must walk in light (vv. 6, 7).
   C. Must obey commands (2:4).
   D. Must keep word (2:5, 6).

Conclusion:

A. “Hereby know we that we are in him” – not by feelings, personal experiences, etc.
B. We become children of the Father when are baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26, 27)