The Literary Style of
1 JOHN

Cyclical / Spiral Writing

John revisits the same core themes, adding new details and depth with each pass, like ascending a spiral staircase.

Example: Tracing the theme of **Obedience**

1:5-7: Introduced as "walking in the light" versus "walking in darkness."

2:3-6: Deepened to mean we "know" Him if we keep His commands.

3:22-24: Connected to answered prayer and "abiding" in Him.

5:2-3: Fully defined as the very expression of our love for God.

Simple Language

The book uses a limited vocabulary of basic, powerful words to make its message direct and accessible.

Key Repeated Words:

know	love	abide	life
light	truth	sin	world

Stark Contrasts (Antithesis)

John presents truth in absolute, black-and-white terms, leaving no room for a middle ground.

Light vs. Darkness (1:5)

Truth vs. Lies (2:21)

Love of the Father vs. Love of the World (2:15)

Love vs. Hate (2:11)

Children of God vs. Children of the Devil (3:10)

Spirit of God vs. Spirit of Antichrist (4:3)