

“Walking in the Light”

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Part I. Introduction

Today’s topic has been an important part of our ministry purpose and calling for over 20 years. As ministers called to provide healing and deliverance to members of the body of Christ, we have seen time and time again, believers are not walking in all the light God has for them. We maybe born-again and Spirit filled, but our lives are not representative of the rights and privileges of the kingdom of God. Many of us have not matured in Christ like we should have by now and are not demonstrating the gifts or the fruits of the Spirit.

So my question is- why have we fallen short of the glory of God and not developed to the full potential we could in Jesus Christ? The answer just may be that... *the people of God are not walking in the light God has provided for us.* The darkness that remains hinders our growth and limits out potential in the kingdom of God.

The primary scripture text is I John 1:5-10 and is entitled “Walking in the Light” in the NIV. We’ll come back to discuss this text later.

Today’s message focuses on 3 points:

What exactly does the Word mean by walking in the light?

How does darkness exists in the minds and hearts of believers?

How do you get purified or cleansed from the darkness in order to move toward the light?

Word study on light- definitions of light include:

1. The essential condition of vision. Light is necessary for our eyes to function.
2. The emanation from a light-giving body- the sun, the moon, a lamp
3. As a verb transitive- to light, to set of fire, to ignite, to illumine with light.
4. Mental or spiritual illumination, enlightenment, as “to throw light on a subject”
5. To enlighten- to supply others with truth and knowledge, to free from ignorance.

Definitions of “dark” include-

1. absence of light
2. a shade tending toward black; a mixture of light and dark
3. lacking enlightenment
4. evil, sinister
5. in secret, hidden, in ignorance, uninformed

Darkness is a moral state where we have a mixture of light and dark: We’ve received some truth from God, but also some lies from the enemy; a state of being lukewarm, neither hot nor cold; double-mindedness on our part-- that God cannot bless. Darkness exists in our unconsciousness effecting our current behavior, attitudes and emotions. Darkness is where we hide things, have secrets and give the enemy place to traffic in our life. As born-again Christians, we still have some unsanctified areas of our soul where darkness exists. We are the bride of Christ that still

have some spots and wrinkles in our character consciously or unconsciously from our past experiences in life.

Our transformation is a gradual process a moving from darkness into the light, from a state of sinfulness into a state of holiness. The work of the Holy Spirit is to gradually expose the darkness that remains in our heart and provide us with the opportunity to: turn away, repent, renounce the darkness and receive His grace and truth in a particular area.

This sanctifying process is a continuum; not a one time experience with God. Moving from darkness toward light, moving away from the kingdom of Satan, toward the kingdom of God.

Darkness _____ ^ _____ Light
The kingdom of Satan Born-again The kingdom of God

An illustration from nature. Purchase two new, healthy strawberry plants and place one in the sunlight to grow and flourish. Take the other one and place it in a closet in the darkness to survive as best it can. Give both of them water and check on them regularly. After 30 days compare them to see how they are different. As you will discover, the one in the closet turned yellow, stopped growing and may have died. The one living in the daylight thrived, produced flowers and the beginning of some fruit. The healthy one represents walking in the light in the kingdom of God. The almost dead one represents darkness, the kingdom of Satan. Which one are you most like?

Some distinctions need to be made.

1. We are forgiven from our sins when we repent and invite Christ into our heart. Then there is the on-going process of being cleansed from the darkness that remains. The first step happens instantly, the second takes years and maybe a lifetime.
2. We see ourselves quite differently from how God sees us. We tend to focus on the unrenewed, uncrucified fleshly manifestations in our life. God sees us positionally *in Christ* with our sins covered over by the blood of Jesus, seated in heavenly places as sons of God with divine purpose and calling to fulfill.
3. Unrenewed minds keep us from living a life of faith, trusting God or viewing ourselves as God sees us. Having the mind of Christ enables us to be overcomers in this life, trust God completely and fulfill our purpose and calling in the kingdom of God.
4. Wounded hearts distort our perceptions of Biblical reality and interfere with our relationships with others. Healed hearts filled with God's love, peace and joy enable us to live the abundant life and support healthy relationships with others.
5. Demonic oppression keeps us blind, deaf, and defeated in this life spiritually, emotionally and relationally. Liberty in Christ enables us to worship God freely and experience the joy of the Lord, just to name a few.

Part II. What is walking in the light?

I John 1: 5-10 show us what walking in the light means, we are:

1. Living in obedience to God who is light.
2. Experiencing continuous fellowship with God
3. Fellowship with one another in the body.
4. Appropriating the blood of Jesus Christ for purification from our sin.

Scriptures about light and believers:

1. Mat. 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world" and "let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."
2. I Thess. 5:5, "You are sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night, or to the darkness."
3. ***Eph. 5:8-14, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.... (read from Bible.)"

As you can see, walking in the light not only means possessing truth or knowledge, but also means being a living example, a source of God's light, to others. So how can we be light bearers if there is still a measure of darkness in our souls?

Recap the first two points so far:

1. Walking in the light means choosing to obey God's word, continued intimacy with God, fellowship with one another and having our hearts purified from sin by the blood of Jesus, not just forgiveness for our sins. ***There is a cleansing that must take place.***
2. Walking in darkness means choosing to deny the truth, not always obeying God's Word, effects our intimacy with God and fellowship with other believers. Means we have not gone the extra step to have our hearts purified from past sinful experiences, either what we did ourselves or others did to us. Darkness

Part III. Places where darkness remains.

Jack Frost's book Experiencing Father's Embrace lists:

Four Potential areas of Darkness:

1. Hidden and unconfessed, attitudinal sins. John 3:19-20, "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed." This includes such vices as pride, fears, control, anger, being judgmental, blame-shifting, self-righteousness, impure motives, spiritual ambition, or envy of others.
2. Another's darkness invading our light, or unresolved conflict with others. Resulting from our reactions to others who sinned against us, disappointed, or wounded us. These events are open doors for darkness when we thought we were right and have been wronged by others.
3. Our masks, cover-ups, walls and pretenses. Jack quotes Roy Hession, in The Calvary Road. "Light reveals; darkness hides." Whenever we do anything or say anything to hide what we are or what we have done, that is darkness." We are driven, unreal, cold-hearted, self-deceived, self-righteous, pretend to be something we are not, or controlling.

4. The shame of past immoral sins. Sexual immorality, sexual abuse, pornography all leave us with a sense of defilement and shame which distorts our identity in Christ and affects how we relate to others. We certainly can't perceive ourselves as sons of God or daughters of the King when we have lived with years of hidden shame.

Part IV- Transformation

Many Christians have accepted Christ as their Savior, but haven't been filled with the Holy Spirit which gives them the power to walk in the Spirit, live in the Spirit, produce the fruit and gifts of the Spirit. By filled, I mean continuously filled, not a one-time experience. We have to remain in the light, soaking in the divine energy of the Holy Spirit to grow and mature and reach our potential in the kingdom of God. There are other keys to transformation such as having our minds renewed by the Word of God, the healing of our heart and the need for deliverance, but all these are contingent upon being filled with the Holy Spirit. Transformation is the job of the Holy Spirit and He wants to work from the inside out.

Nature's illustration: the wisteria seeds are an example of being born-again and being transformed by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reminded me that a seed must be planted in the ground in order to go through the process of germination and then as it grows the process of photosynthesis, or it will never survive or produce life. He told me "people need to be born-again just like the seed does and then-- receive the power of the Holy Spirit to mature and become reproducers of life."

Two-stage process for the seed:

Stage One- germination. Takes place in darkness, requires water, constant moisture which the seeds soak up. This causes the seed to swell and activates the dormant life in the seed. For a time the immature plant lives on the food stored in the seed itself as it begins to transform into a baby plant, sending out a root below and a stem above. It has been born-again

Stage Two- As the stem reaches the surface above, it begins the process of photosynthesis so necessary for life. The sunlight is its source of energy. Photosynthesis is the process by which chlorophyll-containing-cells in green plants use light as an energy source to synthesize (create) carbohydrates from carbon dioxide and water. The prefix photo means... *light*.

Like the wisteria seeds, first we have to cooperate with God by allowing ourselves to germinate in His love and His Word. Secondly, soaking in His radiant light produces a divine photosynthesis in our lives. We are transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light. Christ is synthesized in us and through us so we can reach our full potential as sons and daughters of the Most High.

Finally, how to walk in the light:

1. Be filled with the Holy Spirit continuously by regular soaking in the light of His Presence. Submit to His guidance and control.
2. Hebrews 10:22, "let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies

washed with pure water.” Ask the Holy Spirit to show us how others have sinned against us. Invite Him to reveal those things hidden in darkness.

3. Receive prayer ministry for any areas the Holy Spirit reveals to you. If possible, ask someone to pray with you using the suggested steps listed below. If not then, spend some time alone with the Lord in your prayer closet.

Summary

1. Walking in the light means choosing to obey God’s word, enjoying continued intimacy with God, fellowship with one another and having our hearts cleansed by the blood of Jesus.
2. Walking in darkness means not always obeying God’s Word, nor allowing the Holy Spirit to do a sanctifying work in our hearts.
3. The solution is to be continuously filled with the Spirit so that the kingdom of God is manifest in you.

Prayer Ministry Steps. Call upon the Holy Spirit to reveal the things that are hidden in your heart, so you can:

1. Repent of any sin on your part and ask God to forgive you.
2. Forgive others involved and forgive yourself.
3. Renounce the darkness and command it to leave your body, soul and spirit.
4. Ask Jesus to cleanse your eyes, ears, hands, body, our mind, our memories.
5. Wait for Jesus/Holy Spirit to speak to you, or show you *a revelation that cleanses*.