

# Message 3 in the Series: Just So You Know

## Message: The Strong Man

Text: 1 John 1:5-10

### 1 John 1:5-10 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

**Verse 5**<sup>1 John</sup> – “This is the message” - God is Light – There is no darkness at all in Him – He is pure, holy, righteous, and just.

**Verse 6**<sup>1 John</sup> - John pulls no punches. He gets straight to the point:

<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

- Fellowship = intimate partnership; in step with; in accord with
- Walk – to follow; to go toward - as to place and direction / to live;
- Do not practice the truth - No truth is practiced in the darkness

The emphasis here placed on the practice of truth

Practice vs. Knowing

### John 5:39 (NASB)

<sup>39</sup> “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

Practice vs. Saying

### Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. <sup>22</sup> “Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> “And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'”

**Verse 8**<sup>1 John</sup> – “If we say that we have no sin” (Denial of sin)

### John 8:31-33 (NASB)

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

Without acknowledgement of sin there can be no salvation.

## **Mark 2:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> *"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Jesus is condemned for eating with sinners at Matthew's home)

## **Verse 7**<sup>1</sup> John – "but if we walk in the Light"

These words echo Jesus' words in **John 8:31** "If you continue in My word."

If we "walk in the light, there is cleansing for our sin / if we continue in the light or "His word" there is freedom. In His light there is cleansing of and freedom from sin.

The emphasis here is placed on sin: cleansing away of and freedom from.

Defeating sin takes more than knowledge, more than words, and more than just simply denying it altogether.

In reference to sin, the bible uses words and phrases such as:

- ***Bondage*** (being in bondage to sin)
- ***Servant*** (being a servant of sin)
- ***To Rein*** (being ruled over and controlled by sin)
- ***Darkness*** (evil, deception, spiritual ignorance)
- ***Death*** (the result of sin)

Sin ruins everything. Every sorrow in the world is a by-product of sin.

- Sickness, disease, and death
- Jealousy, hatred, and murder
- Fear, depression, and emptiness

Sin destroys everything in its wake

- Marriages, families, friendships, and virtually any human relationship
- Dreams, hopes, and, ultimately, lives

*"Sin is no amusing toy-it is a terror to be shunned."* – Billy Graham

Sin and all its ruin were not and is not God's will for this earth, nor for man, nor for your life.

"In God there is no darkness at all."

Sin is of the devil! And his power and the power of sin is greater than ours.

Through sin, Satan has the rule and rein over one's life. Sin separates a person from God and places him or her under the domain of the devil.

## **1 John 3:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

The works of the devil is the sinful baggage in your life.

Jesus is our only hope against sin.

Only He can bind the one He referred to as -

**The Strong Man**

### **Matthew 12:29 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup> “How can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house.

The devil is the strong man who has taken the lives of men and claimed them as his property. Their life has become “his house” and He has filled their life (his house) with “his goods” which consists of all the baggage and by-products of sin.

### **Our Struggle with the Devil and Sin: Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

### **The Struggle is Real: Romans 7:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate. (Paul speaking of the principle of sin exposed by the law of God)

The law itself was good; however, it only revealed what was right. It failed to give one the power to do right.

Even today, knowledge of what is right does not make one right.

QUESTION: How can I get it right? Paul asked this question also.

### **Romans 7:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

Paul got his answer when He heard, saw, and touched the One who was from the beginning!

**Romans 7:25, 8:3 (NASB)** <sup>7:25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! <sup>8:3</sup> For what the Law could not do, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.

God is Light and He has sent His Light into the world.

**John 1:4 (NASB)** “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.”

So, stop lying to yourself. Stop listening to the lies of others. Stop listening to the lies of the enemy!

Realize, accept, and admit your sins before the light of God.

### **1 John 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus Christ has defeated Satan, and, through Christ, we are set free from his power and from the power of sin.

“If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed!” – Jesus, Christ

- If we walk in the light, step by step, day by day, His blood cleanses us (not covers us) from all sin.
- He destroys the works of the devil
- He binds the strong man and destroys all his goods
- He refurnishes our life (by the light of His truth) with the righteousness of God