

Walking in the Light

A Sermon Companion for Personal Reflection

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley | September 27, 2026

Jesus' promise stands at the center of this message: whoever follows Him will have the Light of life (John 8:12). The sermon invites us to see the security we have in Christ, recognize how temptation seeks to draw us away from faithful fellowship with Him, and respond by walking in the Light today. Use these pages to revisit the message with an open Bible. Follow the references that speak to you, and pause where the Lord calls for a response.

The Light is a life to walk in

Jesus did not speak of the Light as an idea we merely admire. He said, "he who follows Me" will not walk in darkness (John 8:12). The message pressed that difference between professing belief and following Christ. His Light brings us into a new life and reveals the Father's character, His love, His righteousness, and His will. Walking suggests a continuing direction: abiding in His grace and living in His presence.

John adds that walking in the Light brings fellowship with one another, while the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:5–7). This life is personal, but it is not solitary. God has joined us to His people, where His Word, prayer, and fellowship help sustain our walk. The call to live in the Light rests on what Christ gives and on His ongoing cleansing, not on pretending we have no sin (1 John 1:8–9).

Read further John 1:4–9; John 12:35–36; Ephesians 5:8–11. Notice how each passage joins receiving the Light with walking in it.

Pause and respond Is there an area where you have settled for knowing about Christ while holding back from following Him? Bring that area into His Light.

Kept by the power of God

Peter lifts our eyes from the present moment to the living hope given through Jesus' resurrection. God has caused us to be born again and has reserved an inheritance that cannot perish, be defiled, or fade away (1 Peter 1:3–4). In the message, this hope included the expectation of Christ's return, victory over death, and life in His eternal kingdom. The future God promises gives strength to our walk now.

Peter then says we are "protected by the power of God through faith" (1 Peter 1:5). The sermon did not treat protection as a promise that believers will avoid hardship. Peter immediately speaks of trials that test faith like fire tests gold (1 Peter 1:6–9). God is able to keep His people through the trial and bring their faith to its promised end. We seek His shelter, trust His promises, pray, remain in His Word, and stay in fellowship with the church (Psalm 91:1–2).

Read further John 10:27–29; Jude 20–21, 24–25. Consider both God's ability to keep you and the ways He calls you to continue in faith.

Pause and respond What trial is tempting you to question God's care? Name it honestly in prayer, then return to the hope Peter describes.

Kept by the love of God

Romans 8:35–39 asks whether tribulation, distress, persecution, danger, or even death can separate us from the love of Christ. Paul's answer is grounded in Jesus: through Him who loved us, these things cannot cut us off from God's love. The sermon joined this assurance to Peter's promise. We are kept by God's power and held in God's love.

This does not make suffering unreal. It means suffering is not the final word about our relationship with God. When we face fear, loss, or opposition, we can return to the love revealed in Christ. Read Romans 8:31–39 as one argument, beginning with God’s action for us and ending with the assurance that nothing created can separate us from His love.

Read further Romans 8:31–34; 2 Corinthians 4:8–10, 16–18. Observe how hope and endurance sit alongside real affliction.

Pause and respond Where do you need to rest in the love of Christ instead of measuring His love by your circumstances?

How the enemy draws people away

The message then turned to the enemy’s strategy. Balak, king of Moab, wanted Balaam to curse Israel, but Balaam could not overturn the blessing God had placed on His people (Numbers 22–24). The danger emerged through enticement: Israel joined in sexual immorality and the worship of other gods at Peor (Numbers 25:1–3). Later Scripture connects that stumbling with Balaam’s counsel (Numbers 31:16; Revelation 2:14). The point of the illustration is sobering: when an outside curse could not prevail, temptation drew people away from faithfulness within.

James brings that warning close to us. God does not tempt anyone toward evil. A person is drawn away and enticed by desire; desire, when embraced, gives birth to sin, and sin brings forth death (James 1:12–15). The sermon asked what the thief may be taking or destroying as people drift into worldliness. The question is meant to wake us up before a desire becomes a settled path away from the Light (John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8).

Read further Numbers 25:1–9; 1 Corinthians 10:6–13; James 4:4–8. Trace the pull toward compromise and the invitation to return to God.

Pause and respond Where does temptation first gain your attention? Bring that desire to the Lord early, and seek the help of a trusted believer where needed.

Wake up and put on the armor of Light

Jesus told the church in Sardis to wake up and strengthen what remained (Revelation 3:1–3). Paul likewise called believers to awaken from sleep, lay aside deeds of darkness, and put on the armor of Light because the day is near (Romans 13:11–14). These are urgent words, but they also hold an invitation: what has weakened can be strengthened; what has been hidden can be brought into the Light.

The message ends where it began, with Christ. He is the Light of the world, and following Him is a continuing walk. We respond by confessing sin, turning from what draws us away, receiving His cleansing, and renewing our fellowship with Him and His church. We do not have to wait for a dramatic collapse before we heed His call today (1 John 1:7–9).

Read further Ephesians 6:10–18; Revelation 3:1–6; Romans 13:13–14. Notice the actions Scripture calls us to take and the strength God supplies.

A step for this week Choose one practice to strengthen: time in the Word, honest prayer, confession, reconciliation, or fellowship with another believer. Act on it while the message is fresh.

A prayer to carry forward

Lord Jesus, You are the Light of the world. Thank You for the hope You have given and for keeping Your people by Your power and love. Show me where I am being drawn away. Give me courage to confess, turn back, and strengthen what remains. Help me walk with You in the Light. Amen.