

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

Part 2 — Walking in the Light

Study Guide • 1 John 1:5–10

Central Text

"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." — 1 John 1:7

Big Idea

Fellowship with God is not automatic — it has parameters. Because God is Light, and there is no darkness in Him, fellowship with Him is only possible for those who walk in the Light. This study unpacks three dimensions of what walking in the Light means: being in Christ, pursuing holiness, and fellowshiping with Christ Himself.

Opening Discussion

1. Before this study, how would you have defined “walking in the light”? Where did that definition come from?
2. Why does John insist it is impossible to walk in darkness and light at the same time (2 Cor. 6:14)?

I. To Walk in the Light Is to Be in Christ

Light and darkness are pictures of spiritual condition and of kingdoms. Outside of Christ, a person is darkness itself — not merely 'in' darkness. Salvation is a transfer of kingdoms: rescued from the domain of darkness and placed into the kingdom of the Son (Col. 1:13).

Key Verses

Eph. 5:8 — "You were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord."

1 Peter 2:9 — "Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

John 8:12 — "He who follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Teaching Notes

- The Greek word for ‘call’ (kaleo) is a summons — an irrevocable, effectual command, not a mere invitation.
- There is no higher authority than Christ; His call cannot be resisted or refused.
- Evidence of the transfer: a new pattern of righteousness (Rom. 6:4, 18), not sinless perfection but a changed direction.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between 'walking in darkness' and merely 'sinning sometimes'? Why does the sermon insist a Christian cannot remain in the first?

2. The word 'call' (kaleo) is described as an irrevocable summons. How does this shape your assurance of salvation?
3. What evidence in your own life shows you have been transferred from darkness into light (Col. 1:13)?

II. To Walk in the Light Is to Pursue Holiness

Light is not neutral — it is active and possessive. To walk in the Light is to walk as Jesus walked, conducting life the same way whether anyone is watching. Confession of sin is the ongoing evidence of this pursuit, because light exposes and reproves darkness rather than tolerating it.

Key Verses

1 John 1:8-10 — "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins."

John 3:20 — "Everyone who does evil hates the Light... lest his deeds be exposed."

Prov. 28:13 — confession of sin includes forsaking it.

Teaching Notes

- Holiness pursued 'as He is in the Light' is a posture of submission — we walk in a derivative, subordinate light, like John the Baptist (John 1:7-8).
- Holiness is never a solo project — it is worked out in the fellowship of the saints (Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor. 12:21).
- Withdrawing from the church community dims our light and endangers the soul, like a sheep isolated from the flock (Matt. 18:12).

Discussion Questions

1. How does confession of sin function as evidence of walking in the Light, rather than as a threat to your standing with God?
2. What does it mean that our light is 'derivative' — sourced from Christ rather than self-generated? How should that shape pride or despair over your own holiness?
3. In what ways has the fellowship of other believers helped your pursuit of holiness? Where have you been tempted to isolate instead?

III. To Walk in the Light Is to Fellowship with Christ

Fellowship with Christ is more than possessing facts about Him. It is communion — approaching His throne not only for petitions but for relationship, the way Jesus spent whole nights in prayer with the Father. This fellowship is fed by revelation (we know Him better through Scripture) and driven by delight (we treasure Him above all else).

Key Verses

Heb. 4:16 — "Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace."

Phil. 3:10 — "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection."

Matt. 13:44 — the treasure hidden in the field, discovered with joy.

Teaching Notes

- Mysticism seeks God through private, esoteric experience; Christian fellowship with Christ is anchored in the historical, revealed Word.
- Knowledge fuels fellowship — the more we learn of Christ from Scripture, the more our affections for Him deepen.
- True fellowship is driven by delight, not duty: 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life' (John 6:67-69).

Discussion Questions

1. Can you describe a time when you had knowledge about Christ but little communion with Him? What changed, if anything?
2. How does Scripture reading function as a means of deepening fellowship with Christ, rather than just information-gathering?
3. What competes with Christ for the place of 'supreme treasure' in your affections right now?

Personal Application

- Identify one area where you may be tolerating darkness rather than confessing and forsaking it.
- Plan a specific time this week for unhurried communion with Christ — not petition only, but presence.
- Reconnect with one believer or gathering you've been avoiding, recognizing fellowship as a means of grace toward holiness.

Memory Verse

"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." — 1 John 1:7