

1 John 1:5-10

"Light & Life, Darkness & Deception"

* David wrote in Ps Ch 8, "*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?*"¹ "God, when I consider how vast the heavens are, I see the enormity, the complexity & the variety of all that You've created. The moon, the stars, the planets & solar systems light years beyond our own... It staggers me, it stuns me to think that I would even enter any kind of equation in Your mind. & That beyond that, You would *care* for me, take *interest* in me or have a *concern* for me."

Yet, this is the wonder of the love of God. Not only that God thinks of you, takes interest *in* & has concern for you. But that He wants to *know* you & be known *by* you. He wants to have *fellowship* w/you. He wants you to share in His love, His grace & His mercy & He's made it all available to you through the Person of His Son J.C. who has loved you & given Himself for you upon the cross. *

God was made manifest, He was tangible, touchable... John says, "We heard Him repeatedly w/our ears, we studied Him carefully w/our eyes, & we touched Him physically after He rose from the dead... We've seen, we bear witness & declare to you that eternal life which was w/the Father & was manifested to us –" & He said, "I'm sharing this w/you so that you might have fellowship w/us & truly *our* fellowship is w/the Father & w/His Son J.C. Look at Vs 5 (we'll read our entire portion for today).

Vs 5-10

"This is the message which we have heard from Him & declare to you..." I mentioned this to you last week but it's worth repeating. John is establishing absolute, uncompromising authority w/these words. In the 1st 4 Vs, he developed for us the truth of who Jesus is, that which was from the beginning, the Word of life, that eternal life which was w/the Father & was manifested to us... * Jesus wasn't simply an emanation *from* God, He was the very incarnation *of* God... John says, "We were w/Him, we heard Him repeatedly, handled Him physically after He rose from the dead & I'm telling you, this is what He taught us..." This isn't a 2nd hand account, it's not, "I heard it from a friend." It's not some carefully contrived story or even his own personal opinion. This is God's personal revelation about Himself through J.C. – John says, "We heard it from *Him* & we're declaring it to *you*."

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ps 8:3-4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

& At the risk of offense, I'm so glad that John essentially cuts through all the riff raff, eliminates the value of personal opinion (of which there is none) & says, "Here's what God says about *Himself*." Isn't that what's truly important? People like to postulate, "I think God is like this..." "I think God is like that..." Can I just say, it doesn't matter at all what you think, & it doesn't matter at all what I think! What matters is, "What has *God* said? What is *His* message to us & how is it that we're to relate w/Him?" *

John says, "Here's the message we've heard from Him." "...that God is light, & in Him is no darkness at all." Ladies & Gentlemen, there is so much in this single statement... 1st of all it tells us something about the fundamental, intrinsic nature of God. – The apostle John, more so than any other individual in scripture has revealed to us w/resounding clarity exactly who God is.

In His gospel, He records the words of Jesus for us in Ch 4 & he writes, "*God is Spirit,*" Jn 4:24. That tells us something about God, doesn't it? It tells us that He's not flesh & blood like you are & I am, but that He's Spirit. Then He goes on to explain, "*...and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*"² He's making it known, it's not outward ritual that connects you to God, it's inward relationship. We connect w/Him (worship Him) in spirit & truth.

Later on, in this epistle he'll write, "*God is love,*" Jn 4:16 That's good to know isn't it? That tells something of who God is, His character, His intrinsic nature. Here, He tells us something else. He says, "God is light." & He underscores it, emphasizes it, takes all ambiguity out of it by restating it in the negative, "In Him is *no* darkness at all." In the Greek (Wuest), it's negative after negative. He says, "And darkness in Him does *not* exist, *not even one bit.*"

John says, "God wants us to know that He Himself is light, & light (by pure definition) has no darkness in it at all. If there's darkness, there must be an absence of light & God is only light, no darkness at all."

& We note that God's not "a" light. He's not "the" light, He simply "is" light. It's no wonder then that the Bible has so much to say about believers & their relationship to light. Peter tells us that when you were saved, God, "*called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*"³ In 1st Thess 5, Paul says, you are all sons of light. In Eph 5 he says, "*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk* (order your lives) *as children of light*"⁴

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 4:24]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [1 Pe 2:9]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Eph 5:8]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

I'll give you one more. Jn 3:19-21, (Jesus speaking).* *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*⁵

Those who do evil, who love sin rather than the Savior don't love light, won't come to the light, why? Because light is a revealer. Again, Eph 5, *"all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light."*⁶

This is one reason why you'll discover almost categorically that those who are walking in sin (making a habitual practice of unrepentant sin) rarely (if ever) spend consistent time in the Word of God. Why? What does the Bible say? *"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."*⁷ It reveals the truth of what's happening in my heart, in my mind, in my life. & If I have no heart for repentance, I don't want to be confronted w/that, I prefer to be left in the dark on those things...

Of course, the problem w/being in the dark is that it doesn't alleviate the issue. You may be blind to it, others may not see it, or maybe you think it's "secret" sin. But God sees it all. (Forgive me for overwhelming you w/so many references today but this is important). The Book of Hebrews says this, *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."*⁸ You see? We might be blind to it, or prefer to be in the dark concerning it, but God sees it all. How so? Because God is light... & in Him is no darkness at all.*

The Psalmist said it like this, *"If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall fall on me,' Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You."*⁹* "God is light & in Him is no darkness at all..."

Now, this is where things may get a bit touchy for you, but I just have to say it. What this means is that if there's problem in your relationship w/God, guess who's fault it is? It's not His, God is light, in Him there's no darkness at all. It's not His fault, it's yours...

⁵ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 3:19-21]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Eph 5:13]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ps 119:105]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁸ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Heb 4:12-13]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ps 139:11-12]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

There's no sin in Him, He hasn't made the breach or the break. He hasn't walked away, you have! God hasn't abandoned you, you've abandoned Him! Perhaps you're thinking, "How have I abandoned Him?" Well, to continue my bold/blunt course of communication, ☺ through some sort of unrepentant sin in your life! It could be pride, lust, bitterness, unforgiveness, gossip, slander... anger, wrath, malice, filthy language, all or none of the above. I trust the Holy Spirit to shine a light on it for you but here's what the Bible says, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."¹⁰ You see? If there's a problem in our relationship w/God, it's never on God's end. It's *always* on our end... & That relationship is restored, that "reconnection" is made, through *repentance*. * (More on that in a few minutes).

Light & darkness cannot coexist, there's no middle ground, no "gray" area where sin is concerned. Light is life, growth. Darkness is sin/death. Light is good (Ps 73, truly God is good). He's *only* good. Asaph almost lost sight of that, until he went into the sanctuary of God. He went back to church & regained the eternal perspective... God is light & in Him is no darkness at all.

Vs 6

* Having the understanding that we have from Vs 5, Vs 6 makes sense, doesn't it? If God is only light, & we say we have fellowship w/Him, but walk (that is order our lives) in darkness (sin), things contrary to His word (which is light/truth) then we lie & do not practice the truth.

"Wait. Are you saying someone can say (imply/allude) or even convince themselves that things are "peachy" between them & God when in reality things aren't right at all?" That's not what *I* said, it's what the Bible says! If we're going to have fellowship w/God (who is light), we must walk *in* the light. Meaning we *have* to lead lives of obedience to the word of God.

I want you to notice here in Vs 6 that truth (Btw terms like truth/light/the word, they're all touching on the same thing from different angles) isn't something that's simply known intellectually, it's something that's lived out morally! John says, "If we say we have fellowship w/Him, & walk in darkness (not the occasional lapse or stumble, but lead lives of unrepentant sin,) we lie & do not *practice* (that is, make a habit of doing) the truth.

¹⁰ [The New King James Version](#), (1982). [Is 59:1-2]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

This is where I circle back to the words of Jesus in Jn 3:21, **"But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."**¹¹ You see, truth is never *just* intellectual; it's always *moral*. It doesn't simply exercise the mind; it impacts the whole of who we are. We're to be *doers* of the word, not hearers only, deceiving ourselves. ✦

Now, I should say this. John isn't speaking of *sonship* here, he's speaking of *fellowship*, things that breach our sharing in the things of God. As believers we're to safeguard our relationship w/God, & the way we do that is through abiding in Christ, rendering obedience to His Word, continuing in prayer etc., or another way to understand that? We're to walk in the light, we're to *practice* the truth. You can be saved & out of harmony, no longer in fellowship w/God...

Vs 7

Btw, let me circle back to something in Vs 6. I want you to notice that John isn't near as sophisticated as is the modern man. ☺ He thinks simply of things in terms of "truth" or "lie". Not this modern ideology of "what's true for you" or "speak your truth". There are no shades of gray in the Word of God concerning right/wrong truth or lie. Something is either true... or it's a lie. & If it's true it's *only* truth & it's truth for *all* & if it's a lie, it's *only* a lie & it's a lie for all.

"But if we walk in the light (as He is in the light)" Meaning, if we're leading a life of general obedience to the Word of God, not harboring known sin or resisting the conviction of the Holy Spirit at a particular point. **"We have fellowship w/one another."** – Some interpret John to be saying that we (as believers) have fellowship w/one another as we walk in the light. That's certainly true, but in the context, He's speaking of fellowship w/God. When we walk where He is (in the light) we'll have fellowship w/one another.

& Being in fellowship w/God is to be in that place of continual cleansing by the blood of J.C. John is telling us that even in our lives of obedience, of abiding, of walking in the light & practicing truth, we're still not perfect. There will still be sins of omission, of ignorance, that we may not even be cognizant of, but in this place of fellowship there is continual cleansing by the blood of Jesus. **It's not salvation (you've been washed initially).**

Think back to the last supper. There was our Lord, washing the feet of His disciples. Peter wanted nothing to do w/it. "Far be it from You Lord, you'll never wash my feet!"

¹¹ *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Jn 3:21]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jesus says, "If I don't wash you, then you have no part w/Me." So he jumps to the other extreme, "Then no just my feet! My hands & my head as well!" Jesus said, "Listen, one who is bathed needs only to wash their feet to be completely clean." He was saying, "You've already been washed, you're saved. But as you go through life, you get a little dirt on you & that needs to be dealt w/as well."

That's kind of the idea that John is presenting here, as we walk in the light as He is in the light, the blood of J.C. cleanses us (it's in the present tense, is *continually* cleansing us) from all sin.

Couple of 2ndary thoughts here... #1 If I'm walking in the light & you're walking in the light, not only will we be right w/God, we'll be right w/one another. A break in my fellowship w/another believer is quite possibly indicative a break in someone's walk w/God. How can I be right w/God & you be right w/God, but us not be right w/each other? I suppose a grave misunderstanding is possible, but even still the effort to reconcile should be in order.

#2 We know that John wasn't speaking of sinless perfection by this phrase "walk in the light" or else there'd be no sin to be continually being cleansed of in this state.

Here's another one. Notice it's not ceremonial rites or religious activities that cleanse a man of sin. It's not the act of baptism, it's not the sacraments of communion... what can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

& We note that the blood of J.C. cleanses us of all sin. Sometimes people feel as though they've blown it so bad that they can never be forgiven. They think God could never forgive their unfaithfulness to their spouse, or the abortion they had, or whatever the case may be. Ladies & Gentlemen, the only sin which can't be forgiven is the sin that rejects the blood of J.C. as payment in full. -- & Think of the audacity it takes to say to God, "My sin is greater than the cleansing power of the perfect sacrifice found in the shed blood of the spotless Lamb of Your Son, J.C."

"Oh precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow, no other fount I know *nothing* but the blood of Jesus..."

Vs 8-10

We note that walking in the light involves both the consciousness of sin & the confession of sin. - & I like what John says in Vs 8. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." Translation, "You aren't deceiving anyone else!" ☺ You certainly aren't deceiving your spouse, your children, or your friends. But you've obviously deceived yourself...

But if you're telling yourself that you've achieved sinless perfection this side of eternity. (John says) The truth is not in you. How so? Because anyone dealing in truth knows we sin all the time. Be it in attitude, in action, in thought, in word... **Question. How many of you (no show of hands) have perfectly glorified God today? You've rendered perfect praise, perfect worship, perfect honor/obedience. You woke up w/a radiant heart, bursting at the seams just giving God glory.**

Listen, God is worthy of being perfectly glorified continually/eternally. & If we fall short of that... If we fall short of His glory... Guess what that's called? Sin. *Ladies & Gentlemen, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.

& I'm not saying, "We all make mistakes". Let's leave this, "We all make mistakes" "I'm only human" kind of reasoning in the trash. "I'm a sinner!" Let's call it for what it is! Jesus didn't come to call the, "We all make mistakes" crowd! The, "We're only human" people! He came to call *sinners* to repentance! That's who I am & that's who you are! If you need forgiveness (which you do), then you need to come to grips w/that fact & confess your sins to God! Ps 32, "*I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*"¹² Pr 28, "*He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy*".¹³ God's grace & mercy is extended to *sinners*! Not the "Well nobody's perfect" people. Write this down & look it up later, Luke 18:9-14. *

Now. John isn't saying that you need to agonize over every possible thing you may have done wrong (we spoke about that in Vs 7). But when the Holy Spirit shines light upon sin in your life, we have a responsibility before God to confess that sin if we're to remain in fellowship w/Him.

So then, *what does it mean to "confess" my sin? The essential meaning is "to say the same thing as". It means to agree w/God, you're coming over to His side & looking at things from His perspective. "God, You are right. What I have done is sin. I've envied. I'm calling it out, laying it out in the light before You. *I didn't have a bit too much to drink. I was drunk & in sin before You. I've partaken in that which placed Your Son upon the cross! I've refused to forgive, I've harbored bitterness.*" Do you get the idea? You're not watering it down, you're not making excuses. You're being real, you're being raw, & you're humbling yourself in repentance before Almighty God. You're echoing the words of David...

¹² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 32:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹³ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Pr 28:13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God. & Renew a right spirit w/in me!” & When we do this God is faithful (faithful to the promise of His word) & just (He doesn’t compromise His righteousness because His wrath was satisfied at the cross) to forgive us our sin & cleanse us of *all* unrighteousness. **Close**

Confession restores our relationship w/God, brings us back into the light, into fellowship w/Him. *

Let me also say this. 1 Jn 1:9 is often used evangelistically (I do it all the time). & Though that’s appropriate in regard to *application* it’s not w/regard to *interpretation*. This was written to believers needing restoration in their fellowship w/God.

Vs 10, “If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, & His word is not in us.” Notice the downward spiral. Vs 6, “We lie” & do not practice the truth. Vs 8 “We deceive ourselves” & the truth is not in us. Vs 10, “We make God a liar” & His word is not in us... We’re self-deceived & denying His word. The scriptures are clear, “*for all have sinned and fall short* (presently/continually) *of the glory of God.*”¹⁴

Let’s not make God a liar. Let’s honor the truth & walk in the light as He is in the light that we might have fellowship w/one another & that our lives might bring glory to His name.

Prayer Points:

God we thank You for Your word. May Your word abide in us & we in Your word. We’re asking that You search us O God, know us & try our anxieties, see if there be any wicked way in us, & lead us in the way everlasting. May we walk in the light as You are in the light & may we be quick to confess our sin as Your light shines upon it & reveals it to our hearts. Be glorified in our lives.

Listen, Darkness conceals, tries to cover things up, make excuses. It brings death. Light reveals, exposes things for what they are, brings clarity & life. God is light, God is life. & He’s made a way for us to have everlasting life, forgiveness of sins through J.C. Turn from your sin, trust in Him today.

¹⁴ *The New King James Version*, (1982). [Ro 3:23]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.