



Connecting People to **Jesus**

**DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Pastor Eric Jay

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, You told Your disciple Thomas who struggled to believe in Your resurrection, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Lord, we believe. Help us in our unbelief and strengthen our faith through Your Holy Spirit so that we may see more clearly Your loving presence and work in our life. Amen.

**Scripture: 1 John 1:5-10**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**Devotional – “Out of the Shadow”**

There is nothing I know more surely or positively than that of the love of Christ and of my own sure salvation because of Christ’s work; His resurrection and victory over sin, death, and the Devil. However, though I have been washed clean by the blood of Christ in my baptism, though I have been made a child of the Light of Christ, until the day when Christ returns to bring into fulness what He has already declared me to be, or until the day comes when my mortal flesh expires and I am restored to God in immortality, the old sinful man is still with me, he still rebels against the truth that I know.

No matter how hard we may try to run from it, as long as we live in this mortal body, we will not be able to outrun our own shadow. This is not the way God intended us to have to live, but it is what our sin has made a reality. I love the raw honesty of the Apostle Paul when he talks about our sinful nature and our struggle against the sinner in each of our shadows.

In Romans chapter 7 Paul says:

*For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Amen to that! Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord who while we were yet sinners, was perfectly faithful to God in our place, and who paid the horrible penalty for our sins, the sins of the whole world, as he hung on that cross. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ who paid the full penalty for sin as He died and gave up His last breath, so that we may not die, but live eternally with Christ in the Presence of our Heavenly Father.

All sin past, present, and future, is fully forgiven by faith in Christ – but that doesn't give us license to continue to sin and start chasing our own shadow. As John says in our text for today in verse 6, "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."

So, then, how do we put more distance between us and our shadow? The answer: get closer and stay close to the Light. Or to put it another way, don't worry about running from your shadow, worry more about running to the Light of Christ. John says in verse 5, "God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."

The only way to disperse a shadow is to get further away from the surface upon which our shadow is cast and get closer to the light; further from the earth on which our shadow is cast and further away from an earthly way of thinking and living, and get closer to the light; to get so close to the light that we cease to have a shadow because we have been lost to ourselves and completely overcome with the Light of God in Christ.

Only as we walk ever closer with the Light and in the Light of Christ, will the shadows of our past and the darkness of this sinful and broken world be dispersed around us. Only as we walk by faith in Christ will this life lived in a darkened world be turned into a day filled with the hope and light of eternity. Walking by faith means believing what God has said about us and believing what He has done for us. Jesus says in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

In this life, our shadow will cling to us, but through a life of drawing ever closer to Jesus through faithful repentance and discipleship in His Word, Christ's Light will prevail. By God's great mercy through faith in Jesus, we will bask in the presence of God forever where, as Revelation 22:5 says, "There will be no more night for we will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will be their light. And they will reign for ever and ever."

Thanks for joining me for another daily devotional, and remember, God has forgiven yesterday, is with you today and has already taken care of tomorrow. Amen.