

The Light

Living in the Light

One of our favorite camping spots in the Pacific Northwest is on a bluff overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This is the large channel of water separating USA from Canada and allows the Pacific Ocean to ebb and flow in and out of Puget Sound. The Strait is a major navigation channel for many cruise ships going to Alaska from Seattle, cargo ships, fishing boats, naval boats, and submarines. At dawn you can look east down the Strait and see the sky start to glow near Mt. Baker and before long the darkness gives way to the sun which quickly becomes too bright to gaze upon. Each evening you can look west and watch the brightness of the sun set over the Pacific Ocean and darkness fills its absence. It is interesting that the Bible uses the illustration of light and darkness to help us to understand the importance of God, Jesus, the Bible, and fellowship with each other.

Watching the sun rise and set is always a great reminder of the magnificence of God as the Creator of light (Genesis 1:3), but He is more than the creator of light. I John 1:5 says, "**God is light** and in Him there is no darkness at all." Like the sun coming up on a new day the light drives away all darkness. Have you thought about the fact that darkness is the absence of light? This is the same for us as we live in the presence of God, our life reflects His light and darkness has no place. The Bible tells us several times as Christ followers we are to live in the light and in that light is eternal life. This life of light or fellowship with the Father has been given to His disciples and can also be ours. We are told in 1 John 1:4 that John "writes these things (about fellowship with God) so our joy can be made complete." John explains in vs 9-10 that the fellowship of living in the light results if "we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We can see from this verse that John wants to make us aware that God, through the death of His son, and the confession of our sins allows us to live in the light and find joy.

Not only is God light but the Gospel of John 1:4-5 writes that **Jesus is light** also when it says "*In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*" Isaiah 2:5 says, "*Let us walk in the light of the Lord,*" and John 1:9 says, "*The true light (Jesus) that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.*" In John 8:12 Jesus says "*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have light of life.*" The death of Jesus on the cross restored our relationship with God (I John 2:2) and this change allows us to know God in a personal way that orients our heart to walk in the light and obey His commands I John 2:4 and love our brothers (I John 2:9-10). These changes "*bringing forth fruit in keeping with repentance*" (Matthew 3:8). We were "*formerly darkness but now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of light..... trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord*" Ephesians 5:8.

God does not leave us alone to battle the darkness. He has forgiven us and restored us to fellowship through His son. Jesus tells us that He will send us the Holy Spirit as a helper who will be with us always. (John 14:16) He gives us the Bible and calls us to **walk in the light of His word**. Psalms 119:105 says "*His word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*" Ephesians 5:11 says, "*do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness but instead even expose them.*"

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There is no better way than to allow God's word to guide our daily actions than to expose them to the light of God's word. 2 Timothy 3:16 says *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good deed."* His words are truth and light to lead us (Psalm 43:3) and sufficient for all things related to life and godliness (1 Peter 1:2-3).

Fellowship in the Light of one another. God did not create us to live in isolation but calls us to fellowship with one another (Hebrews 10:25) and to confess our sins to one another (1 John 1:9), and to encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:11). John writes in 1 John 2:5 *"but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected."* As we live in the light of His presence, transformed by the light of Christ and walk in His word may the light of God be perfected in us, driving away all darkness and radiating His light through us like the rising sun!

1. **Why would fellowship with God be necessary for *"our joy to be complete?"* -1 John 1:4**
2. **1 John 2:4 says, *"The one who says, 'I have come to know him.' And does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* If God forgives us our sins (1 John 1:7) why does it stress in chapter two that we must obey his commands? Or in 2:5 say that keep his word the Love of God has truly been perfected?**
3. **How has, or can, the Bible and the church help you to walk in the light?**
4. **Ephesians 4:8 says *"for you were formerly darkness but now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of light..... trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."* Are there steps that you can take to allow God, His son, and His word to radiate like the full day sun in your life and drive out all darkness?**



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