

# Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



## “Bringing Our Darkness into the Light”

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### Devotion and Discussion Questions

**Key Texts (TLV):** 1 John 1:8-10; 1 Jn 2:5-6; Prov. 28:13; Ex. 34:6-7; Jn 3:19-21; Rom. 3:4

There is something in us that wants to hide when we know we have been exposed. From the beginning, when Adam and Eve sinned, the instinct of the human heart has been to cover, conceal, deny, explain, and retreat into the shadows. And yet the very place we are most tempted to hide from God is the place where He is inviting us to come near. The light of God is not given so we can pretend there is no darkness in us. His light shines so that what is dark can be brought before Him, forgiven, cleansed, and made new.

John has already told us the message that frames everything: “*God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all*” (1 John 1:5). That truth is both deeply comforting and deeply searching. It comforts us because God is pure, faithful, righteous, and good. But it also searches us because if we are going to walk with the One who is light, we cannot keep making peace with darkness. So John presses us with three sobering statements: if we claim fellowship with God while walking in darkness, we are living a lie; if we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves; and if we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar. But right in the middle of that warning is a beautiful invitation: bring it into the light. Confess it. Say the same word God says. And discover that He is faithful and righteous to forgive and cleanse.

#### **1. IF WE SAY WE HAVE NO SIN, WE ARE DECEIVING OURSELVES**

John writes, “*If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us*” (1 John 1:8). This is the second of the “if we say” statements in this opening chapter. In verse 6, John warns against claiming fellowship with God while continuing to walk in darkness. But now he addresses another danger: the spiritual arrogance that says, “I have no sin. I’m fine. I’ve already arrived.” Walking in the light does not mean that we are perfectly enlightened. We have been cleansed, but that does not mean we are sinless. We have been declared righteous, but we are still being formed into the likeness of Yeshua.

To say, “I have no sin,” is to imply that we have arrived at full likeness, and we have not. This is a journey. This is a walk. The question is not whether we have reached sinless perfection, but where have we set our feet? On what path are we walking? Toward what destination are we moving? God is light—absolute, pure, unambiguous light. We are not the light; we are called to walk in the light. And as we walk with Him, the darkness in us must not be denied, excused, or hidden. It must be brought into His light.

#### **2. IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND RIGHTEOUS TO FORGIVE**

John continues, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:9). The solution to self-deception is

confession. The word behind “confess” carries the idea of saying the same word (**ὁμολογία**, *homo-logia*, “same word”)—agreeing with God. Instead of denying sin, we recognize it. Instead of covering it up, we bring it into the light. We say about it what God says about it. We come before Him and say, “Lord, this anger is not good. This selfishness is not good. This bitterness, this compromise, this rebellion, this hidden thing—it is not okay. I agree with You.”

And when we come into the light, we come to the One who already knows. He is not surprised by what we bring. He is faithful. He is righteous. He is who He has always revealed Himself to be: *“ADONAI, ADONAI, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, showing mercy to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin”* (Ex. 34:6–7). Confession is not running from God’s character; it is running into the fullness of His character. When we bring our darkness into the light, we find mercy, cleansing, forgiveness, and the faithful righteousness of God.

### **3. IF WE SAY WE HAVE NOT SINNED, WE MAKE HIM A LIAR**

John gives the third “if we say” statement: *“If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us”* (1 John 1:10). This is even stronger than verse 8. To say “I have no sin” is to deceive ourselves, but to say “I have not sinned” is to disagree with God about our condition. He says, “You have sinned. This will destroy you.” And if we answer, “No, I have not,” then we are not saying the same word as Him. We are effectively saying, “I am right, and God is wrong. I am telling the truth, and He is lying.”

That is a serious thing. John began with the bedrock truth that God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all. So when we refuse to acknowledge our sin, we are not simply making a mistake; we are resisting the truth of the One who is light. We are refusing His word. Paul writes, *“Let God be true even if every man is a liar”* (Rom. 3:4). The call, then, is humility. We set our feet to walk in the light, not because we never stumble, but because we belong to the One who is light. We do not persist in darkness. We do not hide our sin. We bring it to Him, trusting that His mercy is greater than what we have been trying to cover.

### **CONCLUSION**

John’s words can feel stark because he draws clear lines: light and darkness, truth and lies, life and death. But we must read these strong statements through the foundation he has already given us. This is not a call to unattainable perfectionism. It is a call to walk in the light. It is about the way of our walking, the direction of our lives, the path on which we have set our feet. Later John writes, *“We know that we are in Him by this—whoever claims to abide in Him must walk just as He walked”* (1 John 2:5–6).

So the issue is not whether we will ever stumble. The issue is whether we will bring our stumbling into the light or hide it in the darkness. If we say we have fellowship with God but walk in darkness, we are living a lie. If we say we have no sin, we are misleading

ourselves. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar. But if we confess our sins—if we say the same word God says—He is faithful and righteous to forgive us and cleanse us from every unrighteous thing. He invites us to bring our darkness into His light, and there we find Him: gracious, compassionate, faithful, truthful, forgiving, and good.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. In 1 John 1:8, John says that if we claim to have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves. Why is spiritual pride so dangerous in the life of a believer?
2. What is the difference between walking in the light and claiming to be sinlessly perfect? How does that distinction help us understand 1 John more clearly?
3. The teaching emphasizes that confession means saying the same word God says about our sin. What is one area where people today are often tempted to rename, excuse, or hide sin rather than agree with God?
4. Prov. 28:13 says, *“One who covers up his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them finds mercy.”* What does “covering up” sin look like in modern life—in family, work, ministry, or private habits?
5. John says that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. How does God’s character—His light, truth, mercy, and faithfulness—give us courage to bring our darkness before Him?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkhenu*, Our Father, Our King, You are light, and in You there is no darkness at all. I come before You honestly today. Search me and know me. Reveal the places where I have hidden, excused, denied, or covered what You have called me to bring into the light. Forgive me for the times I have claimed fellowship with You while choosing paths of darkness. Forgive me for the pride that says, “I have no sin,” and for the stubbornness that refuses to agree with Your word.

Lord, teach me to confess—to say the same word You say. Give me a humble heart that does not run from Your light but runs into it. Thank You that when we confess our sins, You are faithful and righteous to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Lead me moment by moment and day by day. Set my feet on the path of light. Form me into the likeness of Yeshua, and let my life reflect Your truth, Your mercy, Your love, and Your goodness.

*B’Shem Yeshua*, In the name of Yeshua, amen.