

How to Walk in the Light, Part 1 (1 John 1:6-8)

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—²the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

God in First John:

- God is Life (1:1-2); God is Light (1:5); God is Love (4:8, 16)

Basis for Writing 1 John:

- Eyewitness experiences (heard, seen, looked on, handled)

Stated Reasons for the Writing of 1 John:

- To have full or complete joy that God intends for us (1:4)
By comprehending the truth from God and letting it govern (perf pass part) our thoughts, responses, & actions, regardless of circumstances.
- To have a right view of committing sin (2:1)
- To remind of the old/new command [love one's brother] (2:7-8)
- To encourage believers of various maturity levels (2:12-14)
- To clarify what is true and false (2:21)
- To assure the certainty of having eternal life (5:13)

Two Truths About God (1:5)

⁵This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Truth #1: God is LIGHT – Light is...

- Right Thinking (what is true): informational; accuracy; know...right
- Right Living (what is holy): moral; purity; do what is right

Truth #2: In Him is NO DARKNESS at all [pandemia – not one]

- **God knows & understands everything perfectly.** He has absolutely no wrong knowledge, ignorance, inaccuracy, falsehood, incorrect understanding.
- **God is absolutely holy.** He has absolutely no sin or sinfulness in character, attitude, intention or action, and rejects all that is sinful.

God, as LIGHT, knows everything, fully and completely, and He is absolutely holy in all His being, and completely rejects all that is sinful.

How Do I Walk in the Light?

1. It Is Not Based on What I Say or Intend (Words or Intentions)

⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

- **Talking** “fellowship” but **walking** in ignorance (not knowing what is true) and unholiness (not wanting what is pure) is to be *living a lie!*
- **We do not speak the truth** (“we lie”).
- **We do not practice the truth.** (NOTE: Walking in the light, then, results in doing the truth.)
- Our words are validated or proven false by **what directs our ongoing walk.** (By what **MAP** do I walk?)

2. I Am to Walk by Means of God's Light (1:7)

⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

a. Requirement:

- Ongoing walking in the light
- As God is in the light
- *Letting God's light guide my ongoing moment-by-moment walk by showing us what is true & holy, and walking accordingly.*

b. Benefits:

- Benefit #1: Ongoing **fellowship** with one another!
- Benefit #2: Ongoing **cleansing** from all SIN (no article, singular). The LIGHT counters our sinfulness (our sinful bent) by showing us what is true and holy.
- Walking in the light involves acknowledging our ongoing sinfulness (what the Bible reveals about us!)

c. Dangers:

- ⁸If we say (xs) that sin not we are having (~), ourselves we are deceiving (~) and the truth not is (~) in us.
- *We must acknowledge our sinful bent. Without agreeing with this, we will not be dependent upon God's help to overcome it.*

DECEIT:

- Lying to others (1:6)
- False words indicating a failure to recognize the facts (1:8)
- Ongoing self-deception (1:8)

REJECTION OF THE TRUTH:

- Ongoing rejection of the truth (and the benefits of it – freedom, understanding) (1:8)