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#### The Lie pt. 4

This is going to be our last Sunday talking about “the lie” and “the light”. We spent the first two Sundays speaking specifically about the lie. Last week we started discussing the light, and we’ll continue with that today. Once again, it will be important that you have followed along with us through this search in order to really hear everything that I’m trying to explain. So, if you missed a week or two, you can catch up with the recordings.

The first two weeks of these lessons were primarily an attempt to expose the lie as much more than a belief about something. If you’ll recall, I tried to illustrate that the lie is not just an idea, a belief, or even a presupposition, but rather the lens that is the foundation and source of all presuppositions, thoughts, desires, and perspectives. It is, in its essence, the lens of self-infatuation and self-concern and self-relevance through which all things are viewed. It is a worldview, a perspective, a window deep in the soul through which all things are seen as good, desirable, true, important, relevant, or...on the other hand, evil, unimportant, irrelevant, false...whatever, based solely on how things effect ME.

Adam ate a lie, and then he ate the fruit. The lie was the idea that man had life and purpose and wisdom and truth and destiny and purpose inherent in himself, independent of God. And that lie became the framework for all adamic thought from that point on. So it is far bigger than what we have perhaps thought. It wasn’t just something he did wrong, so God cursed him. It wasn’t just a test of obedience that Adam failed. It was a choice to take unto himself what the serpent sold him. And the serpent sold him a lie.

As we have seen, man immediately lived out from that view. Man saw all things with respect to that view. The view of the lie. It shaped everything he saw and knew and wanted and feared and would live for and would kill for. Adam had fallen from purpose. And it would never be found again. Mankind would again be offered purpose, but never in Adam. He would come to purpose only in ANOTHER Man. One who is the corporate head of a new creation.

Adam and His creation, having fallen from purpose, had one end – the end that God promised him if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and his creation must die. And that is what happened. Sure that happened in the natural. But that wasn’t really the death that God was speaking of. Then it happened in the flood. But that wasn’t the death that was speaking of, though it testified of it. Finally, it happened in the cross. And there is truly where that first man found his end. That is where this fallen kind finally came to his promised end. God had started a new day. The eternal day of the Lord. With a new man. A new dawn. A new kind. A new creation.

Whether or not you can see it, that is a beautiful story. It puts the best Hollywood movies to shame.

And when I say that that man came to his death at the cross, I don't mean that he came to an end. I mean that he came to judgment, and God now has relationship with only the Second Man, and those living in Him. Those alive by Him. Adam is dead, Adam is judged, but Adam is still a very active and functional nature. It is the only nature that works in those who have not been born of the new. Born again by the Spirit of God. And it is the nature that continues to work in Christians to whatever extent we have not put off the old, and by the renewing of the spirit of the mind, put on the new.

Are you following me? Adam is the nature of the first man that lives by the lie. That nature is dead to God, yes. Judged, yes. Separated from God, yes. But **nevertheless entirely operational in the earth...though entirely cut off from the heavens.** That was a mouthful. If you are born again, you are not Adam by nature. You are born of a new nature. God knows you according to what He has done, and what is real and true in Christ, and no longer by what He has judged and put away. Nevertheless, what God has put away in His cross will continue to work in and through your soul UNTIL.....UNTIL something happens. **Until LIGHT shines.** Until Light displaces darkness. Until Light causes you to walk in the truth. More on that in a minute.

First I want to make certain that I have explained this adequately. People ask the question all the time - "If Adam is dead, and I'm a new creation in Christ, why is it that I still act so much like Adam? Adam seems to be alive in me." Well, I'm sure he is. You don't have to tell me what you did, I'll take your word for it. The problem isn't that Adam is living in Christ. The problem is that you are still living in Adam. What I mean is that, though Adam is without life, and judged of God...until what God has done in Christ becomes tangible, substantial, reality to your soul through the revealing of His Spirit, then you and I will continue to live in and by the lie.

Very simply, you act like Adam because the lie is still far more real to you than the truth. You act like Adam because through you have been born of the Truth, the lie is still the lens through which you see most things. There must have been at least a flash of Light...or we would never have come to new birth. But growth is the increase of that light unto to destruction of the lie, and we made a deadly mistake. We thought that growth was the improvement of Adam. We thought that Christ came to forgive us and then teach us how to be better. We thought that Adam could be tweaked and steered and pruned. But the lie was much deeper and stronger than all of that.

Incidentally, can you show me one place in the entire Bible where the Old Man is said to be improved or developed or instructed or made to behave? Can you show me one verse in the entire New Testament that so much as hints at the notion that the adamic man should live for God? I know that you cannot. He is crucified in the body of Christ, and subsequently put out from our soul through the coming of the Light.

**We act like Adam, not because God has not condemned, judged, and put away that man. We act like Adam because, in the absence of true Light, the lie is still the lens through which our world is known.**

And that brings us back to the necessity of the Light. This condition, this lens, this lie does not just end when we are born from above. The lie ends when truth replaces it. And the light is not a teaching or a belief any more than the lie is just a

teaching and a belief. The light will shape and form all teachings and beliefs and desires and emotions. **But coming to see all things in the light will never be a correction of our view, but rather the awareness of His. Its more than just a better perspective, it's a better man.** And you come to live in and abide in His awareness of what is real.

I think right here is where we have our greatest misunderstand of both the lie and the light. We don't understand that they have a life of their own. A life that we abide in. A life that we live in and live out from. The light comes to work in us as the awareness of the Lord Himself through which we see all things. God's awareness working in us. The renewing of the mind is perhaps best described as the awakening to His awareness. Somebody says "how in the world could we awaken to God's awareness". Because salvation is God living in you. Christ living in your soul.

Now I know that I don't need to qualify this for people that have been here for some time, but let me just say something for the sake of new people or people listening to this recording. I realize that New Age religion has done whacky things with words like these. I'm not talking about you awakening to the reality that you are God...or coming to discover the divine spark within you...or any of that nonsense. That could possibly be the most idiotic idea that man has ever conceived. I'm talking about the Spirit of God making real in your soul the reality of your salvation. And your salvation happens to be a Person.

**So when the Bible speaks of that truth or light working in the soul, what we are talking about is a Person. A person who shares his Life, His reality, his view with us. Not a belief system. Not a moral code. Not an example to follow. It's a person. It's not you trying to be like a person, or you trying to please a person, or you trying to take orders from a person. Its not you trying to do anything. It's the person of the Lord Jesus Christ seeking to conform you to Himself.** He is the life in your soul. He is working in you as the light of life to show you what is real. He is shining the light of His life to show you what is dead and gone, and what stands forever. It's a person awakening you to what he knows is real so that we can live in the truth.

It is God working in us to show us the things that have been freely given to us by God. 1 Corinthians 2:12. It is God helping us to know even as we are known. 1 Corinthians 13:12.

The Light is a person. I know I keep saying that, but I feel like I have to because we think it's a teaching or a doctrine or a Bible verse by which we learn to do something. We think that God's light is his advice or his values. We think that God's light is when he tells us how to live, or what to say, or what to do. But God's light doesn't even let you live. He dwells in inapproachable light. This light is a person who said that in order to gain His life we had to lose ours. And that's the perfect thing to say when you understand that yours is occupied with a lie. Yours is the lie.

I'm honestly not trying to be abstract. I'm not trying to sound clever or mystical. I'm just trying to describe to you something that is very hard to put into words.

Let me try again. When God would lead a person to walk in the light, he is not pointing a direction that they are supposed to go. He is not telling them a thing to do. He is not sharing a value system that they are supposed to adhere to or a the history of Jesus Christ the Nazarene they are supposed to believe in. **When God**

**would lead a person to walk in the light, He is going to shine that light, the light of life, in a person's heart...so that all things that you do are done in the reality of what that light shows you to be real.**

**2Co 4:3** But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. **5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

When God is seeking to transform a person, it is not by shining a light on a better way to live. It is not like headlights that show us what is coming down the road or which way to turn. The light that God shines is the light of His knowledge, His view, His understanding, His perspective, His reality, His awareness. It is God's view of all things in Christ. And it shines where He has come to live. It doesn't shine on your day or your prayer closet or as a little circle around your head. It shines in your heart so that you can see as He sees, know as He knows, live as He lives, walk as He walks. So you can walk in the light as He is in the light, and experience fellowship. FELLOWSHIP. That's not you and Jesus lighting a candle and watching Caddie Shack. Fellowship is two living as one. You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. And you will never know true fellowship unless that fellowship is in the light.

Can you see the distinction? There is a very common understanding of the light where you get to keep living, and the light just tells you what to do. That is not the true light. The true light causes you to see, to know, and to become a vessel for the one who lives in you. You don't cease to exist, but you are conformed to His image.

Now every good Christian is aware that the New Testament speaks about being conformed to the image of Christ. But it's the means by which that happens that we are confused about. And our confusion comes from not understanding the lie and the light. You could never make a few alterations to the lie and it would somehow turn into the Light. You can't show Adam how to do something good and call it righteousness. That's like sprinkling some cocoa powder on a pile of horse manure and calling it a German Chocolate Cake. You laugh, but I promise you we think that it works.

If not, tell me why the best-selling Christian books of our generation have titles like "7 Steps to Becoming More Like Jesus". "How to Live Your Best Life for God". "The Five Things that God Wants From You". "How Prayer and Fasting Will Bring You Into His Presence". "What Would Jesus Do?" "Its Not Too Late to Change". And then the sequel "Maybe It Is". Why not just write one called "5 Steps to Making the Lie Look More Like the Truth"

This is what inevitably happens when we underestimate the reality and power of the lie. These are the books we write when we don't comprehend the "otherness" of the Light. These are the solutions that we come up with when we don't understand the problem. These are the problems that we think we understand when we haven't seen the solution.

Here's about the plainest way I know how to say it. **The light doesn't show you how to live. The light lets Him live.** The light brings you into a participation in His life. The light puts away man who is defined by and saturated with the lie. The light causes you to abide in Christ, your life.

Now I want you to think about something. There are these verses in Scripture, particularly John 15, and then several others in the first Epistle of John, that talk about abiding in Christ. We are to abide in Him. Apart from this abiding, it says, we can do absolutely nothing. Maybe a clearer way to say that would be, apart from that abiding we can do a whole lot of things that amount to nothing. Regardless, we are told to abide in Him. And I just want to ask you to think about what that means. What does it mean – to abide in Christ? It's a very well-known phrase, but is it more than a phrase.

One person says "that simply means to remain a Christian, a believer". Another guy says "no it means to continue in the church, in the body of Christ". Another guy says "no it means to obey his commandments and live like He did". No, none of that is right. Abiding in Him is something far greater than any of that. Its far more substantial than something you do or some place you go or some thing you believe. What does it mean? **Well, I'll tell you one thing for sure... it means absolutely nothing without light.**

You can only abide in what you see. You can only abide in light. Think about it. Can you abide in something that you aren't aware of? Doesn't the word "abide" imply that you are remaining somewhere where you understanding yourself to be? Abiding is a word that only has meaning when the light of life shows you where you are. Abiding is living in and living out from the Person who is the Light of Life. I wish I had more words to chose from. I know I keep repeating myself. There must be a better way to say this, I just don't know it.

So long as you remain in the darkness of the unrenewed mind, the darkness of the adamic man who sees all things in and through the lens of the lie, abiding is a word that has zero relevance. The best you can do with it is make it have to do with doctrines, beliefs, or physical locations. But the word abiding has to do with the light. It has to do with remaining in the view that is being worked in your soul. It is you coming to remain steadfast in the awareness of His reality, His truth, His perspective. Abiding is living in the light. Walking in the Light. Walking in the Spirit.

Once again, please try to hear **through**, or maybe in spite of, my words this morning. Don't sit there and think about how my words are unintelligible. I know that already. Try to see Him. Ask the Lord to show Himself to you. I'm trying to say something. I'm trying to say that unless the light of His life shines in your heart there is nothing to abide in except for the vain imaginations of the carnal mind. Unless the reality of His finished work, and all that it has accomplished, and all that it means, dawns in your heart with a light that is brighter and more real than the sun, then abiding is meaningless. Unless His reality becomes the reality that breaks in upon your soul, then there is nothing to abide in. Unless what He sees and knows and is aware of becomes what you see and know and feel...then you abide in the darkness of the lie.

Abiding has to do with light. It has to do with remaining in the awareness of your true state of being. Remember the first man in the garden, fully aware of his state

of being. Fully occupying, living into, experiencing, understanding, his state of being. He could abide there in truth until he fell from purpose. Now we have been restored – NOT to the garden of Eden, not to Adam’s purpose, but to God’s eternal purpose that Adam was the picture of. Now we have come to a New Man and a New Creation. And the Light of His life shining in the soul will bring us to His awareness of His state of being. We will see things as they are. We will see what He has named all things. He has certainly named this new creation. It all bears his name. It is Christ all and in all.

We have been named by another. And we grow. We grow with respect to salvation. But how to do we grow? How do we grow up? What does the Scripture say? We grow in the true knowledge of God. We grow as to the mind of Christ. We grow in the faith of the Son of God. We grow in the truth. Unto what? Unto the reality of walking in the Light, abiding in the Son, living in the Truth. Light causes us to put off what God has put away, and grow up into the awareness of our true state of being. Who we are, what we are, where we are.

How do we pray? For what do we pray? What do the Scriptures say?

**Eph 1:17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, **18** the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

**Eph 3:18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—**19** to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Phi 1:9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, **10** that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, **11** being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**Col 1:9** For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

And as the light dawns in our soul, something begins to happen. You can’t start it. It comes with the Light. You can’t stop it. You wouldn’t want to. What happens? Truth, Light starts to change how you see everything. Nothing is the same. Its like opening the eyes of a man born blind. Its like turning on a light when you’ve been staring at a painting in the dark. Its like waking up from a dream that seemed incredibly real. And slowly but surely the Light shows you what is real to Him. The light shows you what He sees, feels, knows. His awareness comes alive in you. It changes everything.

Remember last week we said that you never had to take classes or exercise discipline in order to will and to work according to the lie. If I asked you why it came so naturally, why it was so effortless you would say – “because it was simply a matter of living according to what I knew was real. It was simply a matter of nature. **I lived according to my awareness of my state of being. I didn’t have to contrive something, because it was already there. I didn’t have to work on**

**something, because it worked in me. I didn't have force myself to believe something because reality convinced me that it was so. Living the lie was a natural outworking of what was real of me, and my awareness of it".**

That is exactly what happens when the Light bears in upon your soul. Truth, reality comes to be known. Not you trying to believe something. I promise you... regardless of what you have been taught or what you have tried to do in order to try to believe something...you never have to do that again. **The Light never leaves you there trying to believe something.** The light never has to convince you of something. You see it with a certainty that becomes so much more real than the perception of natural things.

I am aware of this room right now by sight. I see it and perceive it by natural light and natural senses. I am also aware of the reality of being in Christ right now by the Light of Life that shines in the soul. The one is becoming larger than the other. There is no such thing as blind faith. It is an oxy-moron. Faith sees. It doesn't see with natural light. But it sees with the Light of Life. I'm not lying to you. Faith sees all things in the Light of His Light and the awareness of this brings you to rest. Brings you to truth. Brings you to God, because that is where you are.

The only reason we make up words like "blind-faith" is because our concept of faith has nothing to do with light. It has to do with abiding in darkness and imagining Jesus. Throw that out...along with whatever book you read it in. Faith sees by a bright and pure Light. Faith sees through Christ's eyes. Faith sees all things in and by the Son. That is why it is called the faith of the Son of God. It is His awareness sanctifying you in the Truth. Its John 17. Jesus prays to His Father:

**Joh 17:15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

Father, I'm not asking that you catapult them out of the earth. That would accomplish nothing. My salvation isn't about leaving the planet, its about leaving the lie...and coming to live in the Truth. Father, I ask that you sanctify, that is set them apart in, purify them according to, the truth. I ask that your light would sever them from the lie. And truth would make them free. I ask that they would know the truth and the truth would make them free.

What is the light? **The Light is the awareness of our state of being.** It is the awareness of what God has done in Christ. The awareness of new life, resurrection, freedom, reconciliation, union, purpose, truth, reality, God's finished work. I'm not talking about mind over matter here. It could never be true because you make yourself believe something. Your opinions about what is real are meaningless. They are the inconsequential residue of the lie. I'm talking about what God **knows** to be real becoming the reality in which you live and move and have your being. I'm talking about the mind of the Lord working in you the reality of what He has accomplished through the cross.

I'm running out of time, but what I'm trying to say is this. Our problem has nothing to do with what we're trying or not trying to do. Our problem has everything to do with the fact that we are hugely unaware of our state of being. Our predicament, as Christians, is that **we have come to the universe of Christ and haven't the slightest idea what is real until Light dawns.** And so we walk in the darkness.

We have come to new life, but are only familiar with the old. We have come to truth, but Truth has not had its perfect work in us.

**And so we bring with us into Christ what has been our most familiar and faithful companion – our old friend the lie.** The idea that even here in Christ, we have something of value, relevance, purpose, wisdom, and life. We have something God can use, something God can steer, fix, teach, adjust. The Bible says no. In this creation it is Christ all and in all. Yes we have life, but it is Him. Yes we have relevance, but it is as His body. Yes we have come to wisdom, but that is his mind working in us. Yes we have purpose, but that purpose is the eternal purpose of the Father that He has accomplished in His Son. Amen.