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Walk in the Light

On Friday I shared a few things about the Word of God. And how the Word of God is living and active and has a dramatic effect if it is truly received and heard. Today I want to share just a few thoughts about walking in the Light. I want to begin looking at a passage in 1 John chapter 1.

5 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. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 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.

Because of the lack of time, I am not going to be able to talk much about the last part here - the blood of Jesus cleansing us from all sin. I really would like to some day soon. This entire chapter has come alive for me recently in a new way, and it all really is starting to fit together. But for this morning, I'm going to try to stick to walking in the light.

As we talked about Friday, and as is always the case, we need to lay down our own ideas about these things. We do not have the right to bring our comprehension to these words, these realities. It is a form of trespassing. When God uses words to describe something, there is always substance and reality behind it. There is always something spiritually and eternally real that He is seeing in the Light, and He is employing some words to describe it. But the words are never the reality. They just point to the reality. And therefore the worst thing in the world that we can do is read some of His words and bring our own substance and reality to it. This is something that we do all the time.

We find His words in the Bible, but we have never seen or experienced the substance of that word. It is something entirely foreign to us. It is something entirely exclusive to Him. The only way we can understand the words is if He shows us the substance behind the words. The only way we can understand a verse is if we see the reality that motivated him to describe something with words. Do you understand?

So be careful with words. It is extremely easy to approach a spiritual word with a natural understanding. And this always defiles the word. This is trespassing, perversion. There is a danger inherent in words. **The danger is that anybody can see a word, read a word. But a word does not become communication until two people share the same reality behind the word.** God is only communicating with us when we are sharing in reality that motivated the words.

I often begin teachings with reminders like that. Because I have found that, in myself, there is nothing more deadly than a familiar word or Bible verse. If we can see clearly, there should be nothing familiar about spiritual reality. It is new every morning. It is new every second. It is always new, because it is perfectly foreign to us, and because it is being continually shown to us.

So I want to share a few things about walking in the Light? But let's back up a bit. What does it mean that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all? I would say that at least a small part of this reality is that God is what is real and true, and apart from Him there is nothing but darkness. God is what is real, and He sees what is real. He is the substance of reality and the understanding of reality...and that understanding can work in us. In Him there is no darkness at

all. That is to say, in Him there is nothing but pure reality and truth. There is nothing added to it that does not belong. There is no mixture of contrary natures or ideas or perspectives. God is Light. Perfect nature and essence experienced in a perfect and clear understanding. And here is the good news for us! **In Him, you can participate in what He is, and by His light you can see what He sees. In Him, you can experience what is truly real by sharing His view.**

Long ago David, speaking by the Holy Spirit, said this:

7 How precious is Your loving-kindness, O God! And the sons of men take refuge under the shadow of Your wing. 8 They shall be satisfied with the fatness of Your house; and You shall make them drink of the river of Your pleasures. 9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

You see, nothing can approach God that is not part of God. Nothing can approach God that is not part of His Light, a partaker of His Life. And that is why our approach to God is in Christ. This is fantastic. We approach God clothed in Christ. We approach God as those who have no life but Christ. I am not saying that you are Christ, or that you ever become God. But I am saying that Christ is your life, and your approach to God is as one hidden with Christ in God. You enter the glory of God **not** as a foreign and contrary life-form. You enter into the glory of God as one who has been perfected in unity, as Jesus says. **John 17:22** *And I have given them the glory which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one, 23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one*

To the natural man, God dwells in inapproachable Light. But to you and I that are dead with Christ, and partake of His life...to us, we are light in the Lord.

Paul says,

Eph 3:8 *for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as son of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true)*

and continues saying...

13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, **14** for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

What I'm trying to communicate is that there is a place where all things are real, and there is nothing that is not real. There is a place where all things are eternal, and true, and there are no shadows of unreality or lies. There is a place where all things are spiritual substance and reality, and there is a light that shows them all to us. And that place is a Person. And that person is God. And you and I, as Paul says, have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God.

In other words, if you are born of the Spirit.... whether we are awake to this reality, or whether we are still sleep in an un-renewed mind, you have come to the Person who is Light.

So, all of those who have been born again have come to the Father of Lights. We live in Him. But we have to notice what this verse says in 1 John. **It is possible to have come to Him, but not experience fellowship with Him.** That doesn't mean you're not a Christian. That simply means that you are not experiencing His view, His understanding, His Light with respect to what and where you are. **Life is according to birth. But fellowship or communion, is according to Light.**

In Him there is no darkness at all. But often times we are in Him as those who cannot see. God knows us. We are perfectly seen and known by God in Christ. Not as a bunch of humans, but as

the body of Christ. We are known perfectly. But we do not perfectly know. We need to know as we are known. We need to comprehend as we are comprehended by God. We need to walk in the Light and experience the fellowship of this reality.

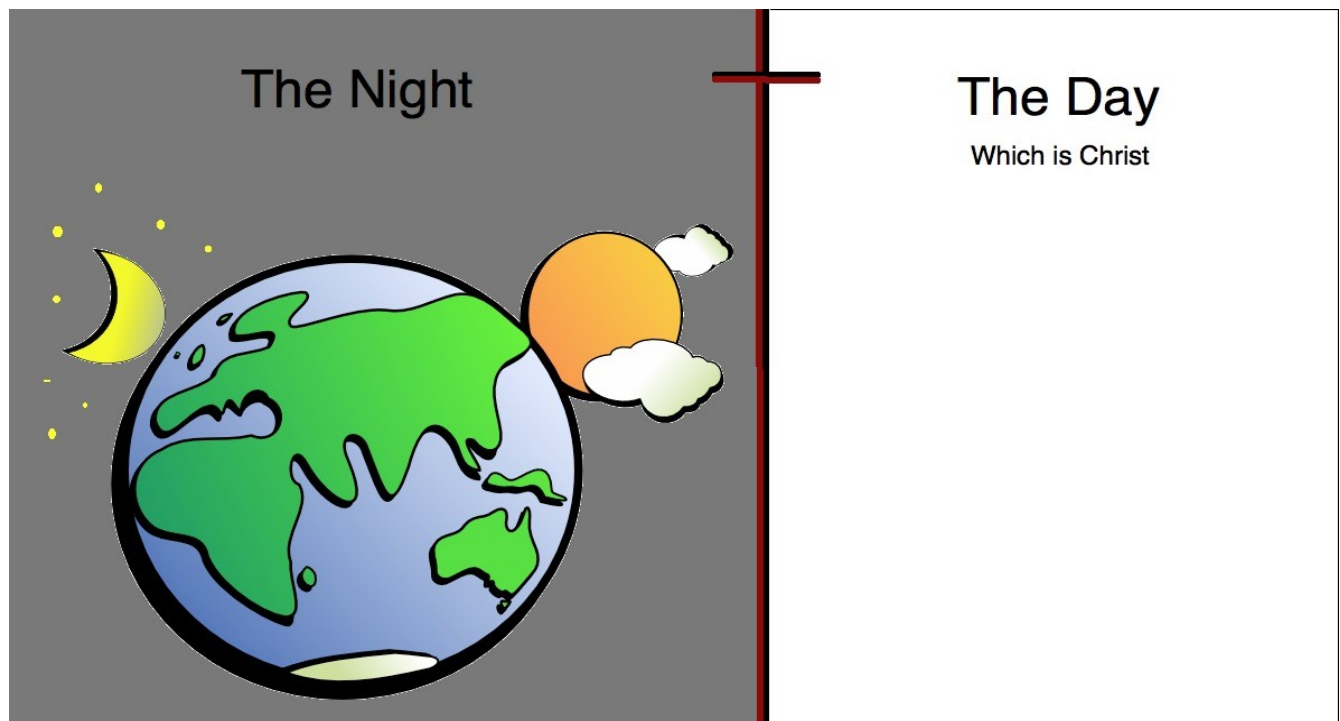
You see **fellowship is a word that has to do with two parties in the same place experiencing the same reality.** And John is talking to us here about fellowship. He's talking to us about the Father, the Son, and the church being in the same place and experiencing the same reality. Fellowship. John's purpose for writing in verse 3 is that "you may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ". And in verse 7 he tells us how this fellowship works. "If we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship". Here specifically he is talking about fellowship with each other, but it is the same fellowship. It is the same sharing of the Life in the Light.

What does it mean to walk in the Light?

So, we have to ask ourselves a question. What does it mean for us to walk in the light. Do we know this reality? It is easy to agree with the words that describe this reality. But that is an agreement without fellowship. That is an agreement of the mind, an agreement in ideas, facts. Walking in the light needs to be our experience.

If I were to try to give a definition of walking in the Light, I might say something like: **it is the experience of living in God and living by the Light of what He sees.** And there is simply nothing more essential than this. Now that we are light in the Lord, we must walk as sons of light. Now that we have come by Christ into the inapproachable light, we must experience the fellowship with God and with each other that is in the light.

Let me ask you a question. What kind of light wakes you up every morning? What kind of light defines your day? Defines your goals? Defines your life? In the beginning God separated the light from the darkness. This was the first day. On the fourth day he created the sun the moon and the stars to govern the world of darkness and shadows. This is the natural light. It is the type and shadow of God's light. And the light that God mentioned on the first day did not appear again until it became a Man, and said "I am the light of the world".



The light of God is His reality, His view, His perspective and understanding and knowledge. That light and understanding and knowledge and truth was hidden in the Old Covenant. It was hidden behind veils of types and shadows. You couldn't really see the substance of it. You could only see the shadows. You could not look directly at the light. It was inapproachable for the natural man. You could only see its back side. You could only see a veil.

But that Light came to the earth as a Man. He visited the land of darkness and shadows. And He became in himself the judgment of the darkness. Jesus Christ wrapped himself in the darkness to bring it to the cross. **He became the end of the night so that there could be a new day.** Not a better natural day, but a day where everyone could see in His light. John says "in Him was life, and the life was the light of men....He was the true light who, coming into the world, enlightens every man".

But first there was the night, then the day. That is the order. That is the order in the seven days of creation. First there was evening, and then morning, the first day. That is the order in Israel. The night was first and then the morning. So the darkness was first. And Christ came into that darkness.

It has always been interesting to me - this little verse in John. John 13:27 *"Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly....30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night."*

For a while He was the light of the dark world. For a few short years the Light of the world walked and talked to humans, and a few of them enjoyed his light. Jesus explains to the disciples in John chapter 11 - "9 "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world 10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, **because the light is not in him.**"

This was precisely the problem with the world. This was the weakness of the Old Covenant. They had no light in them. They were by nature, part of the darkness, and they walked in a false light. They walked in the light of their own judgment, their own reality and perspective and truth. Jesus explains in Luke - "Therefore take heed that the light in you is not darkness." And in Matthew "if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness". Or in John "here is the verdict, light has come into the darkness, but men prefer darkness".

By nature we are darkness, and we like it that way. We prefer the darkness of our own self-consciousness. We actually enjoy the darkness of our own understanding and view and reality. We prefer this for many reasons. In the darkness nothing is obvious. Everything is a matter of opinion. In the darkness my self-righteousness seems justified, my religion makes sense, my gifts and achievements make me important, my ideas seem like truth. In the darkness Adam can live his life without the fear of being exposed.

Prior to the coming of the cross the world was one long night, but in the resurrection was the dawning of a new day. What is this new day? Is it a new natural day? or a natural age or dispensation? No. Is it a change from BC to AD? Is it a change in God's laws? A change in God's covenant with Israel? What is this new day?

All of the prophets spoke of this day. How many times do the prophets say "in that day"? Jesus said that Abraham saw his day and rejoiced. What is this day?

Well, it has nothing to do with natural time, or natural sun rises. It has nothing to do with natural anything. It is not that kind of a day. It has nothing to do with epochs or ages or dispensations

or millenniums. It's nothing future. And it's not anything that has passed. It is not that kind of a day. **The day of the Lord is the very life and light of God, the substance and understanding of God, dawning in the human soul. This Day is a Person. The Day is the light that was in the beginning. The Day is the dawning of God's reality and awareness in the human heart.** Unlike before, now the light can actually be in you.

So the light is God's view, awareness, understanding, and Word...now being revealed in you. It's not just a better understanding of a Bible verse. It is a completely foreign kind of light and it shows you something you could never have possibly known. It is like the ark going across the Jordan in front of Israel. God says, "make sure you follow the ark, because you have not gone this way before".

So when we walk in the light we are living in the the life and perspective of God. We are becoming conscious of what is real to Him. We are awakening from a long night, and realizing a new reality. And this is a process in all of us, not a decision. This is a process that involves the work of the Spirit of Truth in the revealing of Christ, because Christ is this day.

Let me say something very emphatically - Jesus Christ is the day of the Lord. He is the day of rest. He is the day of victory. He is the day of resurrection. He is the day of vengeance. He is the day of freedom. He is the promised day. We can all stop waiting for days. God is not dealing with you according to days. God is not trying to do something this week, or last Sunday, or next year. God is dealing with you in His day. You do not need the coming of another day. You need the sun to rise further in the day that you are already in. You need the sun to rise to the center of the sky so that the shadows disappear.

Now in one sense, the first (first man, first covenant) represented the time of the night, the time of darkness. And so, at the time of the writing of the New Testament, that night was physically coming to an end and giving way to the day of the Lord. This transition was happening in an *internal* way in the hearts of the church AND in an *external* way during this time. So John says "the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

For us today there is the internal passing away of the night, and the "day star that rises, and the day that dawns in our hearts". And this is by far the most important application of all of this. But for Old Covenant Israel there was also the physical manifestations of these things. The day of the Lord that dawned in the resurrection of Christ was being visited upon Israel like a thief in the night. We need to understand these things so that we don't get confused when we're reading our Bible.

The new day came in the resurrection. But Israel refused to wake up. Not all of them, but the majority of Israel slept in the darkness, and clung to their natural land, and city, and temple, and religion. They would not turn their hearts to see the day that had dawned. And so that day was going to have an outward manifestation in the earth, where all that they were holding onto was taken from them - like a thief in the night.

The day was going to surprise those who were sleeping. It was going to rob them of what they thought they had. It was going to take their treasure from them because they had refused the true gift of God. Do you hear what I'm saying? But it was not going to have that effect on Christians, because they were already born of that day and living in the light of that day.

I want you to look at a passage in 1 Thess. 5 with me. Let me read this to you.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will

not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Do you see what Paul is describing here? He says, "look, you all understand that Israel is holding tightly to their land, their religion, their temple, and their promises, and they have an expectation that is something other than the Christ that has come. But they will be visited by the day of the Lord, and it will not let them escape. They cannot escape that day because it has already dawned. They cannot escape that light because it only show them what is already real and already judged. And it will surprise them. And it will take everything from them.

But YOU...you are not in the darkness. That day will not surprise you like a thief. WHY???

Because, Paul says, you are already children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So since that day has dawned, let us wake up! Let us not sleep like others do. Let us be awake in the light that God has given, in the day that God has dawned.

I love this word "belong". Since we BELONG to the day...let us be sober, having already put on these three things....faith and love and the expectation of salvation.

Can you see what is going on here? The day that was coming to Israel as a thief, was the same day into which they had been born. They day that was taking everything from Israel was the same day that had already taken everything from the Christians - indeed, they were already crucified with Christ, baptized into His death, purchased at a price, dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. It is a great and terrible day - the day of the Lord. Isaiah 61 says it is a day of favor and a day of vengeance.

But for you and I who are in Christ, we should not be living like those who fear what the day will take from us. We should not be afraid of the light of this day. It only takes what is not real. It only takes the darkness that we hold on to. It comes like a thief in the night, but it only robs the things that we hide in the darkness. Do you see?

For us it should be a day of favor, because we have already faced the vengeance at the cross. For us it should be a great day, a day of light and truth and life...because we are allowing, even WANTING, the cross to steal our darkness. We don't have to be afraid of that day, because it only takes away our imaginations. It only takes our lying dreams. We can walk in the light as He is in the light and experience the fellowship that only exists in the light.

In the day of the Lord, the light of the Lord, we have the opportunity to live in what is real to God. To live within the boundaries of what He sees. And with that...I'll stop for now.