

## The Life: Walking in the Light (Part 2) (I John 1:5 - 2:6)

Apostle John offers two simple tests early on in his letter, the outcome of which would point to someone being either truly enlightened by the Light of Life Himself, or, merely professing a false enlightenment. The first test has to do with our relationship to others, the second with our relationship to sin.

John clearly asserts that when we walk in the Light Who is God we will live in fellowship with one another in the family of God. The idea that someone can say, "I walk in step with God," yet demonstrates no love for the family of God, is ludicrous! That doesn't mean we will like everyone or agree with everyone or enjoy everyone. But it does mean when Christ is in us, there is no room for the practice of hatred, contempt, prejudice, racism, bigotry, condescension, rejection, isolation... and the like. Anything less than accepting those whom God accepts (Ro 15:7) contradicts our fellowship with God (or possibly denies it!). The reality is simple: every believer in Christ is equally loved, supplied, valuable... saved... and none of us are more important to God or any closer to God than the other. We may disagree and judge (with a view to edify) and even "fight" with one another (to fight "for" someone you may have to fight "with" them) but, we may not condemn, demean, or tear down one another. When God's love is in us, His love in us for each other will never die!

John also makes it clear that when we walk in the Light Who is God we will have a proper view of sin and sins. In brief, we will not be either sin careless or sin conscious. Anyone who shares life in common with Christ will have no peaceful coexistence with sin (I Jo 3:9a). We now see our sin/sins as God sees them - put to death, forgiven, cleansed, separated from us. Sin is no longer our nature and sins no longer name us. Christ Himself became the atoning sacrifice for all our sins. He took us into His death on the cross and what He died to - sin - we are dead to. And everyone reading this letter is either in Christ or not. Everyone reading these words, then, is either totally forgiven or totally unforgiven, completely alive to sin or completely dead to sin - there is no middle ground! The New Testament presents no man in any condition but one or the other.

In fact, the sin and sins issues have been so perfectly and fully dealt with that every believer in Christ may make it their aim to not sin (2:1). (More about that next month.) But, "if" you do (not "when")... does John then say, "You need to ask for forgiveness? You need to repent and be sincere? You must promise not to do it again? You are out of fellowship with God?" No! You do not put your focus on you or anything you must do! "If" you do sin, look immediately to Jesus Christ, not to yourself. Never defend yourself, let Christ be your defense. Agree that sinning is never Christ being Himself in you, claim your full and perfect forgiveness, and count on your Advocate Jesus Christ to plead His case in your behalf... and go right on walking in the light!

As serious as sin and sinning may be, learn to see that your Deliverer and your full and perfect deliverance is even greater! Celebrate His other loving, sin defeating Life in you... and watch the Spirit of Christ Himself bring your profession and your practice, your lips and your life into a fuller integration than you ever could effect on your own.

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## *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

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# Greetings

We have posted some of the fall conference dates. Each of them is subject to change or cancellation due to pandemic issues. We'll keep you informed as we get closer. I do believe that since mid-March this will have been the longest I've stayed home in nearly 30 years! (Please pray for Ella!)

I do think we are mostly far enough down the road not to believe that being Christian exempts us from distress or affliction. Such events really are "whens", not "ifs" (Is 43:2). Not only are we told to expect such things, we are also told to expect to "pass through" them! In the "floods" and "fires" of life there may be losses (of temporal things), but we need not live in fear of them because of Who is with us (Is 43:5). We only need to be afraid of what can separate us from God, and since "no created thing will be able to separate us" from Him (Ro 8:38), we will pass through them. "But", you say, "I am hydro-phobic. I am pyro-phobic!" That's okay, He isn't! Joined to Him, you will pass through and even come out on the other side purer, free-er, more solidly grounded in the Rock of all ages than ever (Is 43:8)! You may even come out "wealthier" than ever - there are certain treasures you can get from God only when the lights go out for awhile (Is 45:3).



## CALENDAR



### September

10-13 Louisville, KY Men's retreat  
(502-664-5622)  
20-26 Woodland Park, CO

### October

9-11 Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)

### November

6-8 Titusville, FL (772-633-6568)



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