

# Living In The Light

Last week I said that actions speak louder than words and that our actions must mirror our Christian walk with Jesus in that we desire to walk in the light as Jesus is the light - nothing hidden in us but all exposed to the light of Gods word, that we desire togetherness showing we are one in Jesus, one body united under one purpose and that is to build Gods kingdom and that what we say, our speech should be that which edify and encourages others always with grace seasoned with salt not forsaking prayer for one another.

*1 John 1: 5-7 (msg) 5 This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him. 6-7 If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth—we're not living what we claim. But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin.*

I want to unpack What it actually means to walk in the light?

In Christian circles we often refer to staying on the right path or acting correctly and not doing anything wrong but there is more to it than that. Walking in the light means to relinquish / abandon/ put away all sin and the deeds of sin in our lives by following Jesus.

On Wednesday Simon asked the question as to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? It is exactly this which is to follow Jesus in the light. We know that if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone, the new is here to stay ( 2Cor 5:17 ).

The Old Testament make mention of walking in the light in Isaiah 2:5 calling the house of Jacob to walk in the light and we the same mentioned in the Psalms 89:15.

However, in the New Testament we see Jesus declaring Himself as the Light of the world in John 8:12 and he who follows Jesus *will not walk in darkness but have the light of life!*

To walk means to live one's life and this can be considered a way of life or one's lifestyle. It is continuous, it is progressing.

When we come to Jesus and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour it does not stop there. It is a progressive active walk with Jesus daily following His leading and His teaching from His word and obeying every commandment He has given .

There's a scripture that says you are his disciples if you *abide in his word* (John 8:31). When you abide in God and his word abides in you, you, become his disciple and *you can ask whatever you desire and it shall be done for you (John15:7)*

We have to desire to walk in holiness. We have to desire to walk in the Light. It has to be something we do naturally not just on a Sunday or any other “holy” day. Holiness and living in the light has to our daily walk our life style.

Walking is related to growth and maturity. When you are walking in the light of Jesus who is the light then we have got to see growth and maturity. If there's no maturity or growth in our spiritual lives then something is wrong! If you starve a baby of food that baby will eventually die. When we starve ourselves of the Word of God and choose to walk in the hidden and secretive things of darkness we die spiritually and in some instances can lead to physical death too.

In Eph 4: 11 is a key scripture God has provided for spiritual maturity and it says Jesus gave...

- Some to be Apostles (One who is sent ),
- Some to be Prophets (carry a message from God ),
- Some to be Evangelists (to preach good news),
- Some to be Pastors and Teachers.

Maturity comes when we are willing to learn and be a disciple under these God given ministries. It involves discipline, correction, humility.

There are two purposes for these ministries. **The first is to prepare us for works of service.** There is a preparation time before a serving time. We get trained when we discipline our lives to serve in these areas of ministry.

**The second purpose is to build the body of Christ.** God places these ministries in the body to bring us into a unity of faith and maturity.

Jenny and I were trained under an apostle and we were exposed to prophetic ministry and evangelistic works and teaching the word of God and in Pastoral serving before we came here. We went through the discipline and the training to bring ourselves to a place of maturity in Christ to be able to lead a church. S+S+C are examples (mature/ passion).

In order to grow we have got to be connected. A body grows when its parts are joined together and connected. Many Christians live disjointed lives and somehow expect to grow and mature.

Growth can only come through Jesus Christ because *from Him the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work (Eph4:16).*

It is therefore important that we as the body of Jesus Christ stay active and connected and walking in the light of Gods word so that the whole body will get edified and strengthened. It isn't just about us but it is more than just me myself and I.

Our walking in the light has far reaching consequences that can positively or negative affect the body of Jesus Christ. Many fail to realise that when they walk away from the faith or away from the body of believers that can hinder the growth of the body.

But if we *walk in the light, God himself being the light*, we also experience a shared life with one another, as *the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin.*

Our Christian duty is to live in the light God gives: *"Now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).*

When we walk in the light, we cannot walk in darkness. *Matt 5:16 let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.* It is Gods plan for us to become more and more like Jesus.

Jesus Loves you and desires to have a relationship with you. He desires to give you a life full of joy and purpose. Jesus can change the past you cannot change by walking into those places of sin and failure & shame and wipe your slate clean, and remove that past.

Jesus is the same today as he was yesterday and forever His love for you will never give up or run dry or fail you. Jesus knows the worst about you and yet he believes the best... why?...Because He sees you not as you are... but as His child when he gets through with you. He is an amazing friend! Jesus has a great future for you. You can trust Him. His plans are for good and not for evil to give you a future and a hope ( joyful expectation/ anticipation about the future) . Jesus listens to your every prayer.

Do you want to know this Jesus? Do you desire to walk in the light?

Prayer: *Dear Lord Jesus, I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. I ask Your forgiveness. Thank you for dying on the cross for me to set me free from my sins. Come into my life Jesus. I believe you are Jesus my Lord and Saviour. Lord fill me with your Holy Spirit and be with me always . Amen*