

Know What's Real - Light

1 John 1:5-10 (NKJV)

This 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. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and 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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Light is such an important element for the believer to understand. This is not just some clever way to explain that God is good. Light shows the character of God but light shows the heart of God and the hand of God.

Light is revealing - this will shed light on the situation

This is why we have headlights, flashlights, lights in our home....to reveal what's around us. To expose things that are not seen.

I don't use light out of fear but out of a desire to see. In my truck I use headlights so I can see if there is something in my path. When I use my phone flashlight at night it's not that I'm afraid of walking to the bathroom, it's because I don't want to run into something I couldn't see.

When you look at the Word. God shows us that light is important. What was the first thing God created?

Genesis 1:3 (NKJV)

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

God could have given us built in night vision eyeballs. But He didn't. He would rather us live in the light than just simply see in the dark.

The bible begins with light and then if you turn to the last chapter of the last book...

Revelation 22:5 (NKJV)

There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Speaking of heaven....there will be no night. We won't even have need for the sun because Jesus will be the light. This is how the bible wraps up.....

You've probably heard that one day all things will be revealed....it's this time where we completely live in the light, there will be NO darkness at all. The glory of the Lord will shine so bright that light will invade everything.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Think about what heaven is like guys. Get curious. Will we even have naps? Probably not....it's always light! This is why Sunday naps are so important now....I don't think we get them in heaven!

So when we think about God being light. We have to look at what light is and what it is not.

Good - evil

Holy - people and things are unholy

Honesty, truth - dishonesty

Things are revealed, we see them as they are - concealed

Gives sight - blindness

Life - death

There is a separation between light and dark. This is unique to the God of the bible whom we know in Jesus. Many people out there and maybe even some of you....think that God can be both good and evil. HE CAN NOT.

This is John's focus here....that you know what's real when it comes to God and light....

1 John 1:5 (NKJV)

This 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.

There is a lot of darkness in the world. BUT it doesn't come from God. It doesn't point to God. What it does is separate us from God. God is light, God exposes darkness. His desire is to rid your life of darkness until the day where He rids the world of darkness.

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.

God is not both light and dark. He is not good and evil. He is only light, He is only good!

1 John 1:6 (NKJV)

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

Fellowship is friendship. If you say are a friend of God while you walk in darkness, you lie and do not practice the truth.

We all sin....only Jesus is perfect. However, this is why it is so important to pray, to confess our sin, because while we all sin we don't all have to WALK in sin. That doesn't have to be the path you continue down if you address it daily. You can't walk in darkness and walk with God.

God is light, so if you are walking in darkness....you are not walking with God.

1 John 1:7 (NKJV)

But 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.

As you understand who God is it changes how you view the world and yourself

As you understand what Jesus has done, it changes how you relate to God and to one another.

Sin has vertical relationship consequences but it also has horizontal relationship consequences

When we walk in the light, we begin to be honest about our own struggles and shortcomings.

We have fellowship with one another, we learn to forgive one another, you have faults, I have faults, let's forgive each other

No healthy relationship can survive without light and blood.

In order for horizontal relationships to work, the vertical relationship with God has to be intact. If you want a healthy relationship with your wife, your kids, your friends, first you have to have a healthy relationship with Jesus.

A healthy relationship with Jesus starts with light and blood. God will expose things - light. God will always forgive what He exposes - blood.

Light and blood are needed to deal with sin in our own lives. Sin corrupts relationships because the essence of sin is selfishness. When selfishness enters any relationship, it causes damage and possibly destruction.

“if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another”

C.S. Lewis - "Put first things first, and second things are thrown in. Put second things first, and you lose both first and second things."

The first thing you have to put first is your relationship with Jesus. Then the second thing is thrown in....your relationship with other people.

If you have a relationship that is having some difficulty, before you deal with things horizontally, deal with things vertically. Ask His light to expose and His blood to forgive and when you get things right with God, watch the fellowship (relationships with people) grow.

1 John 1:8-9 (NKJV)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say we don't have issues or problems, this is religion. We think we are better than others.

Christians can get in this mindset where we believe we are light and everyone else is darkness. But don't get self righteous.....we are ALL in darkness without Jesus! There isn't a shred of good in you apart from the Holy Spirit.

Church, THIS is why our goal is to live by the Spirit and make the name of Jesus known. THIS is why it's not about me and it's not about you....what are we but sinful people saved by grace through faith in Jesus?

This is a gift from God. There's nothing you can do to earn it. You can't buy it. You can't work for it. And the moment we start taking credit for it.....we may have lost it all because the truth is not in us!

You may have moved beyond self righteousness to self deception.

When we look at verses about satan, it's easy to conclude that he is a deceiver, right? This is simply to mislead by false appearance. To lie to. It's what he did with Eve in the garden....he falsely brought up what God said....he twisted it and questioned it. It's what he does.

When you consider what satan does, how he continues to attack people, I've heard that he knows his end, he knows that he has been defeated and is trying to take everyone with him that he can....

That may be true....I don't know. But maybe there is another reason. Maybe satan continues to battle because he is self deceived. Maybe he really still thinks that there is a chance that he wins in the end. Maybe he's talked himself into believing that it's all a numbers game and if he has the most people, he can win....

He is wrong!

You can talk yourself into believing about anything. How many times have you known that something you were thinking was wrong but you justified it in your mind. The Spirit was saying NO.....but you convinced yourself it would be ok for this reason or just this time...

This is why we MUST listen to the Holy Spirit. If we don't.....we "won't need Jesus"

We begin to think we are a good person not deserving of hell. I've lived a good life. We start to look at things through our own eyes instead of God's.

Without Jesus, you are a sinner walking in darkness on the path to hell.

With Jesus, you can be forgiven and cleansed because He is perfect and died for you sin and by His blood you can be set free to live in a life of light.

If you don't accept the bad news you don't need the good news.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Confession is where God says something and we agree. We confess OUR SINS. We own them and set the example for others to follow.

HE IS FAITHFUL. He is faithful to forgive and cleanse. He is just to forgive and cleanse. See there is this fear that God will punish you for confessing sin but the truth is that you punish yourself by having a wrong view of God.

He is good, only good. Not good and bad. He doesn't punish obedience. He doesn't punish humility. He doesn't punish relying on Him. There may be consequences for what you did, but not punishment when you confess.

He forgives.....and He cleanses!

I don't think we understand God's forgiveness....when you believe in Jesus....

When you accept Him as Lord and Savior.....He forgives everything that you have done and everything that you will do.

He loves you. And if you love Him (that's how you know you are His), then that friendship will keep you from sin because you won't want to hurt Him.

This love is the center of our relationship with Jesus.

1 John 1:10 (NKJV)

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Sin is not just an action, it's a condition

It's living apart from God.

What you say, what you do, why you do it.

Sin is breaking God's law and breaking God's heart.

Blood and light

1 John 1:7 (NKJV)

But 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.