

# Bible Studies

## Walking in the light

*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, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7*

The question this study plans to answer is, what does it mean to walk in the light?

### What are the two results of walking in the light?



*Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 1 John 2:9-10*

### What is the evidence of living in the light?

#### What is the opposite of living in the light?

Walking in the light means walking in love. **Love for who?**

#### How does this result in fellowship?

You are either in the light or the darkness, there is no twilight.

John is taking a clear swing at the Gnostics, (an early cult that infected the church) they claimed enlightenment, (knowledge of God), but they did not show it in their actions or by their love.

Hating your brother here means failing to act out of love and self sacrifice, failure to deny oneself, to spend yourself on behalf of the needy. For John, it starts with indifference, not the hostility we usually associate with hate.

Love for others presents no stumbling stone, either for ourselves or for others, on the other hand hatred will trip us up every time.

#### How does Love helps us avoid sinning. Romans 13:10.

*And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. 2 John 1:6*

Walking in the light means several things, some obvious some not so obvious. Primarily it means living in purity, but the verse has to mean more than, 'if anyone lives in holiness his sins are forgiven'. Holy people are not the ones for whom forgiveness is a burning issue.

Where did John get this idea from?

#### The words of Jesus

##### Read John 8v12

#### Walking in the light means...?

Obedying, being like, Relationship etc.

##### Read John 12v35

#### Who is the light?

#### Walking in the light means...?

The person who walks in the light knows where he is going.

Walking in the light requires trusting in Jesus.

#### Old Testament words

##### Read Psalm 89v15

#### What is the light?

**What does it mean to walk in this light?** & Psalm 90v8

##### Read Isaiah 2v5

#### What does it mean to walk in the light?

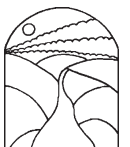
#### There are two other passages in the OT that help us.

Job gives us a graphic description of walking in the light. **Job 29v2-3.** He is surrounded by darkness, and in this darkness he must live, but God's light shines around him wherever he goes.

For Job this light meant that God was watching over him, protecting him and examining him. It also represented God's intimate friendship.

#### What effect did God's light have on Job?

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*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalms 119:105*

The Psalmist saw God's word, his commands as a light for his feet. God's light sustains him.

**What path is the psalmist walking?**

**What did God's light enable him to do?**

**What is the result of having no light to walk in? John 11v10**

*In the dark, men break into houses, but by day they shut themselves in; they want nothing to do with the light. Job 24:16*

**What does light represent in scripture?**

**2 Corinthians 4v6**

**Ephesians 5v9**

**John 3v20-21**

**Ephesians 5v13**

**Hebrews 10v32**

**Isaiah 53v11**

**Isaiah 9v1-2**

1 Thessalonians 5v5

Psalm 90v8

Psalm 139v11, Job 12:22

2 Corinthians 4v4

Psalm 56v13

Lamentations 3v2

To this list we could add openness.

**Which of these do you think walking in the light refers to?**

**How does each of these relate to us as we walk in the light?**

*Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Genesis 5:24*

*Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? Amos 3:3*

So far we have concentrated on the *light* part of the phrase.

**What does the *walking* part mean?**

Clearly our walk is the way we live, how we behave in the various environments we encounter. Walking also implies relationship with God. It is an active, progressive thing, something we must consciously do.

Walking in the light is about the kind of relationship you have with God. It is also a matter of an attitude of heart. Walking in the light means living in sincerity and humility before God. Doing our very best to live the way he would have us live.

Making every effort to do his will.

Making every effort to deal with sin.

Making every effort to grow.

Making every effort to learn more of God.

Walking in the Light is the natural and intended way for a Christian to live.

**If you cherish sin in your hearts are you walking in the light?**

**Will you have anything to hide if you are walking in the light?**

**If you sin does that mean you are not walking in the light?**

The truth is we all sin, even the best of us. It is the attitude we have towards sin and what we do once we recognise that we have sinned, that show whether we are walking in the light.

**If I am walking in the light what attitude will I have towards sin?**

**If I am walking in the light what will I do when I realise I have sinned?**

The opposite attitude is found in the book of Hebrews;

**Read Hebrews 10:26-27**

**What do you think it means by deliberate sin? Isn't all sin deliberate?**

The attitude that is betrayed in this passage is one of indifference to sin. It doesn't matter, I can live with it, it's not so bad, God doesn't care.

Such an attitude cannot take repentance seriously and so finds no forgiveness.

*If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; Psalm 66:18*

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

*Psalm 51:17*

**How are you going to walk in the light?**

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Fellowship

Forgiveness

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Following Jesus

Obeying, being like, Relationship etc.

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Who is the light?

Walking in the light means...?

Obeying his teachings

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Walking in the light requires trusting in Jesus.

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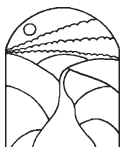
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<b>Ephesians 5v9</b>	Purity	1 Thessalonians 5v5
<b>John 3v20-21</b>	Examination	Psalms 90v8
<b>Ephesians 5v13</b>	Revelation	Psalms 139v11, Job 12:22
<b>Hebrews 10v32</b>	the gospel	2 Corinthians 4v4
<b>Isaiah 53v11</b>	Blessing, full life	Psalms 56v13
<b>Isaiah 9v1-2</b>	Freedom	Lamentations 3v2

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